

Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority
Minutes of July 23rd, 2013

CCWMA Chair, Laura Carstens called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL: Directors Present: Laura Carstens, Will Hoyer, Raki Giannakouros, Pat Simon, Bob O’Connell, Curt Kiessling, Wayne Demmer, and Calvin Gatch Jr. Carl Reimer was absent. CCWMA Administrators: Eric Schmechel and Dean Mattoon

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes were approved from 4_23_13. Kiessling made the motion, seconded by Demmer.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Update on Swiss Valley Trail Run – CCWMA Involvement/Sponsorship

Hoyer updated the Board of a trail run/race at the Swiss Valley Nature Center for the second weekend in November. The board has agreed to sponsor the race. Hoyer will get pens, magnets, and/or hats from Eric and Dean. Hoyer would like about 2-3 volunteers from the CCWMA to help “staff a CCWMA booth” and assist with race support. Hoyer will update the board as details progress.

B. Update on Marketing Apparel

Schmechel updated the Board on marketing apparel supplies and discussion followed regarding what items may need to be re-ordered. There is roughly \$2,000 left in an educational outreach budget that can be used to order more marketing/educational outreach tools for the CCWMA. The Board asked both Mattoon and Schmechel to monitor supplies of items.

C. Update on Catfish Creek Signs – Maps and Locations

Mattoon updated the Board on sign locations. The DOT said the CCWMA would not be able to install signs in state right-of-way. There are roughly 16 signs leftover. Mattoon said he will get a final map made for the Board once all sign locations have been installed. Discussion followed regarding the use of signs.

D. Upcoming Conferences/Workshops

Schmechel updated the board on a couple of IDNR sponsored workshops relating to WMA’s and watershed management.

E. Grant Opportunity

Schmechel updated the board about another IDNR/NRCS grant opportunity for the CCWMA. The main idea that was discussed was using this grant for additional modeling for the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Schmechel asked the board members to submit ideas to him or Mattoon via email. All board members seem to like the idea of applying for the grant – if it is needed at this time. Discussion followed.

F. Developments/Land Disturbing Activities

Schmechel and Mattoon updated the Board on a few new projects that are going on in the watershed. Mattoon shared some updated RASCAL assessments as well. Mattoon shared his knowledge regarding the new industrial development area off of Sieppel road.

Discussion followed regarding the Dubuque County landfill land – and the possibility of a couple of Best Management Practices (BMPs) projects in that area. Wetlands and streambank stabilization were the two BMPs that were discussed. Carstens asked the CCMWA if it would be possible to send a letter to the City of Dubuque council members detailing the importance of BMPs and constructed wetlands in and or City of Dubuque property (specifically, off of Sieppel road area).

G. Presentation from Steve Zimmerman, Applied Ecological Services

Mr. Zimmerman gave a 40-minute presentation on what watershed planning is and how Applied Ecological Services (AES) addresses the required 9-step process EPA has developed in watershed management planning. Steve talked about the importance of addressing the WMP from an ecological perspective. Steve shared some maps of the watershed that have been made and also went through how the fieldwork was gathered in the watershed. As the WMP progresses, AES will be asking the CCWMA board and related stakeholders for input throughout the planning process. Steve and/or Cecily will be giving another presentation on the WMP process and update the CCWMA board at our next meeting.

H. Comments/Adjournment

Motion was made by Kiessling, seconded by O’Connell at 12:14pm. Next meeting will be mid-October.