

**Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors**

1:30 PM, October 9th, 2024

ECICOG Office

With a virtual Zoom Meeting option

Board Members Attending Meeting:

Mike Tertinger – Linn County, Jon Fitch – City of Hiawatha (Zoom), Steve Cooper – Marion, Jon Gallagher – Linn SWCD, Mary Beth Stevenson – City of Cedar Rapids, Bruce Frana – Linn SWCD, Marissa Cartwright – Linn SWCD

Others Present: Karen Kurt – ECICOG, Alyssa Comer – ECICOG

Call to Order at 1:34 pm by the Chair

Introductions

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- July 10th, 2024

M/S by Frana and Cooper to approve the July 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Service Agreement Update/Review

Tertinger added language to the service agreement and has shared a new draft with ECICOG. Kurt plans to review to language and share response with Board. The Board also discussed moving some board management duties to the role of Soil Health Coordinator.

Quarterly Financial Statement

Kurt explained the quarterly financial statement showing that Indian Creek’s funding is now separated within ECICOG’s accounting system. The document shows the payments from the start of FY25.

Quarterly Budget Review

Kurt went through budget detail, explaining the proposed budget to the actual budget, for the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Quarterly Account Transfer Authorization for Administrative Services- Action Item

Kurt explained the Account Transfer document for ECICOG administration. By approving the document, the board authorizes the transfer of funds from the Indian Creek WMA account to ECICOG. Cooper wondered why the transfer document was necessary. Kurt explained that it will establish a clear paper trail for transactions from their account.

M/S by Frana and Cooper to approve the Transfer Authorization. Motion carried.

Approve Linn County Invoices -Action Item

Gallagher explained the two draft invoices from Linn County for August and September 2024 for the Soil Health Coordinator. August is higher because there were 3 pay periods. A typical pay period will be under \$5,000. Once the invoices are paid, \$12,000 of the agreed \$25,000 will have been expended. There is potential for another \$15,000 in expenses before the new grant which would be \$2,000 higher

than the original amount approved by the Board. Gallagher is waiting for budget and finance to finalize the invoices but is not anticipating a change in number.

M/S by Stevenson and Frana to authorize ECICGO to approve payment to Linn County when the final invoices are received. Motion carried.

SHP Soil Health Coordinator Funding, Jon Gallagher

Gallagher discussed new grant details for the Soil Health Coordinator (Cartwright) funding. The proposed start date for the new grant is 01/01/2025. The state is in the process of formalizing the agreement (as of 10/09/2024). The grant may start before 2025; if not, the Indian Creek WMA will continue to for the Soil Health Coordinator between the end date for the current grant and the start of the new grant.

Gallagher noted that Cartwright will be doing a lot with Indian Creek still and thinks it would be beneficial to delegate a some Indian Creek WMA meeting tasks. Gallagher believes ECICOG should remain in charge of the financials and grant writing/administration opportunities with collaboration from the Soil Health Coordinator. ECICOG will meet with Cartwright and Gallagher to note the new division of duties on the proposed service agreement.

Project Updates

1. Cartwright, Soil Health Coordinator, shared the final report for the Soil Health Partnership grant as well as a few current projects happening with WQI and IFIP cost shares. Cartwright emphasized that cover crops for this year are already higher than last year and do not yet include federal programs. Cartwright mentioned that two oxbows are going in Indian Creek- one has been completed and is located North of the solid waste agency. Cartwright and Gallagher were on a podcast with the Linn County Master Gardeners to discuss soil health.
2. Cooper explained that the Creekside Pride Water Trails/Greenway Master Plan is in progress with 9 sites and funding for 4-5 years. One site is on Wallace Road bridge with a plan to remove the bridge and design a parking lot with a kayak vending machine. The vending machine will have downstream return.
3. Comer informed the board that the IDNR Creek Signage Grant has been signed by ECICOG as of 09/03/2024. Comer plans to reach out to IPI for a lead time, and the cities for when they will be able to establish their signs. Cooper mentions a space at the old Marion Facility to store signs for pick up once they have been ordered.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Stevenson discussed potential partnership with The Nature Conservancy for an Oxbow restoration project including landowner outreach and priority area identification. Cooper agrees on collaboration from Marion.

Stevenson also announced that there was potential for funding through the DNR for a plan update. The board members present discussed setting goals for 2025 to help determine which funding sources would be appropriate.

Other Updates from Board & Partners

No other updates from board and partners.

Announcements / Public Comments

- Next ICWMA Meeting – January 8th, 2025
- Middle Cedar WMA Meeting, October 17th, 2025, 3pm, Waterloo Center for the Arts
- Maquoketa River WMA Meeting, October 22nd, 6pm, Monticello City Council Chambers
- Lower Cedar WMA Meeting, November 12th, 6:30pm Cedar County EMA

Comer discussed an update on the Landowner Prescribed Fire Workshop in February, and potential feedback request from The Nature Conservancy for a Freshwater Mapping Project they are conducting. Comer will forward any updated information when received.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:02 pm.