

**FOURMILE CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
JANUARY MEETING MINUTES**

**CITY OF ANKENY  
PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING  
220 W 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ANKENY, IOWA 50023**

**January 26th, 2017  
4:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:**

*Skip Moore – City of Des Moines  
Karen Oppelt – City of Altoona  
Bob Rice – Polk County  
Leanne Harter – Story County  
Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny  
Vern Wiley – City of Altoona  
Jennifer Welch – Polk SWCD  
Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD  
Rich Leopold - PCCB  
Dan Pritchard – City of Des Moines  
Dale Farnham – Story SWCD*

**Others:**

*Adam Fendrick - PCCB  
Tyler Stubbs - DNR  
Teva Dawson – Des Moines MPO  
Kyle Riley – HR Green/Polk SWCD  
Johnathan Swanson – Polk SWCD  
Amanda Brown – Polk SWCD  
Doug Sheeley - PCCB  
Pam Mollenhauer – Iowa Hygienic Lab*

1. Welcome – *Cindy Valin, Secretary*  
*The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm by Cindy Valin*
2. Approval of the Agenda  
*Motion moved by Skip Moore, Second by Vern Wiley*  
*Agenda approved*
3. Approval of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
*Motion moved by Vern Wiley, Second by Bob Rice*  
*Agenda approved*
4. Election of 2017 Executive Committee  
*The 2016 executive committee was as follows: Chair - Ben Champ, Vice Chair – Gary Lorenz, Secretary – Cindy Valin, Treasurer – Bob Rice, Past Chair – Frank Cownie. Amanda Brown said that according to the bylaws, members may serve up to two years in a position. All of the current officers have only served one year, so they would be eligible to continue with their roles if the board wishes. She also stated that according to the bylaws, a member is “a political subdivision participating in the 28E agreement that forms the WMA”.*  
*Bob Rice reminded the group that each board member appoints someone to act as their primary representative and secondary representative. If the primary representative is not present at the meeting, the secondary would take their place and get the member vote.*

*When a city (member) fills the chair role and their primary representative is not present, the meeting will be ran by the vice chair, not the secondary representative for the city in the chair position.*

*Skip Moore made a motion to keep the executive committee board the same as 2016 as long as the current position holders were okay with staying on the board. Amy Bryant stated that Gary Lorenz can no longer provide the time commitment needed to be the primary representative for the City of Ankeny in the Vice Chair position and would like her to take over the vice chair position. Amanda Brown also said that Ben Champ stated in a previous email he would be willing to continue to serve as the chair if the board wishes.*

*Vern Wiley made a new motion to keep the board positions as is with exception of Amy Bryant serving as the primary representative from the City of Ankeny in the vice chair role. Bob Rice seconded the motion and the motion was passed.*

*The 2017 executive committee is as follows:*

*Chair: Ben Champ – City of Pleasant Hill*

*Vice Chair: Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny*

*Secretary: Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD*

*Treasurer: Bob Rice – Polk County*

*Vice Chair: Frank Cownie - City of Des Moines*

*Amy Bryant took over leading the meeting.*

## 5. Implementation Update

*John Swanson spoke about how he has been working with each jurisdiction within the WMA to officially adopt the watershed management plan. All jurisdictions except Altoona, Alleman, Polk County, Story County, Boone SWCD and Boone County have adopted the plan. Vern Wiley said that Altoona will be adopting the plan at the next council meeting. John said that he is on the agenda for Story County, Polk County, and Boone SWCD to adopt the plan in February and he will be working with the remaining jurisdictions to get the plan adopted.*

*John gave an update on the urban water quality update that was due in December. He said that three applications were submitted with projects located in the Fourmile WMA boundary. These projects were submitted by City of Slater, City of Des Moines, and the Polk SWCD. Of the three projects, two were selected to submit full proposals; the City of Des Moines and City of Slater. The project for the City of Des Moines is a stormwater wetland was submitted by the WMA itself. In order to continue with the full application, John said he would like to get a motion from the board to show support of this project. He said that the project involves building this stormwater wetland within the Fourmile Greenbelt and it aligns with the goals outlined in the completed watershed management plan. He is not asking for money from the members, just support. Cindy Valin made a motion to support the WMA sending in the full application for the stormwater wetland project, Bob seconded this motion stating that this was a good idea to have the WMA submit the application since the City of Des Moines has another application in. Motion was passed. Skip Moore stated that this project may require a lot of education to the neighborhood on benefits of a wetland and what it may look like. John mentioned that the third application from Polk SWCD was not selected involved a project with a homeowners association. This project will be pursuing REAP and other funding sources. John said the he had met with DNR staff about water monitoring in the watershed. He plans on coming to the next WMA meeting with a series of options and associated costs if*

