

Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority

Quarterly Board Meeting

To: Cities, Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and other stakeholders in the Middle Iowa Watershed

From: Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority

Subject: Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority Quarterly Meeting April 3rd, 2025

OVERVIEW: In 2010, Iowa lawmakers passed legislation authorizing the creation of Watershed Management Authorities (Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 466B Subchapter II). A Watershed Management Authority (WMA) is a mechanism for cities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and stakeholders to cooperatively engage in planning and management at the watershed scale. A WMA was formed for the Middle Iowa Watershed, and is comprised of member organizations located in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Marshall, Poweshiek, and Tama counties.

MEETING AGENDA ATTACHED

For questions or inquiries, please contact Mike Wolfe (Stormwater Coordinator/MIWMA Board Chair, City of North Liberty) at 319-626-5713 or by email at mwolfe@northlibertyiowa.org, or Kasey Hutchinson (Environmental Regulations Coordinator, Johnson County Planning, Development and Sustainability) at 319-356-6083 or by email at khutchinson@johnsoncountyiowa.gov.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE: The quarterly board meeting of the Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority has been scheduled for Thursday, April 3rd at 1 PM at the Otter Creek Lake and Park Board Office and Nature Center (2283 Park Road, Toledo, IA). Cities, Counties, SWCDs and other watershed stakeholders are encouraged to attend and learn how they can collaborate with this important organization.

MEETING AGENDA: The complete meeting agenda follows. Please post the agenda in a public location and share the invitation widely with staff, elected officials, and other interested stakeholders.

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Meeting: Thursday, April 3rd • 1 PM – 3 PM

Location: Tama County Conservation Board Office and Nature Center – Otter Creek Lake and Park

Address: 2283 Park Road, Toledo, IA

Virtual Attendance Link: <https://tinyurl.com/April-WMA-Meeting>

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes
3. Middle Iowa WMA Logo Design Contest Award Presentation
 - a. The Middle Iowa WMA held a logo design contest, seeking participation from PK-grade 12 students from 52 schools located within the watershed.
 - b. Both sample and in-person lesson plans were offered as part of the contest.
 - c. Contest notice was sent to all schools in November of 2024, entries were due end of January, and the OEC and Middle Iowa WMA Executive Board selected a winner.
 - d. The winning artist is Wyatt Andresen from East Marshall High School. He was presented with a certificate as well as a \$100 award.
 - e. The logo will be used in the WMA's water quality management plan as well as on other education and outreach material, to help enhance recognition of the group as alliances are built.
4. IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant Updates
 - a. Outreach and Education Committee Planning Update
 - i. Completed Events
 1. The OEC updated the group on both events completed and in the works. Completed events include the Heartland Co-Op Farmer Recruitment dinners held in January for goth Marshall and Tama, and Poweshiek and Iowa counties.
 2. Tama SWCD put on the Roots to Rivers event in February. The event had an excellent turnout, and included the keynote speaker XX XX, as well as a panel that represented farmers at different points in their soil health journey. Nitnick was there, too.
 - ii. Other Potential Events - Discussion
 1. Mel Bro, Tama SWCD, updated the group on a potential event in collaboration with Iowa Learning Farms. The Marshall County SWCD identified a producer in Marshall County who has cover crops, no-till, wetland complex (north branch of Timber Creek), grade stabilization structures, etc. Mel Bro Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs) will meet with the landowner in the next week to get him on board with an ILF event. The ILF would cover the meal and suggests a morning event with lunch or an afternoon event with dinner. There is no fee to the WMA.
 2. Cynthia Farmer, Center for Rural Affairs, updated the group on a potential event in collaboration with Practical Farmers of Iowa. There would be a sponsorship fee of \$350 which would get the WMA's name in the event booklet (600 copies printed) as well as a display. The PFI would plan the event, which would be largely

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organic-focused but to include pollinator habitat, grain field with grain drill for planting in cover crops. Would provide lunch and the event would run from 10:30-12:30, on September 9th. Need to let them know by April 25th if we would like to sponsor the event.

3. Kasey Hutchinson, Johnson County PDS, updated the group on a potential urban demonstration project in and around the City of Grinnell. Tommy Hexter and Mindy Sieck have been providing a list of projects as well as contacts for those projects. The idea is to create a walking tour, and for those involved to act as tour guides. This would likely be a fall event, but would determine best timeframe for willing cooperators.
4. Kasey Hutchinson also updated the group on a potential field day at the Meskwaki Settlement. Joan Flecksing indicated that there is still interest in holding a field day there, that would showcase the many practices and approaches that are being implemented. It will take some time to get permission to host the field day.
5. Mel Bro updated the group on a Fan of the Fair opportunity through KGRN radio. Paper fans will be handed out at fairs in Poweshiek, Iowa, Tama, and Marshall counties, and a \$300 sponsorship fee would get the group's logo on the side of the fan (with other logos) as well as 50, 30-second commercials that would mention the WMA by name, and 50, 30-second on the station stream.
6. Fred Abels noted that they are hosting a PFI field day on June 26th in the Cedar River Watershed, with focus on wetlands and a saturated buffer, that may be of interest to the group. The flier for the event will be shared with the WMA for distribution.

b. HEI

i. Watershed Plan Progress Update

1. HEI covered the status of water quality management plan chapters, with a few completed, others in progress. The priority HUC12 plan development as well as the riparian and stream buffer management plan have begun, and the TAC is currently reviewing the issues assessment.

ii. HUC12 Prioritization Overview

1. The priority HUC12 plans (South Branch Salt Creek, Stone Creek/Big Bear Creek, Hilton Creek, Asher Creek) will essentially be plans within the plan.
2. These plans will be self-standing for future funding acquisition.
3. Plans will describe characteristics of the subwatersheds, water quality conditions and concerns, contain the pollutant source assessment, identify BMPs and conservation strategies and suitable locations, contain cost-benefit analysis output to put together the most effective plan, include sections on social engagements, goals and objectives, implementation plan, potential funding sources, costs. Etc.

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4. HEI has begun to use the SPARROW model to model annual loads for P, N, sediment, and runoff.
5. The riparian plan underway will look at oxbow restoration opportunities, low head dam removal, water trails, stream restoration/bank stabilization opportunities, and connecting of floodplain and upstream and downstream reaches. HEI will lean heavy into the TNC information.
5. Other Business
 - a. MIWMA website is online, middleiowawma.org
6. Public Comments
7. Schedule July Meeting (tentatively July 3rd, 1:00)
 - a. Location selection

Please post this meeting notice and agenda in a public location.