

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED



Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority: Board Meeting

8:00 - 10:00 September 18 West Des Moines City Hall

MINUTES

WMA Members Present:

Eric Wessels, Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District
Jane Clark, Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jennifer Welch, Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
Rich Leopold, Polk County Conservation
Doug Ollendike, City of Clive
Susan Judkins, City of Clive
Scott Hutchens, City of Des Moines
Dan Pritchard, City of Des Moines
Steve Soupir, City of Grimes
Dave McKay, City of Urbandale
Tom Hadden, City of West Des Moines
Sheena Danzer, City of Windsor Heights

Others Present:

Sean McHahon, Iowa Ag Water Alliance
Clifford

Consultants Present

Ryan Peterson, RDG
Greg Pierce, RDG
Pat Boddy, RDG
Mark Land, Snyder and Associates

MPO Staff Present:

Teva Dawson, Senior Planner

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:05
2. Introductions were made.
3. The agenda was approved.
4. The minutes were approved with changes made to 7b.
5. Public Comment: No one was present for public comment.
6. Council of WMAs update: A meeting of the Council of WMAs was held on September 10. The main discussion item was how to staff the WMAs as they move forward into implementation mode, post DNR planning grant funding. Walnut Creek WMA is benefiting from some level of support from the MPO. The Sustainability Committee of the Greater Des Moines Partnership has added language to their legislative agenda to speak to the needs to provide funding support to WMAs in the state. If state funding became available with a natural resource fund, should some of that funding be used to support WMA activities? Either way, it seems likely there will need to be some local funding of the on-going needs (monitoring, outreach, etc.) of the WMAs. MPO staff will develop some funding models. Capital projects will be paid for by the individual jurisdiction and/or grants.

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7. Plan Outline/Overview: See handout attached. No suggestions made.
8. Update Talking Points, October 7 Public Event and Plan Rollout. See handout attached. Iowa Ag Water Alliance spoke about a grant they are applying for and would like to include work of the Walnut Creek WMA. Staff from IAWA will attend the October Board meeting to discuss further as the grant is due November 10. Grant funding could help with project implementation.

RDG reviewing the talking points. They are available now and can be used to update coworkers and elected officials and invite them to the October 7 event. WMA board members will be ask to assist with presentations of the draft plan to their communities between November and January.
9. Landowner Survey Update: The consulting team had a good meeting with members of the Hearthland Co-op. They want to be a strong partner. They have the relationships with the farmers yet don't have the conservation expertise. Soil and Water Conservation staff will work with them to conduct outreach to farmers. First step is identifying what practices they are currently using and most readily willing to adopt. RDG will use these conservation practices in the development of the model because we know they are the practices most readily adopted.
10. Early Results: Developing Scenario: See presentation. Consultants recommend to main strategies: unified sizing criteria to manage stormwater and improving soil quality (top soil, compost, etc.).
11. Next meeting: TBD - likely mid-October