

**Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 • 6:00 pm**

Monticello Renaissance Center at 220 E. 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order, Welcome – Mick Michel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with 16 in attendance (5 members, 11 guests). With 34 WMA members, 18 is quorum. There were 4 members of the 7-member Executive Committee participating which met quorum requirements.

6 WMA Members in attendance were: Don Schwenker, Jackson County BoS; Tim Vick, City of Manchester; Russ Farnum, City of Monticello; Mick Michel, City of Dyersville; Shirley Helmrichs, Delaware County BoS; John Kurtz, Buchanan County Supervisor.

11 WMA Partners & Guests in attendance included: Lynette Seigly, Water monitoring committee; Dave Mack, Delaware SWCD; Dave Goedken, Monticello City Council; Dean Zimmerman; Miranda Haes, DNR; Kate Giannini, Iowa Flood Center; Dan Gilles, Iowa Flood Center; John Haes, Carol Sherman, Steve Hanken; Scott Bishop, Limestone Bluffs RC&D; Erin Erickson, Watershed Coordinator.

- 2.** Approve Agenda- Vick made the motion to approve. Farnum seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 3. Approve Minutes from October 26, 2023 Meeting** – Kurtz made the motion to approve. Vick seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 4. Financial Report** – Scott Bishop, Limestone Bluffs and Erin Erickson, Maquoketa WMA
 - a.** Current Revenue & Expense Statement- Scott Bishop: Balance \$156,996.46

Bishop reviewed the monthly statement and shared the ledger that shows the revenues since July 1 the start of FY24. He mentioned that the WMA account is now held in a money market account earning interest that goes back to the WMA. Total interest is \$366.09 for FY24. Bishop reviewed the balance sheet and mentioned we already have the FY25 for Lake Delhi Association.
 - b.** Erickson reviewed the FY25 Budget- Michel added the net revenue would be just over \$2600. The board met earlier today to adopt this budget. The Farmer to Farmer Grant of \$250,000 will be showed as revenue and then offset to not affect the overall budget.

- c. *Schwenker made the motion to approve the financial report and FY25 Budget (that was previously approved by the Executive Committee) earlier that day. Vick seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.*

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

- a. Erin shared slide show about project updates.
- Watershed Management Plan is now on the website, both phase I and phase II. With the addition of an interactive map on to help with project identification in the watershed.
 - Gave a summary of the water monitoring for the last 5 years with the 3 locations we monitor 3 times a season- the cost for those is \$18/ sample. Erickson shared the anticipated project of sampling 12 existing locations monthly instead of only 3 times a year. This would cost \$96/ sample to be ran at a private lab in Maquoketa so we wanted to find a project that would utilize the data. I had reached out to Impact7g, SWCDs, and Dubuque Watersheds to inquire and did not get a huge response. \
 - Grant awards:
 - \$30, 000 for the Count Creek Sign Grants- placed 53 watershed signs in the watershed both the perimeter and over streams that did not have signage.
 - \$250,000 Farmer to Farmer Grant from the DNR for a Cover Crop Initiative- more on that below.
 - \$15,000 from Clif Family Foundation for Operation and Support of Stream Sensors in the watershed that will be placed by the Iowa Flood Center in Maquoketa.
 - Farmer to Farmer Grant Award \$250,000 creating the Maquoketa River Cover Crop Initiative for historically underserved farmers within the watershed.
 - Intake form on Website.
 - Planning two morning farmer meetups
 - Two Field days- seeking location
 - Will be opening in April
 - Erickson reported that she is working on collaborating with Franklin Street Brewery in Manchester to create a Watershed Shandy beer that will be released at the end of May ahead of the upcoming June events:
 - June 8th Women and Soil Event for Women, Land and Legacy at the Field of Dreams
 - WMT tractorcade June 9-12 in Delaware County Fairgrounds
 - River Days in Manchester June 6-8th

- Erickson reported that she switched the newsletter platform from Constant Contact to Wix and it is much easier to create and send monthly newsletters. She can now add articles and other content not previously allowed.
- HSB 674 - Amendment to WMA Bill - Renumbered to HF 2614- update: it was passed out of the sub committee hearing by Mommsen and Seick. Isenhardt did not sign. They are reworking the portion about the name change of WMA's and forcing them to be called partnerships as the Bill first introduced. The language regarding water quality was reinstated as the bill originally had struck though that with a focus on flood risk.

Vick motioned to receive and file the project update, seconded by Farnum.

6. Project Update of Iowa Flood Center Hydro Network and Modeling Project – Kate Giannini, Program Manager and Dan Gilles, Research Engineer

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Update on:

- Hydro-station- Kate mentioned the \$1 million dollar that came from the community funding from Miller-Meeks and Representative Hinson to put in Hydrosensors in the Maquoketa Watershed and Lower Cedar Watershed. They have locations identified in Delaware and Clinton Counties and still searching for a site in Dubuque and Jones County.
- Stream Sensor- This will be placed in the Main stem of the Maquoketa River in Maquoketa and the WMA will cover the operation and maintenance with the \$15,000 Clif family foundation grant. This sensor will measure nitrate, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and temperature this data will be uploaded every 13 minutes to the host website.
- Manchester was named one of the Iowa Flood Resilient Communities in partnership with the American Flood Coalition. This project will prioritize essential resilient projects and improve their access to federal funds.
- Modeling-Dan Gilles shared the modeling update. Various modeling techniques. One is looking at the hourly rainfall data. There are 1025 sub basins with each one having an area of 1.8 miles that are further analyzed. Starting at Manchester they use the USGS stream gauge data will run the simulation and compare with what the gauge shows as observations. Will do the same for the North Fork. The modeling looks at a variety of parameters.

Committee Updates

- Executive Committee – Michel shared that the committee was working on both the Coordinator contract with Erin and the Fiscal agent contract with Limestone Bluffs RC&D and also worked on the budget.
- Technical Committee – Erickson reported the committee has not met and she needs to send them the link to the WMP on the website..
- Water Monitoring Committee- Erickson, reminded the board about the new proposed project that was mentioned in the coordinator report. That they plan to put on hold until another solid project comes up to use the data justifying the cost of the additional sampling.

New Business

- a. Review Limestone Bluffs RC&D Fiscal Agent Contract FY25
Details include: adding a quarterly date for the quarterly payments of \$10,000 per year fee that we pay for the use of the administrative use of their 501 3c status and holding of of funds as our fiscal agent.
Vick made the motion to approve, Schwenker seconded, all ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Review: Coordinator Contract MRWMA and E. Erickson FY25.
Details include: The contract is now directly with the WMA instead of through Limestone Bluffs as the manager of the coordinator. The increase to Ericksons salary was increased to \$4000/ month and the renewal of her contract for the entirety of FY25.
Schwenker made the motion to approve, Michel seconded, all ayes. Motion carried.

11. Public Comments –

NEXT MEETING – The next regular meeting of the MR WMA Board of Directors will be held late 2024, Date and time TBD.

12. **Adjourn** –Vick made the motion to adjourn at 6:58pm. Farnum seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried.

-Respectively submitted by Erin Erickson, MR WMA Watershed Coordinator