

**Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors
1:30 PM, July 11th, 2024
Marion City Hall Training Room
With a virtual Zoom Meeting option**

Board Members Attending Zoom Meeting:

Mike Tertinger – Linn County, Jon Fitch – City of Hiawatha, Kesha Billings – City of Hiawatha, Steve Cooper – Marion, Jon Gallagher – Linn SWCD, Alec Matthew – City of Cedar Rapids, Todd Steigerwaldt – City of Marion, Justin Schroeder – City of Cedar Rapids, Mary Beth Stevenson – City of Cedar Rapids, Mike Kortenkamp – Robins, Bruce Frana – Linn SWCD

Others Present: Karen Kurt – ECICOG, Jody Bailey – ECICOG, Marissa Cartwright – Linn SWCD,

Call to Order at 1:32 pm by the Chair

Introductions

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- July 19, 2023
- October 11, 2023
- April 10, 2024

M/S by Cooper and Fitch to approve the July 2023 minutes. Motion carried. M/S by Fitch and Frana to approve the October 2023 and April 2024 minutes. Motion Carried.

Staffing Update – Karen Kurt, ECICOG

Kurt shared updates with the board that Alicia Presto is the new Director of Environmental Services at ECICOG and that a new position for a full-time planner in the Environmental Services department has been posted on the ECICOG website and other job boards.

FY25 Budget Discussion, Karen Kurt, ECICOG

Kurt led a discussion on the proposed FY25 budget and received some clarification from the board needed for developing the FY25 budget, as staffing changes at ECICOG led to some gaps in knowledge in the WMA's budget. The board asked ECICOG staff for clarification on a \$1,500 annual contribution to the Lower Cedar WMA that was initiated prior to the current board's terms. ECICOG staff will follow up.

Indian Creek WMA Administration Discussion, Steve Cooper, City of Marion – Action Item

Cooper stated that the questions he had come to the meeting with were answered in the staffing update discussion with Kurt and he forfeited this agenda item.

SHP Soil Health Coordinator Funding, Jon Gallagher – Action Item

Gallagher led a discussion on the current Soil Health Partnership funding. The NRCS Partners for Conservation grant is ending but a Water Quality Initiative proposal submitted may result in an extension of the current Coordinator's position, but with a gap between grant funding cycles. Gallagher asked the board for consideration of funding the current Coordinator's position during the gap of 5 months at approximately \$5,000 per month for 5 months. An update will be provided at the October board meeting.

M/S by Frana and Cooper to provide financial support through local dollars to fund the Soil Health Coordinator position through the end of the calendar year. Motion passed.

WQI Application Letter of Support from May – Action Item

The board formally approved the letter of support for the Water Quality Initiative proposal that Gallagher submitted in May and the board informally approved through email. M/S by Frana and Cooper. Motion passed.

Project Updates, if any, to share (20 minutes)

1. Cartwright, Soil Health Coordinator, shared an invitation for an upcoming field day in Marion, in late July.
2. Bailey informed the board that the Indian Creek Watershed was selected to receive a creek signage grant of \$10,000 from IDNR. Combined with \$5,000 in matching funds from ICWMA, signs will be established at 39 locations around the watershed on roads, hiking & biking trails.
3. Bailey informed the board that the City of Durant (also part of the Lower Cedar WMA) was selected to receive IDNR creek sign grant funds.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

No discussion.

Other from Board & Partners

The executive committee plans to host a special meeting prior to our next scheduled quarterly ICWMA meeting to discuss WMA administration going forward and review the draft Service Agreement as proposed by ECICOG.

Announcements / Public Comments (10 minutes)

- Middle Cedar WMA, Wednesday, July 18th, 3:00 pm, Waterloo Center for the Arts, Schoitz Room
- Lower Cedar WMA, Tuesday, August 13th, 2024, 6:30 pm, location TBD
- Next ICWMA Meeting – Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, 1:30 pm

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:07 pm.