

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 October 3rd, 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.

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, October 3rd 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, October 3rd • 1 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: City of Tama City Hall – Large Meeting Room

Address: 305 Siegel Street, Tama, Iowa 52339

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Cara Matteson (Linn County), Steve Beck (City of Belle Plaine), Cynthia Farmer (CFRA), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Matt McDonald (IDALS), Emery Davis (Heartland Co-Op), Ken Leo (FoCL), Marty Wymore (Region 6 Resource Partners), Kendra Markland (USGS), Alec Matthew (City of Cedar Rapids), Jeff Tindle (Poweshiek County), Nolan Grove (Heartland Co-Op), Stacie Buhr (NRCS), James Martin (IDALS), Raina Genaw (Tame County Conservation), Mike Wolfe (City of North Liberty), Kasey Hutchinson (Johnson County), Tyler Kely (Marshall County SWCD), Bruce Trumpold (Amana Society), John Oltman, Carissa Shoemaker (TNC), Dave Schechinger (City of Solon), Holly Shutt (Ducks Unlimited).

2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

3. Heartland Co-Op Update (Ruth McCabe)

- Batch and build projects in the Middle Iowa River watershed
- Ruth McCabe with Heartland Co-Op presented the batch and build projects planned for within the Middle Iowa watershed, anticipated for next summer. Focused practices for this project include saturated buffers and bioreactors.
- The batch-and-build model provides a convenient and takes the place of traditional funding for implementing these practices, which was slow and complicated. The current model is an 18-month process, is set up as a cost-share that goes through a fiscal agent, and 100% is paid for.
- Farmer recruitment meetings will begin in January and February.
- The general steps for the batch in build are surveying ditches to see if a farmer qualifies, providing a preliminary design with the landowner, and letter of intent signed by landowner. The Co-Op works with their own engineers.
- It was noted during discussion that batch and build practices don't replace the need for cover crops, but rather should be supplemental to in-field soil health practices.
- There are potential collaborative opportunities at Heartland events, including having a table and banner to represent the WMA. One such event is the upcoming cover crop field day scheduled for November 21st.
- These batch and build efforts could potentially be incorporated or documented in the WMA plan.

4. IDNR Comprehensive Water Quality Management Planning Grant Updates

- HEI planning process reporting (draft plan chapters, watershed prioritization)
- HEI presented update on the plan development, with a draft intro completed and the HUC-12 analysis results covered generally.
- The set of indicators (ecological, stressor, social) for the prioritization tool were discussed, as were the various approaches to the rankings. For example, the group

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could focus on individual pollutants identified as priority or look more holistically to identify priority subwatersheds.

- The WMA website land page is underway, and will be ready next quarterly meeting for posting links, documents, etc.
 - Proposed planning process committee modifications
 - The water quality planning grant application outlined three different committees:
 - i. TAC – formed prior to commencement of the planning process.
 - ii. Marketing and Communications - Provide input/feedback on the packaging and communication of the data and information.
 - iii. Outreach and Engagement – in cooperation with HEI, identify opportunities and assist with planning
 - It was discussed and decided that marketing and communications committee could be eliminated. This reduces the burden on individual members, and the objectives of this committee can be sufficiently addressed by the group at large.
 - Discussed how the plan proposes two urban/soil health workshops, and three listening sessions – but now proposing these get paired, reducing the number of events to 5 to keep the involvement manageable. The group feels these paired still accomplish the goals of the originally proposed outreach events. IDNR indicated that would be okay.
 - Source water protection – update on potential communities.
 - Update from Kyle Ament, IDNR. Kyle put together list of potential communities, that include Marengo, Belle Plaine, Albion, Oxford, Solon, Amana, Tama
5. Other Business
 6. Public Comments
 7. Schedule January Meeting
 - Should be January 2nd, but due to the holiday will be moved to January 9th.

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