

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED



Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority Board Meeting

2:00 - 4:00 May 23, 2016 West Des Moines City Hall

MINUTES

WMA Members Present:

Doug Ollendike, City of Clive
Dan Pritchard, City of Des Moines
Ben McAlister, City of West Des Moines
Darren Fife, City of Windsor Heights
Bob Rice, Polk County
Jane Clark, Polk County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Susan Judkins, City of Clive
John Schultz, Dallas County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Angela Connolly, Polk County
David Wilwerding, City of Johnston
David Russell, City of Urbandale
Dave McKay, City of Urbandale
Amanda Brown, Polk County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Brad Deets, City of Waukee
Jeff May, City of Clive
Rachel Conrad, City of Clive
Matt McQuillin, City of Clive

Others Present:

Jim Jordahl, Iowa Ag Water Alliance
Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
Paul Sweeny, Ecosystem Services Exchange
Jace Klein, Ecosystem Services Exchange
Bethany Wilcoxon, Capital Crossroads
Clifford Leonard
Adam Kiel, Iowa Soybean Assoc.

Consultants Present

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

MPO Staff Present:

Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director
Teva Dawson, Senior Planner

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:03.
2. Introductions were made.
3. The agenda was made.
4. There were no public comments.
5. Slate of Officers (Nominating Committee): Tom Hadden has stepped down as chair. The group voted and approved the following slate for the Executive Committee.
 - Susan Judkins – Chair
 - Bob Rice – Vice Chair
 - Jane Clark – Secretary
 - Dave Russell – Treasurer
6. Council of WMA – staff from the MPO provided an update regarding the activities of the Council of WMAs that meetings on a quarterly basis. The group recently heard about state-level water

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quality policies and funding under consideration. The group also discussed what policies each of the WMA shares for recommendations and which ones might be best to move forward on a regional level vs each WMA at a time.

7. Editorial Board Meeting – The MPO coordinated a meeting with the Des Moines Register’s Editorial Board to discuss the work of the Walnut Creek WMA. Susan Judkins, Tom Hadden, Pat Boddy and Adam Kiel attended and shared their thoughts. Susan and Greg also appeared on Insight on Business. The MPO will post a press release when the plan is final and approved.
8. Watershed Coordinator Position (Polk County & Polk SWCD) – Polk County presented the Watershed Coordinator job description. This would be an employee of Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and would be funding by area cities and Polk County across all three regional WMAs. The group voted to endorse the position and encourage all member governments to move forward to fund their portion of the position.
9. Watershed Plan – Staff from RDG present highlights of changes and suggestions that have come in the past few months. One requested change is how projects are ranked. The group requested they be ranked not by year but by short term vs long term. It was agreed to give the cities one last chance to get their projects included so they can use the watershed plan to back up the need for their projects when applying for grants. There was also a request to have the plan speak to what private landowners can do on their existing property.
10. Next Steps with the Watershed Plan – approve at the next meeting. Ask the individual communities to official adopt or endorse the plan.
11. DC follow up – Meeting with Secretary Vilsack – Susan Judkins shared the conservation that was had with Secretary Vilsack. He has offered support of water quality efforts but asked that we thinking bigger, larger region and public/private partnerships. The Greater Des Moines Partnership will take the lead in coordinating conversations between his office and Iowa efforts.
12. Water Quality Trading Research (Derick Anderson, McClure Engineering) – tabled for a future meeting.
13. Next meeting: June 20