

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

**CITY OF ANKENY
PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
220 W 1ST STREET, ANKENY, IOWA 50023**

**July 28th, 2017
4:00 PM**

Attendees:

Board Members:

*Leanne Harter – Story County
Karen Oppelt – City of Altoona
Madeline Sturms – City of Pleasant Hill
Dan Pritchard – City of Des Moines
Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny
Vern Willey – City of Altoona
Rich Leopold - PCCB
Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD
Bob Rice – Polk County*

Others:

*Adam Fendrick - PCCB
Jennifer Welch – Polk SWCD
Cameron Stufflebeam - PCEMA
Kyle Riley – HR Green/Polk SWCD
Johnathan Swanson – Polk SWCD
Amanda Brown – Polk SWCD
Doug Sheeley – PCCB
Pam Mollenhauer – Iowa Hygienic Lab
Staci Williams - ISG
Mark Land – Snyder and Associates
Clifford Leonard
Charles Ikenberry – FYRA
Dan Knoup*

1. Welcome – *Amy Bryant, Vice Chair*
The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Amy Bryant
2. Approval of the Agenda
A few changes were made to the original agenda. The Coordinator Contract Discussion item was moved from item 7 to item 4 due to Bob Rice having to leave early. Hanna Bates was unable to be in attendance so John Swanson gave the Statewide WMA Formation update.
Motion moved by Vern Willey, Second by Cindy Valin
Agenda approved
3. Approval of April 27th, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Motion moved by Cindy Valin, Second by Robert Rice
Agenda approved
4. Coordinator Contract Discussion
Bob Rice gave an overview on how the contract hiring Polk SWCD to lead implementation in the watershed came about a year ago. He stated that the WMA boards decided that staff was needed in order implement the completed plans for the WMA watersheds. Polk SWCD was chosen because they are not a political entity and already

do this work in other watersheds. Polk SWCD has also decided to contract with MPO separately to carry out the policy work. Rice said that the current agreement is up in September and we would like to extend to a three year contract. The new agreement would work the same way as the current one with a few minor changes. John Swanson stated that these changes include administrative work for the Beaver Creek WMA, implementing the Fourmile Greenway Plan and contracting out for website design and maintenance. Because of this added work, the monetary ask has increased a little. He also stated that even with the added work load, help to each jurisdiction would not be negatively affected. Even though a three year period is proposed, the agreement would be evaluated each year in case needs/concerns arise. Swanson said that he would send an email to the group with a deadline on whether the cities would proceed with the agreement. He also wanted to remind the group that Polk SWCD is available to give presentations to councils if needed.

Amy Bryant made a motion that the Fourmile Creek WMA approved of moving forward with the new agreement per support of individual city's councils. Cindy Valin seconded this motion. Motion passed.

5. Statewide WMA Formation

John Swanson gave a brief background of what the goals of the Iowa Water Center are in WMA work. He stated that the need for a statewide WMA formation arose out of a legislative event held at the MPO in January. Many people at the event stated that there currently was not an avenue for WMAs across Iowa to work together towards legislative outreach and utilize each other to reach common goals. Swanson said that the group will be called WMAs of Iowa and they are looking to have participation from each WMA throughout Iowa. They are also looking for nominations from each WMA to serve on the executive board. This will include staggered 2-3 year terms and will require quarterly meeting attendance. Individuals will have the option to call in if they cannot make it to the meeting in person and or send an alternate that the Fourmile WMA will select. Once formed, this board will come up with bi-laws for the WMAs of Iowa and decide how the group plans on moving forward. The Iowa Water Center will be in charge of the administration duties at the beginning and then hope the group will be self-sufficient once formed.

Vern Willey made a motion to support the Fourmile Creek WMA involvement with the WMAs of Iowa. Madeline Sturms seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Dan Pritchard volunteered the city of Des Moines as a representative for the Fourmile Creek WMA. Vern Willey and Rich Leopold volunteered themselves as tentative alternates pending on dates of the future meetings. Madeline Sturms made a motion to have someone from the city of Des Moines represent the Fourmile Creek WMA on the WMAs of Iowa board and individuals from the city of Altoona and Polk County Conservation Board serve as tentative alternates. Cindy Valin seconded this motion. Motion passed.

6. Water Trails Update

Staci Williams stated that ISG has been hired to complete plans for 150 miles of streams and rivers as a part of the MPO water trails plan. She said that they will be going to each jurisdiction and presenting them with water trails projects along the waterways within

their city limits and associated costs. She said Fourmile Creek will have a focus of getting people down into the creek and interpretive/educational signage. Williams said they are working with various organizations in order to marry their work with what is already happening in the watershed. Be on the lookout for the individual city reports in the coming months. The final full report will be completed at the end of this year. Williams said that ISG is not in charge of the downtown dam removal project and that another firm has been hired to do that work.

7. Implementation Update

a. Grant Opportunities

John Swanson went over the grant opportunities coming up (see attached). He asked cities to come to him with ideas they may have for this grant opportunities. Swanson highlighted that it is listed within all of the WMA plans to bring outside money to the watersheds.

Swanson said that The Nature Conservancy, who will be restoring oxbows in the Walnut Creek Watershed, is now interested in finding projects in the Fourmile Creek watershed. He said he will be focusing on oxbows to begin with, but would like to open it up to any projects that have habitat and water quality benefits. The Nature Conservancy would do private funding to raise money for these projects. Let John know if you have any ideas.

Finally, Swanson stated that Polk SWCD will be doing an annual review on what the accomplishments have been throughout the first year of implementation. Be on the lookout for an invitation in the coming month.

Amanda Brown updated the group on implementation work that is happening in the agricultural areas of the watershed. She spoke about a cover crop initiative involving the use of a Hagie highboy interseeder. This is a newer method to seed cover crops that may get new users on board. Brown also let the group know that there will be a field day on Tuesday August 1st near Alleman. The focus of the field day will be water quality and soil health conservation practices. She will send an invitation out to the group following the meeting.

Jennifer Welch stated that the Ankeny stormwater wetland is complete located along 36th street. She also said that there will be permeable pavers installed in the city of Slater.

8. Council of the WMA Update

John Swanson reminded the group that the next Council of the WMA meeting will be on August 14th at 2:00pm at the MPO office. He asked the group to email Teva Dawson with any agenda items they may have. Swanson also said that the MPO is working towards updated stormwater policies with help from Capital Crossroads and the Local Government Collaboration.

9. Lower Fourmile Greenway Master Plan

Mark Land stated that the Greenway Master Plan is completed and there will be a public meeting sometime in August. The Plan covers the area along Fourmile Creek from the Des Moines River to just north of interstate 80. There will be a catalyst area between Copper Creek Lake and Strasser Woods where all of the practices that are outlined in the

plan will be showcased. This will allow cities and the public to get a visual feel for what area will look like once the plan is implemented. Polk County Conservation Board is maintaining most of the greenway with pocket parks throughout that the individual cities will maintain.

10. Other Discussion/Public Comment

There was no more discussion or public comment.

11. Next Meeting – October 26th, 2017 4:00pm; Ankeny Public Services Building

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was placed by Vern Willey and seconded by Madeline Sturms. Meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.