

Minutes
Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority
February 17, 2015

Conference Room, Water and Resource Recovery Center
795 Julien Dubuque Drive
Dubuque, IA

ROLL CALL: Present: Directors Pat Simon, Dave Ruden, Curt Kiessling, Calvin Gatch Jr., Raki Giannakouros, Will Hoyer, and Laura Carstens; CCWMA Administrators Eric Schmechel and Dean Mattoon. **Absent:** Director Wayne Demmer.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Carstens called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

MINUTES: Minutes from December 3, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS:

Finalizing Watershed Management Plan —Adopting/Approving. Mattoon updated the Board on the final design and layout of the completed Catfish Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Carstens requested that each political body receive and file the WMP at a minimum. Giannakouros requested that a letter be sent to each political body requesting a 30-minute work-session, in which both Schmechel and Mattoon would present an overview of the WMP and its purpose. Mattoon and Schmechel said they would coordinate with the communities and arrange presentation times.

Watershed Management Plan – Printing/Copies. The Board discussed how many copies of the WMP should be printed for each community. Mattoon said as of now, 15-20 complete WMPs will be printed, and roughly 40-50 executive summaries will be printed. Mattoon will be reviewing the budget to determine the final amount of copies in the near future.

Board Member Term Statements. Mattoon discussed Board members have staggered terms that need to be reviewed for each member. Schmechel and Mattoon will check on by-laws and term conditions, and then report back at the May meeting.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Timber-Hyrst Subdivision. Jeff Arsendorf, a landowner in the South Fork of Catfish Creek, spoke to the Board in regards to Timber-Hyrst Subdivision and the amount of erosion and stormwater runoff coming from the disturbed area onto his property. Arsendorf shared his concerns over the approved plat/subdivision and the amount of impervious surface, flooding damage, water quality, and stormwater runoff.

Mattoon updated the Board on what the City of Dubuque has been doing to follow up with Arsendorf's concerns. Mattoon stated the City is meeting with Arsendorf on a weekly basis at his property and is investigating soil types and approved runoff curve numbers that have been established at Timber-Hyrst. Mattoon said he would monitor both the erosion control and stormwater runoff. He will update the Board at the May meeting as the City continues to further monitor and research the approved final plat and improvement plans. Mattoon also mentioned the City is reviewing its current stormwater ordinance and standards.

Ruden discussed prior site visit with Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District staff. Gatch and Giannakouros both recommended that the Board should write a letter to the City of Dubuque and the owner of Timber-Hyrst Subdivision to address Arsendorf's concerns

and continue to review and monitor the erosion control and stormwater runoff. The Board agreed to draft a letter to the City of Dubuque recommending that the City review its current stormwater ordinance and continues to review stronger post-construction stormwater standards. Carstens recommended the Board needs to reinforce its mission is addressing flooding and water quality concerns. Ruden agreed a letter be sent to the owner of Timber-Hyrst subdivision as well. Carstens agreed to draft the letters for the Board, Schmechel and Mattoon to review and approve before distribution. Motion by Giannakouros, seconded by Ruden, to send both letters on behalf of the CCWMA passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD:

Coordinating with Park and Trails. Gatch brought up the idea of integrating trails and park projects and developments with the goals of the WMP. Board members agreed this should be something that is researched. Mattoon stated the final WMP does have narrative that supports this.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Interactive Watershed Kiosks Update. Schmechel and Mattoon updated the Board on the interactive watershed kiosks that have been ordered, and that Steve Jewitt has a contract with the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District to develop two interactive watershed kiosks that will be displayed at Swiss Valley and the Mines of Spain. Mattoon noted Phase II WMA grant dollars purchased the hardware for this education component.

SRF Sponsorship Program Update. Schmechel updated the Board on the SRF sponsorship program. He said several different conservation projects have been identified using the \$1.4 million available for the CCWMA. Mattoon and Schmechel will begin ranking projects this spring, and will discuss potential projects at the May meeting. Schmechel said funds will most likely be made available sometime mid to late summer 2015.

Contractor Lunch and Learn / Soil Quality Restoration Program. Schmechel and Mattoon commented an upcoming Contractor “Lunch and Learn” that will discuss both erosion control and stormwater BMPs. Schmechel noted that soil quality restoration would be a main topic at this year’s event, which replaces the annual LID conference.

Iowa Flood Center – Monitoring Equipment. Schmechel reported that the Iowa Flood Center has partnered with the CCWMA to install three real-time monitors in the Catfish Creek Watershed this spring. Schmechel will work with the Flood Center to determine the best locations and will update the Board when the instrumentation has been deployed.

Joint Sub-Committee Presentation. Mattoon will be heading down to Des Moines in the coming weeks to present to the joint sub-committee on watershed management authority boards and the importance to obtain full time funding. Mattoon will update the Board on this topic at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.