

**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Waterloo Center for the Arts, Schoitz Room III, 225 Commercial St, Waterloo, Iowa

Virtual Option: [Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 838 0417 3881, Passcode: 323373

Meeting Minutes

Agenda

I. Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Chair Stevenson.

II. Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Mary Beth Stevenson (Cedar Rapids), John Kurtz (Buchanan County), Maria Perez (Cedar Falls), Dan Bangasser (Grundy Center), Bruce Frana (Linn SWCD), Wayne Castle (Waterloo), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Steph Lientz (Linn County)

Others Present:

Jody Bailey (ECICOG), Courtney Myers (Grundy NRCS), Karen Kurt (ECICOG), Isaiah Corbin (INRCOG), John Rathbun (Iowa Department of Ag & Land Stewardship), Justin Schroeder (Cedar Rapids), Tony Seeman (Iowa Soybean Association), Josh Balk (Iowa DNR), Andrew Rust (The Nature Conservancy), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), Sheila Steffen (Waterloo), James Martin (Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship)

III. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 18, 2024 – Action Item

Motion by Lundy, second by Frana to approve. Motion carried.

IV. FY25 Budget Update & Invoices

Motion by Lundy, second by Frana to remove item from agenda. Motion carried.

V. Middle Cedar Watershed Water Monitoring Results – Tony Seeman, Iowa Soybean Association

Seeman provided an update on water quality monitoring efforts, over several years, in several HUC-12s in the Middle Cedar watershed. The data can help identify HUC-12s for targeted projects in the future. Monitoring is also being used in WQI-project subwatersheds to measure effectiveness of edge of field practices being implemented there.

VI. Staffing Update – Karen Kurt, ECICOG

- a. Link to job posting: <https://www.ecicog.org/employment>

Kurt updated the board on staffing changes at ECICOG, and the full-time position that is currently posted. She asked the board to share the posting in their networks.

VII. FY25 Budget Discussion, Karen Kurt, ECICOG

Kurt provided the FY25 proposed budget and asked the board for feedback on member contributions and invoicing.

VIII. Amendment of Bylaws Regarding Quorum

Stevenson provided a refresher on a board vote from February 2023 to expand the Executive Committee to 9 (nine) and designate a majority present as another way to achieve a quorum. The By-Laws have been updated and will be sent to the Chair to sign.

IX. Black Hawk SWCD's IDNR Historically Underserved Farmers Grant proposal – Mary Beth Stevenson – Action Item

Stevenson updated the board on the Underserved Farmers pre-proposal submitted this spring. The pre-proposal has been accepted by the IDNR and a committee will work on submitting a full proposal.

a. Cash Match

Stevenson asked the board for consideration of a \$10,000 per year (for 3 years) cash match to the proposal, total cash match of \$30,000.

Motion by Perez, second by Castle. Motion carried.

b. Project Implementation Team

Stevenson solicited volunteers from the board to serve on the committee overseeing project implementation.

X. Strategic Planning Session: Middle Cedar WMA Coordinator – Initial Scoping & Brainstorming for 2025 Grant Application – Mary Beth Stevenson

Stevenson asked the board to devote time at the next 4 board meetings to discuss the following topics pertaining to the Underserved Farmers full proposal.

- i. Meeting 1: Watershed Coordinator, Grant Application discussion: Josh Balk suggested organizing a meeting with all watershed coordinators as a first step in the discussion, so a meeting with the executive committee and watershed coordinators will be set up soon, prior to the October Board meeting.

- ii. Meeting 2: Geographic Focus
- iii. Meeting 3: Coordinator Duties
- iv. Meeting 4: Final Application Review

XI. Batch and Build Project Update – Mary Beth Stevenson

Stevenson provided an update that construction on Batch #1 (Linn County) of the Batch & Build wrapped up in June. Construction on Batch #2 (Black Hawk, Grundy, Tama, and Buchanan Counties) is slated to begin in September 2024. There are 31 structures planned to be built in total.

XII. October Meeting Location

For next quarterly meeting, the board will meet again at the Waterloo Center for the Arts if it's available. The board will meet in Hudson at a future meeting to look at a project they are building under an urban WQI grant over the next year.

XIII. Watershed Project Updates

- Balk reported that the Black Hawk SWCD was awarded a creek signage grant from IDNR.
- Balk reported that the City of Hudson was awarded an Urban WQI grant.
- Balk reported that Clark Porter retired from IDALS. He was an environmental specialist and focused on the upper Middle Cedar watershed.
- Rathbun reported that bid-letting for the Middle Cedar Batch & Build (Batch #3) would let bids later this fall for 14 edge of field structures in Benton County, which includes 10 bioreactors and 4 saturated buffers.

XIV. Announcements and/or Board Member Updates

- Kurt shared the draft service agreement for administrative services. The board will place this topic as an action item on the agenda for the next formal board meeting.
- The Gathering of the WMAs event for WMA Board Members will be held in Ames on 8/28.
- Balk announced that the Black Hawk SWCD was awarded funding from the Iowa DNR Creek Signage Grant program

XV. Public Comment

XVI. 2024 Meeting Calendar: Next meeting, October 17, 2024, 3:00 pm, Waterloo Center for the Arts

XVII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.