*cities would like to adopt a water monitoring plan. He will also be working with Amanda Brown and the Iowa Hygienic Lab to do bacteria monitoring in the watersheds. Skip stated that the mayor of Des Moines would like to see focus directed at strategic tree plantings throughout the upper portions of the watershed watershed which is a goal in the management plan.*

6. Urban WQI Grant Update

*Jennifer Welch said that there were 34 applications for the urban WQI throughout the state with 17 of them being from the metro area. 3.4 million dollars were requested from IDALS out of a total 16.8 million dollar project request from all applications. 14 applications were selected to submit full proposals with 6 of them being from Central Iowa. She is currently working with the selected cities to finish full proposals which will be due in 2 weeks. Skip Moore asked if the City of Cedar Rapids put in an application. Jennifer Welch said that they did put in an application and it was selected to submit a full proposal.*

7. Regional Stormwater Policy Update

*Teva Dawson spoke about how the Council of WMAs chose stormwater policy updates as the policy focus for this year at their December meeting. She said that Jonathan Gano from the City of Des Moines brought up the idea of using the Capitol Crossroads code consortium group as an avenue to complete the stormwater policy updates at the council meeting. This group is led by Capitol Crossroads and allows different departments within each jurisdiction to come together and draft unified codes and policies for the metro area. This year the divisions selected to participate are the public works and planning departments. The group takes suggestions for what policy/code they should focus on for the year. Teva said Jonathan could bring the idea of creating a unified stormwater policy template that all cities could adopt and make their own to the group. She said Jonathan would appreciate a motion from the group to support him bringing the idea of stormwater policy updates to the code consortium as their next topic of discussion. Cindy Valin made a motion that the WMA supports this, Skip Moore seconded and the motion was passed. Teva stated that the MPO will look for ways to support this process and may choose another policy to work on as this process occurs. She said the next council of WMA meeting will be on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at the MPO office. The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Army Corps, and Polk County Emergency Management will be present at the meeting to speak and give updates. Polk County Conservation Board will also hopefully be present to show their regional water monitoring report. Contact Teva for any other agenda items you would like to see at these meetings.*

8. Greater Des Moines Water Trails Update

*Teva Dawson said that the Water Trails plan has officially been adopted by the MPO. This plan is for 150 miles of waterways within Central Iowa and includes things like access to creek for wading/fishing as well as other recreational aspects. Vern Wiley said that the city of Altoona has adopted this plan, too. Teva said the first phase will be completing an engineering feasibility study that each city within the plan will be invited to participate in.*

9. Urban Fisheries

*Tyler Stubbs from the DNR Urban Fisheries department introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his position. He would like to work with cities to enhance fish habitat and create a recreational resource in public areas. He is particularly interested in enhancing specs to make basins more fish friendly. Tyler is looking for project locations and may have access to grants/funds depending on the project.*

10. Lower Fourmile Greenway Master Plan Update

*John Swanson said that the master plan is set to be completed this spring. Right now the group is looking into who will own and be maintaining the greenway area. Rich Leopold stated that it will be important that this area has a point person or agency in charge to make things move smoothly.*

11. Next Meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 4:00pm, Ankeny City Hall

*Amanda Brown stated that she made a mistake and the meeting WILL NOT be at city hall but will be at the public service buildings. This is the same location as the past meetings have been held.*

12. Other Discussion/Public Comment

*John Swanson spoke about the statewide WMA meeting that will be held at the Hotel Julien in Dubuque, IA on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm. There will also be a morning meeting at the same location for chairs from each WMA throughout the state. John will be speaking at the afternoon meeting about how the Central Iowa WMAs have begun implementation phase. There is also a watershed symposium on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the same location. Anyone wanting more information should contact John.*

*Rich Leopold said that the Polk County Conservation monitoring report will be coming out in the next couple weeks. This will be shared with the group once released.*

*Skip Moore told the group that he had recently been out to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to see their 9 mile long greenbelt. He said this is a great example of what the Fourmile Greenway could become and is a model for other areas throughout central Iowa.*

13. Adjourn

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was placed by Vern Wiley and seconded by Skip Moore. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.*