

## **Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority Minutes of February 18, 2014**

CCWMA Chair, Laura Carstens called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL:** Directors Present: Laura Carstens, Curt Kiessling, Calvin Gatch Jr., Will Hoyer, Dave Ruden, Wayne Demmer. Carl Reimer, Pat Simon, and Raki Giannakouros were absent. CCWMA Administrators: Eric Schmechel and Dean Mattoon
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes were approved from 12\_3\_13.

### **AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- A.** Cecily gave a great presentation on the watershed management plan relating to water quality and pollutant loading in the watershed. IOWATER results were discussed, as well as bacteria sampling that was done in 2011. Nutrient loading was also discussed during the presentation. Cecily also touched on future goals for the watershed. The board then discussed how the goal setting format might work out best during the LID workshop in March.
- B.** Schmechel and Mattoon updated the Board on the current WIRB grant that was available. Schmechel talked about the idea of applying for a WIRB grant for floodplain implementation in the South Fork of Catfish Creek. After working on the grant for a couple of weeks, both Schmechel and Mattoon recommended the CCWMA and the City of Dubuque wait another 6-8 months before applying for the WIRB grant. Additional partners and project details need to be addressed during this spring. The CCWMA directors agreed this was the right approach.
- C.** Schmechel updated the Board on a possible new funding source the CCWMA could research for the future. Partnering with the NRCS, the Driftless Land Initiative is a federal program that has some money available to work with landowners in the Driftless region to help implement conservation practices. Once the new Farm bill is released by congress, more details can be discussed, however it is a viable funding source to keep in mind for the near future (2015).
- D.** Carstens has not been able to get a hold of Centralia. Will follow up again.
- E.** Carstens updated the Board on a letter that was submitted on behalf of the CCWMA to the City of Dubuque Council. This letter explains the idea of wetland banking – and incorporating wetland restoration projects along throughout the watershed. Schmechel, Mattoon, and Carstens plan to meet with City of Dubuque officials in the near future.
- F.** Schmechel shared comments/suggested changes on the watershed chapter in the approved Dubuque County Smart Plan. Several board members asked about smart plan and how the watershed chapter read. Schmechel informed the board that the watershed chapter relied heavily on the current Dubuque County Stormwater Management Manual, as well as input from Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship and other watershed professionals. Board members stated that they supported the watershed chapter, without any changes, and will be writing the Board of Supervisors a letter of support. Demmer, being a board of supervisor, abstained from the vote.

- G. Mattoon shared updated information on the Catfish Creek Festival. April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the first annual Catfish Creek Festival. It will be held at the Swiss Valley Nature Center, under the walnut pavilion. Schmechel and Mattoon encouraged the Board to share information relating to the event. Water Monitoring, Stream Cleanup, and a watershed discussion on the Catfish Creek will take place. The band, River Glen, will be performing. The event will run from 12-5.
- H. Schmechel and Mattoon updated the board on the LID workshop, which is set for March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year having the workshop.
- I. Schmechel and Mattoon updated the Board on a new watershed game that was purchased by the City of Dubuque. There was not enough time to do a demonstration for the Board, but Schmechel and Mattoon will try and bring the game to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06pm.