

Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Tama City Hall Meeting Room, 305 Siegel Street, Tama, IA

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Kasey Hutchinson (Johnson County), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Brian Paul (Poweshiek County), Steve Beck (Belle Plaine), Alan Schumacher (Iowa County), Mike Wolfe (North Liberty)

Others Present: Allison Wells (Johnson County), Barb Smith (Grundy County), Margaret Wolter (Chelsea resident), Ryan Goodenbour (Tama Co EMA), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), Dave Schechinger (Solon and Marengo), Brianna Ewoldt (Tama SWCD), Mel Bro (Tama SWCD), Bruce Trumpold (Amana Society Farms), Jennifer Fencel (ECICOG), Josh Ventling (ECICOG), Matt McAndrew (NB Water), Kyle Ament (DNR), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center)

I. Call to Order & Introductions at 10:02 am

II. MIWMA Formation Update

Fencel reported that the 28E Agreement was filed on June 30, 2023, with 5 members. There are 3 additional members that submitted signed paperwork and invite presentations are scheduled in several other jurisdictions. Additional filings will be on September 30th and December 30th to add members.

III. MIWMA Bylaws Discussion

Discuss issues such as members leaving and defining a quorum considering a potentially large membership.

A. Quorum

- One third of the Board membership.
- Include a section for proxy voting.
- Include a section for %

B. Participation by non-members

- Add section on partners and stakeholders participation.
- Secretaries – keeps list of stakeholders and their potential role.
- Treasurers and Secretaries do not have to be members.

C. Money/Fiscal Agent

- Consider options such as a Member serving as a fiscal agent or establishing a separate financial identity.

D. Executive Committee

- Try to achieve equal representation on the Executive Committee from City, SWCD, and County Members.

IV. Iowa DNR Watershed Management Planning Grant

Ament described the planning grant program and the expectation that the funding notice will be out this Fall and there would be 2 awards. The grants have traditionally been \$100,000 but they may be more this year. There is a 25% match requirement with 5% in cash and 20% in-kind. Johnson County has pledged some seed money for the WMA that could be used for the plan. It is common to have a

consultant do the plan. There are restrictions on writing the grant application. An entity that writes the application cannot be selected to do the plan.

**V. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Grant Opportunity discussion**

Fencil described the program and a preliminary idea to apply for the next round in 2024. Other funding opportunities would be:

- IDNR – underserved farmer to farmer grant program
- FEMA – hazard mitigation funding via Iowa Homeland Security
- IDALS – will fund edge of field projects if a watershed group has technical assistance to facilitate the process with farmers

VI. Public Comments

none

VII. Next Meeting

The next MIWMA Board of Directors meeting is planned for October 5th at 10:00 am.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am