

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

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

**January 25th, 2018
4:00 PM**

Attendees:

Board Members:

*Vern Willey – City of Altoona
Bob Rice – Polk County
Ben Champ – City of Pleasant Hill
Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny
Dan Pritchard – City of Des Moines
Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD*

Others:

*Adam Fendrick - PCCB
Jennifer Welch – Polk SWCD
Cameron Stufflebeam - PCEMA
Karen Oppelt – City of Altoona
Clifford Leonard – Public
Amanda Brown – Polk SWCD
Doug Sheeley – PCCB
Rich Leopold – PCCB
John Swanson – Polk SWCD
Pam Mollenhauer – SHL
Allison Riley - MPO
Ross Grooters – City of Pleasant Hill*

1. Welcome
The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Ben Champ
2. Approval of the Agenda
*Motion moved by Vern Willey, Second by Bob Rice
Agenda approved*
3. Approval of October 26th, 2017 Meeting Minutes
*Motion moved by Vern Willey, Second by Robert Rice
Agenda approved*
4. Election of Executive Committee

Current Officers (2017):

*Chair: Ben Champ – City of Pleasant Hill
Vice Chair: Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny
Secretary: Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD
Treasurer: Bob Rice – Polk County
Past Chair: Frank Cownie – City of Des Moines*

Vern Willey made a motion to move the current officers up one position on the list and changing the City of Des Moines representative from Frank Cownie to Dan Pritchard. Bob Rice seconded this motion. Motion passed.

2018 Executive Officers:

Chair: Amy Bryant – City of Ankeny

Vice Chair: Cindy Valin – Polk SWCD

Secretary: Bob Rice – Polk County

Treasurer: Dan Pritchard – City of Des Moines

Past Chair: Ben Champ – City of Pleasant Hill

5. Implementation Update

John Swanson informed the group that The Nature Conservancy has raised \$165,000 in funds to support projects in priority watersheds. Currently, they are looking at potentially funding oxbow site sin Ankeny and Des Moines. They are interested in wetlands in particular; let John know if you have any sites in mind.

Swanson said that Polk County is working to install stream identification signs along every county road where the creek crosses. Bob Rice said the are about 2/3 of the way done with installation and have already seen some positive feedback from the public.

Swanson stated that two urban WQI grant applications were submitted in the Fourmile Creek watershed. One from Polk County Conservation Board to do woodland restoration along the Lower Greenway and one from Polk SWCD to install a regional detention basin. Neither of these applications were selected for funding but staff will still look for alternate opportunities to get these projects on the ground.

Rich Leopold said that the jurisdictions are working Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Lower Fourmile Greenway that will spell out who does what to maintain the area in the future. He will be working with upstream communities as well in the hope that they greenway will extend to the top of the watershed. Leopold said that the third and final installment of the Polk County bond will be this summer. Polk County Conservation Board is currently looking for opportunities to utilize this funding; let him know if you have any ideas. He also stated that Strauser Woods, at the lower end of Fourmile, will be in Polk County Conservation control in the next few months.

Bacteria monitoring as part of the Water Trails Plan was also mentioned by Leopold. He said a technical group is currently working on developing a strategy to accomplish this because of it's importance for public health. Allison Riley said that they are still looking to gain insight from others on this topic. The Water Trails plans for the smaller creeks will be out in the next few weeks.

Riley also stated that the North and Middle WMA has been formed and that a group is working on planning a Green Infrastructure Conference for 2018.

Swanson mentioned some main take-aways from the WMA survey that was sent out to the jurisdictions. Creating a meeting notes/take home sheet for the jurisdictions to forward

out to other city staff, more open discussion meetings, and setting action items for 2018 were all major outcomes of the survey.

6. Work Session – 2018 Action Items

Small groups were created to discuss the potential work items for 2018. See attachment for work items table and questions that were asked.

7. Upcoming Meetings

Council of WMAs
February 12th, 2018
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Des Moines MPO

Statewide WMA Meeting
February 21st, 2018
9:45 am – 4:00 pm
Otter Creek Park, Toledo, IA

8. Other Discussion/Public Comment

Cindy Valin brought up the current bill in legislation that changes the name from Watershed Management Authority to Watershed Partnerships.

9. Next Meeting – April 26th, 2018 4:00pm; Ankeny Public Services Building

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was placed by Vern Willey and seconded by Ben Champ. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.