

Middle Iowa River Watershed Management Authority

Board of Directors Meeting

January 4th • 1 PM – 2:30 PM
City of Tama City Hall – Meeting Room, 305 Siegel Street, Tama, Iowa 52339

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Mike Wolfe (City of North Liberty), Jeff Tindle (Poweshiek County), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Stephen Beck (City of Belle Plaine), Kasey Hutchinson (Johnson County),

Others Present: Allison Wells (Johnson County), Kyle Ament (Iowa DNR), James Martin (IDALS), Charles Ikenberry (HEI), Ken Leo (Friends of Coralville Lake), Joe Gaa (City of Marshalltown), Jody Bailey (ECICOG), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center)

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. MIWMA Formation Update

To date, the following entities have entered into, or have signed the paperwork to enter into, the 28E agreement filed with the State of Iowa: Poweshiek County, Marshall County, Johnson County, Iowa County, Iowa SWCD, Tama SWCD, Marshall SWCD, North Liberty, Belle Plaine, Solon, Chelsea, Walford. City of Cedar Rapids also filed official paperwork for membership.

4. IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant Update

The application for the IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant solicitation was submitted on November 30th, and the MIWMA was informed of the intent to award by the IDNR on December 21st. The contract is anticipated to be ready from IDNR in mid-February. The total project budget is \$221,000, with \$125,000 awarded from IDNR and \$91k and \$5k cash-match from Johnson County and City of Belle Plaine, respectively. City of North Liberty will serve as fiscal agent and is providing these services as in-kind match.

The RFP will be published mid-February, consultant retained by May, and the full process will take approximately 18 months, with final plan anticipated December of 2025. The next step is to prepare the request for proposals to retain a consultant to perform the planning services. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be charged with reviewing proposals and interviewing and selecting the consultant. The following MIWMA members have volunteered to serve on the TAC: Mike Wolfe (City of North Liberty), Steve Beck (City of Belle Plaine), Allison Wells (Johnson County), and Kasey Hutchinson (Johnson County). The following organization partners have also committed serving on the TAC: James Martin (IDALS), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center), Kyle Ament (IDNR). The TAC committee will report on the retainment process during the April meeting.

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The group also discussed other potential partnerships that could be valuable in the planning efforts, such as the Otter Creek group and Ducks Unlimited. The planning grant could also potentially be used as a match, for example for a potential RCPP grant application, or for other City of County projects. Steve Beck noted multiple contacts to reach out to who could potentially partner on efforts that could feed information into the watershed plan. This includes monitoring that has been done by Grinnell College.

5. Other Business

Al Schafbuch inquired about starting MIWMA meetings with the pledge of allegiance. Discussion was tabled for consideration at the April meeting.

There was a request to WMAs related to state funding to support WMAs at the state level. WMA representatives are invited to participate in a day at the Capitol on January 28th from 2-5. For now, the MIWMA will not submit any letters, and will follow the lead of the Center for Rural Affairs as they continue a concerted, organized effort to share progress and benefits of WMAs in improving our watersheds and increasing flood resiliency. Anyone interested in participating in the day at the Capitol can reach out to Cynthia Farmer with Center for Rural Affairs.

The grant opportunity that has been discussed prior through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is expected to come out in February or March. Kate Giannini indicated that it is anticipated there will be a 90-day application period. Scott Cagle with NRCS would be a good contact to reach out to if interested. There will be up to \$25M, 10-20% in-kind or cash match.

6. Public Comments

7. Schedule Next Meeting

The next MIWMA Board of Directors meeting is planned for April 4th, 1:00-2:30, City of Tama City Hall.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45.