

Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority
Quarterly Board Meeting
Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Kick-Off

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 Meeting and Comprehensive Watershed Quality Management Planning Kick-Off event for July 11th, 2024

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.

In December of 2023, the MIWMA was awarded a Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The MIWMA retained a consultant to provide planning services for development of this plan. The commencement of the planning process will be marked by this kick-off meeting and is anticipated to be completed by December of 2025.

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 and Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Kick-off Event of the Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority has been scheduled for Thursday, July 11th at 1 PM at the City of Tama City Hall (305 Siegel Street, Tama, Iowa.) 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, July 11th • 1 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: City of Tama City Hall – Meeting Room

Address: 305 Siegel Street, Tama, Iowa 52339

MEETING AGENDA

1:00-1:15 Quarterly Board Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. April Meeting Minutes
 - [April meeting minutes approved.](#)
3. IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant Update
 - [See below for meeting minutes.](#)
4. Other Business
 - [Kasey Hutchinson announced that Ruth McCabe with Heartland Co-Op will be presenting at the next quarterly meeting in October, on proposed batch and build projects within the watershed.](#)
5. Public Comments
 - [None noted.](#)
6. Schedule Next Meeting
 - [October 3rd, 1:00-2:30, Tama City Hall.](#)

1:15-3:00 Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Kick-Off***

1. Introductions
2. Background, Purpose, and Need for the Plan
 - [HEI provided an introduction to the plan and planning process.](#)
3. HEI-led Outcome-Oriented Discussion
 - Incorporated into the presentation by HEI were several questions posed to the group at large.
 - i. [Question 1: Things the plan could address and/or achieve to make it a success?](#)
 1. [Some responses included: multi-pronged approach, addressing drought, recharge areas, and wetlands, successfully communicating efforts to the general public, addressing siltation of water bodies throughout the watershed, assessing the reduction of erosion and soil loss through the adoption of cover crops, putting focus on soil health, engaging a diverse audience, having funded projects,](#)
 - ii. [Question 2: Things that concern us about planning effort:](#)
 1. [Having flexibility to shift plans, being able to measure outcomes or success.](#)
 - iii. [Question 2: what are some issues/concerns that the group hopes to address?](#)
 1. [Greenbelts, availability of resources \(identify social demographics frequently impacted, and materials and resources available in different languages\), forming a legislative coalition that can talk to elected officials, Iowa River Corridor Project - put area into non-](#)

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farming grasses with focus on bigger tributaries, Creekside grant program to identify and place signage on smaller tributaries, establishment of IDNR easements over stream corridors (funding is the current barrier), complete priority HUC12 assessments

iv. Question 3: What are some of the priority areas and resources?

1. Otter Creek (IDNR land use assessment), Hoosier Creek/City of Ely (source water by Kirkwood CC, flood hazards, recreational use), runoff from dairy facility in Blairstown, confinement centers, Salt Creek Headwaters, Bear Creek, Linn Creek through the middle of Marshalltown (flashy, high erosion, steep banks), continued outreach to Meskwaki Tribal Nation.
- An activity was also conducted allowing for meeting participants to place their concerns on a map.
- Summary/Closing of the outcome-oriented discussion action items include formation of the Communications and Marketing and Outreach and Engagement Committees, completion of the watershed inventory and HUC12 prioritization by HEI and TAC, DNR to reach out to potential source water protection communities, identification of key meetings for engagement.

4. Discussion Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- Next meeting to be held on October 3rd, 1:00-2:30, at Tama City Hall.

*** THIS KICK-OFF EVENT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PLANNING EFFORT. WE DESIRE AND NEED CANDID AND THOROUGH QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM YOU AND YOUR AGENCY/ORGANIZATION. THEREFORE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD MAKE A LIST OF SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND THOUGHTS AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE KICK-OFF. HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT TO HELP YOU PREPARE:

- What are the most stressed resources we should restore?
- What are the most outstanding resources we should protect?
- What will make this plan a success?
- What are you most concerned about as it relates to the final plan and its outcomes?
- How can we make this plan more appealing, engaging, and “better?”
- What can we do in the planning process to help set the stage for a sustainable, committed WMA in the long-haul?

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