

Minutes
Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority
May 19, 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., Will Hoyer, Wayne Demmer, and Laura Carstens; CCWMA Administrators Eric Schmechel and Dean Mattoon. **Absent:** Director Raki Giannakouros

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Carstens called the meeting to order at 10:16 AM.

MINUTES: Minutes from February 17, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS:

Board Member Term Statements. Mattoon updated the Board on the by-laws in the 28e agreement for the Authority Board. Due to the language stated in the By-laws, it was time for Laura to step down from the chair position with the board. The Board then discussed. Nominations were then discussed and Curt Kiessling nominated himself to be the next chair. There were no other nominations. Will Hoyer nominated himself to be vice-chair. There were no other nominations. Laura stated she would be the acting treasurer for the Board (There currently has not been a need for a treasurer). All votes were placed for Kiessling to be Chair, Hoyer to be vice-chair, and Carstens to be treasurer. Motion passed 7-0.

South Fork Catfish Creek Restoration Project. Mattoon and Schmechel updated the Board on the proposed South Fork streambank stabilization project. Schmechel stated he hopes to have a draft RFP at the July meeting. Carstens stated the city and partners will meet with other department heads to discuss the overall project and concept. Updates will be shared with the board at the July meeting.

Watershed Management Plan Presentations. Schmechel and Mattoon updated the Board on adopted resolutions from the communities in the authority. The City of Asbury and Peosta have both adopted the watershed management plan. The plan shall be used by community leaders to help assist with decision making and land use.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Timber-Hyrst Subdivision Update. Denise Ihrig, an engineer from the City of Dubuque attended the Board meeting to discuss Timber-Hyrst subdivision and address concerns from downstream property owner, Jeff Aresensdorf. Jeff was also present at the meeting. Denise first addressed the board on behalf of the letter that was sent to the City of Dubuque from the Authority Board. She asked the board for a list of concerns they currently have regarding the subdivision. Board member Ruden discussed his site visit and also his discussions with the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners. Ruden talked about the erosion and stormwater controls that seem to be lacking. He asked Denise if there were any planned controls or structures in place to address a long-term stormwater solution? Has any sediment basins been approved or installed at the subdivision? Denise responded that the City does not own the property anymore, but there needs to be clear evidence of stormwater and erosion destruction for the developer to correct any problems. She asked for photo's documents, etc. that she could present to the

developer with. Ruden then asked if the City has confidence that the stormwater controls that are in place are working effectively? Denise stated that the City has worked with another consultant to review stormwater calculations, and everything that was presented to them was approved and met their current ordinance. She stated that stormwater is not an exact science, but the City has to look at what is provided (calculations) and then review them with their ordinance. She did state the City is currently looking at modifying or changing their current ordinance. Denise stated the City was not looking at intense development, but rather large lots. There is curb and gutter in place so there will be point discharges. She then discussed the impacts of agricultural crops and the conversion to lawns and green space after the development is complete. Denise also stated the City does have TIF dollars available and is looking at doing over-detention. As of now, Denise said the engineering consultant is claiming the development is a “net zero” discharge. If that’s not the case, then the City will have to step in and address it. Hoyer then brought up the concerns of soil quality on the large lots and why soil quality restoration was not being added to the lots. Wayne Demmer then asked about responsibility concerning the runoff and the problems. Denise responded that the developer is responsible under the City’s MS4 permit. Mattoon stated he will continue to inspect the site now and at the end of compliance with the plan. A two year period goes into effect for compliance. Kiessling asked what can this board or the City do so that we do not have these problems again? Denise stated that erosion control are in place, and seem to be working well. Demmer then asked if the City adopted a new stormwater ordinance, would it change the subdivision? It did not appear from the City that it would. Schmechel stated after the new Dubuque County ordinance passed, several County subdivisions were grandfathered in, so the new ordinance did not apply to them. Jeff Arsendorf then spoke, and passed around photo’s and several stormwater problems he faces, and the constant battle with erosion and new ditches being made in the Catfish Creek watershed. Discussion followed.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD:

None.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Interactive Watershed Kiosks Update. Schmechel and Mattoon again 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. Schmechel stated he hopes that this project will be done by the end of summer.

SRF Sponsorship Program Update. Schmechel again 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. Schmechel and Mattoon said they would discuss what the necessary steps are in the coming weeks – and will hopefully have a cost-share agreement in place for the July meeting.

Iowa Flood Center – Monitoring Equipment. Mattoon reported that the Iowa Flood Center has partnered with the CCWMA and has installed two real-time monitors in the Catfish Creek Watershed. Mattoon went over the locations of the sensors. Hoyer asked about moving a monitor to the South Fork. Schmechel stated he will check with the Flood Center, and that next year that might be a great location for a sensor.

CCWMA Board Meeting
February 17, 2015

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.