

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED



Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority: Board Meeting

10:00 - 12:00 August 25 West Des Moines City Hall

MINUTES

WMA Members Present:

John Shultz, Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District
Jane Clark, Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jennifer Welch, Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jeremy Becker, Polk County
Doug Ollendike, City of Clive
Scott Hutchens, City of Des Moines
Mitch Holtz, City of Grimes
Dave Wilderding, City of Johnston
Tom Hadden, City of West Des Moines
Ben McAlister, City of West Des Moines
Sheena Danzer, City of Windsor Heights

Others Present:

Jim Jordahl, Iowa Ag Water Alliance

Consultants Present

Ryan Peterson, RDG
Greg Pierce, RDG
Pat Boddy, RDG
Mark Land, Snyder and Associates
Amanda Corrigan, Polk SWCD

MPO Staff Present:

Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:02
2. Introductions were made.
3. The agenda was approved with the addition of the Grimes letter of support.
4. Approval of the minutes from the last 2 meetings.
5. Public Comment – Jim Jordahl with the Iowa with Iowa Ag/Water Alliance was there and said they are making this WMA a priority and that they are here to help. Trying to set up a meeting with AgSolver and members of their board.
6. Council of WMAs– MPO staff updated the Board on the development of the Council of WMAs for the region. Susan indicated this would be a good group to share information on funding available, etc.. Pat indicated that information about this council could be added to the final watershed plan as more firm direction is established.
7. Review Hydrology Results & preliminary goals - Consultants
 - a. Mark presented and showed inundation maps, both with the official flood info and the proposed Atlas 14 to give an idea of the differences. Noted one impact of these comparisons is it could help inform how high above flood level communities should require development

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- b. A discussion came up, initiated by the Dallas Co. Soil & Water Commissioner, about the mitigation of wetlands outside of the watershed. He said there's a development between 128th and Alice's Rd – 160 acres, apparently mentioned in the August 5th Register legal notices, that will be within the WMA. The end result of the discussion is that Pat said they'll make sure to include implications of mitigation banks in the mix for discussion for the plan.
 - c. Discussion about when the new flood maps would be official. Some discussion of the process, with a Federal Register notice expected to be published in a few weeks. Jennifer Welch noted that perhaps that notice could be sent to the group. Pat questioned to what extent should the WMA engage in that new guidance. Seems disingenuous to have public meetings for WMA and not address, but also isn't exactly in the wheelhouse for this effort. **Agreed this should be discussed at next Executive Committee Meeting.** Susan suggested at a minimum the WMA can discuss with residents how to perceive the 100-year floodplain and do some basic education on what is a floodplain, what is the risk, explain it doesn't mean it will only happen every 100-years, etc.
8. Review Water Quality Modeling Results & preliminary goals - Consultants
 - a. In developing subarea, some suggested that it would be good to model how low-impact developments affect water quality, as it would be good data for communities to have when advocating for low impact vs. traditional
9. Review Landowner Survey Results & preliminary education goals – Consultants
 - a. Polk County Soil & Water staff presented; land inventory, crop practices, etc. has been assembled
 - b. Pat noted they are working on some educational outreach
 - c. Pat asked if there is a roundtable of developers already existing to tap into
 - i. Susan noted that that evening in WDM there was a forum being put on by Peoples about how DMWW lawsuit was affecting properties, etc. Maybe a launching point
 - ii. Tom suggesting holding workshops or lunch & learns over the winter. Topics could be things like best construction practices, strategies/challenges of SWIPPs, etc.
 - iii. Susan also noted the IA Community Real Estate Association meets monthly and has lots of developers
 - d. Question on public outreach – Pat noted next open house will be on October 7th
10. Grimes letter of support: The board approved a letter of support for the Grimes SRF application.
11. Next meeting: September 18, 8:00 – 10:00
12. Adjourned at noon.