

**Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, October 26, 2022 • 5:30 pm**

Monticello Eagles Club at 102 Lindner Court, Monticello, Iowa.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order, Welcome** – Chair Larry McDevitt called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. with 20 in attendance (10 members, 9 guests). With 34 WMA members, 18 is quorum. There were 4 members of the 7-member Executive Committee participating which met quorum requirements.

**11 WMA Members in attendance were:** Larry McDevitt, Jackson County BoS; Joe Oswald, Jones County BoS; Tim Vick, City of Manchester; Russ Farnum and Dave Goedken, City of Monticello; Steve Leonard, Lake Delhi District; Mick Michel, City of Dyersville; Shirley Helmrichs, Delaware County BoS; Jon Gallager, Linn County BoS; and Dave Guthrie, Delaware SWCD.

**9 WMA Partners & Guests in attendance included:** Lynette Seigly and Dave Mack; Ross Evelsizer, North East RC&D, Tony Amsler, Candidate for Iowa House; Dean Zimmerman; Steve Konrady, DNR; Steve Hanken; Erin Erickson, watershed coordinator and Stephanie Sagers, Limestone Bluffs RC&D.

2. Approve Agenda- Michel made the motion to approve. Vick seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes from February 22, 2022 Meeting** – Michel made the motion to approve. Vick seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**4. Financial Report** – Erin Erickson, Maquoketa WMA

- a. Finances: The end of September MR WMA Balance (FY23) was \$78,371.59
- b. The MR WMA has exhausted the entirety of the \$100,000 DNR grant and now using the \$30,000 match. - thru Dec. 2022) As of the end of Sept. /FY23 the WMA had received \$38,498, in voluntary member support (last year FY22 we rec'd about \$\$30,000)
- c. Erickson reported that Dubuque has sent the Purchase of Sales contract to the WMA after the Dubuque Board of Supervisors approved funding for 5 Fiscal Years totaling \$42,775 to cover the voluntary member support of the WMA. The contract was signed and returned with a Liability of Insurance that was required.

- d. Michel made the motion to approve the financial report. Leonard seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

#### 5. Iowa DNR Watershed Planning Grant Update- Erin Erickson, Watershed Coord.

- a. Erin shared slide show about project updates.
  - o This included an update on the Watershed Management Plan. The 2 phases that the University of Iowa students completed will be deconstructed to apply to the working outline that was created in 2018, making sure all components are present.
  - o The Mural at the Manchester Fish Hatchery was installed at the end of October and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in November.
  - o The WMA was awarded \$30,500 for the DNR County Watershed Sign Grant. Erin is working with the Iowa Prison Industries and all 8 county engineers for installation on secondary roads over the next 18 months.
  - o The Cover Crop and Water Quality Field Day in September was a success with many farmers and community members present. **Liz Ripley with Iowa Learning Farms** shared her wealth of knowledge about cover crops and demonstrated the Rainfall Simulator on four different types of surfaces. We were honored that **Conservation Farmer of the Year, Dave Lubben**, joined us to speak about best practices used on his land. **Jones County Roadside Prairie crew, William Roller & Wes Gibbs** told stories of how the secondary right of ways have changed with their efforts. We got to see some rusty gold that was recovered during the sediment removal project on the lake in Central Park from **Jones County Conservation Director, Brad Mormann**. Everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner which was catered by Darrell's in Monticello.
  - o The watershed film was attempted to be shown yet the audio issues prevented it. (Link emailed to Board after)**7. Overview: 2021 Maquoketa River Water Monitoring Results.**

#### 6. Overview: 2022 Maquoketa River Water Monitoring Results- Lynette Sedgley & Dave Mack

Lynette shared the last 4 years of water sampling results featuring the maps that Dave created showing which areas had higher levels of nutrients. The results were compared to the statewide sampling during the same time period. The presentation and supporting documents were shared with the Board via email after the meeting.

#### 7. New Business (Moved up during meeting due to voting members needing to leave)

- a. **Consider funding Watershed Coordinator position for 6 months FY24** - Vick made the motion to move to February BoD meeting and have coordinator provide spreadsheet supporting position based on WMA revenue. Leonard seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

b. **Consider funding a computer that would be property of the WMA** Vick made the proposition to move motion to Executive Committee for approval with coordinator to research computers needed for software required. Leonard seconded. All Ayes. Proposition carried.

**8. Presentation and Question and Answer Session with Ross Evelsizer, Natural Resource Projects Director, from North East Iowa RC&D**

Ross shared his experience as the acting Watershed Coordinator for the [Turkey River WMA](#) , [Upper Iowa WMA](#) and [Upper Wapsi WMA](#). Click each WMA for links to their websites

A few key take away points:

- WMA's were created by legislation but no federal or state \$ to support their efforts.
- WMA's had to find funding for projects and staff
- Start small projects to get matching grants and then hopefully lead to more down the road.
- Having a WMP creates ACTION STEPS with targeted projects to follow and will show future grant applications that the project is part of a regional plan as it refers to the WMP
- Be more visible by gathering lots of partners and being part of many projects even by simply writing letters of support.
- Water Quality Grants- becoming more available and higher levels of nutrients in sampling can justify the funding for such projects
- Engage producers in meetings and board membership
- To be successful WMA's NEED A COORDINATOR

### Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee – Larry McDevitt, looking for a member from Dubuque County to serve on committee.
- b. Technical Committee – Erickson reported the committee has not met and will be looped back in upon completion of the WMP.
- c. Water Monitoring Committee- Dave Mack, NRCS- Dave mentioned the committee will meet this winter to determine course of action for next summers monitoring. Will make recommendation to board.

**11. Public Comments** – McDevitt shared the grant funder with the Prairie Creek project in Jackson County and its new concerns with the recreational aspect of the design on the Maquoketa.

**NEXT MEETING** – The next regular meeting of the MR WMA Board of Directors will be held early 2023, Likely a Zoom format. Date and time TBD.

**12. Adjourn** – Leonard made the motion to adjourn at 7:38pm. Vick seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

-Respectively submitted by Erin Erickson, MR WMA Watershed Coordinator