

Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors
1:30 PM, April 9th, 2025
Marion Public Works, Training Room, 202 44th St, Marion, IA
With a virtual Zoom Meeting option

Board Members Attending Meeting:

Mike Tertinger – Linn County, Kesha Billings – City of Hiawatha, Steve Cooper – Marion, Justin Schroeder– City of Cedar Rapids (Zoom), Bruce Frana – Linn SWCD, Mike Kortenkamp- Robins

Others Present: Alyssa Comer – ECICOG, Alicia Presto- ECICOG (Zoom), Kate Hoheisel- Marion, Cara Matteson- Linn County, Jon Gallagher-Linn County / Linn SWCD (Zoom), Karen Wilke- TNC (Zoom)

Call to Order at 1:34 pm by the Chair

Introductions

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- January 8th
- February 5th
- February 19th
- March 19th

M/S by Frana and Cooper to approve January, February, and March meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The group discussed having an active sponsorship policy that adheres to the same governmental restrictions as the members. Comer will have a policy drafted at the next board meeting for the board to approve.

Service Agreement

Comer shared the draft service agreement ahead of time to the board and asked if anyone had any questions.

Presto and Comer will get answers to the board regarding how much interest the Indian Creek account is making and add a start date of July 1, 2025.

The group will vote to approve this at their July 9th meeting.

Quarterly Financial Statement

Comer shared the quarterly financial statement for the Indian Creek WMA account.

Quarterly Budget Review

Comer shared the budget review, which is a breakdown of where the funds in the ICWMA account are allocated. The group decided to no longer contribute to the Lower Cedar WMA, and Comer will take it off of the budget for FY26.

Quarterly Account Transfer Authorization for Administrative Services- Action Item

Comer explained the account transfer sheet containing hours spent on technical assistance, and 2-year website cost.

M/S by Billings and Frana to approve the Transfer Authorization. Motion carried.

Indian Creek WMA Plan Discussion

Comer went through the plan and outlined areas that could be updated or amended. The group decided an amendment was not needed, as the goals are still reflective of the group's core values. If funding becomes available for plan updates, the board will apply.

It was decided to continue the discussion and come up with a list of near future projects that prioritize project type and location within the watershed.

Key takeaways:

- Prioritize and align with partnership master plans.
- Wilke/TNC can help identify areas and funding for water quality projects.
- Comer will look for grant opportunities that are related to water quality, and where we will get the most benefit in multiple areas.

Project Updates

- Soil Health Partnership Updates – Marissa Cartwright

Gallagher and Comer gave the Linn County Soil Health Partnership report on behalf of Cartwright following the provided report. Gallagher mentioned that there is an edge-of-field design workshop for Soil Coordinators in the area at the Kirkwood farm, and Agri-Drain agreed to sponsor the beverages for the training, so ICWMA's contribution is no longer requested.

- Creekside Pride Water Trails / Greenway Master Plan – Steve Cooper

Cooper shared that there is a creek clean up event scheduled at Thomas Park in Marion from 9-12 on June 28th, 2025. Potential for having a WMA table there.

- IDNR Creek Sign Grant- Alyssa Comer

Comer shared the final designs of the signs with the group, and that they are ready to be ordered once delivery location is confirmed. Cooper will follow up with Marion Public Works to confirm location. Comer will reach out to board and entities implementing the signs with a checklist and date for pick up once ordered.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Comer shared a few small grant opportunities to keep an eye on once the board has an idea of what projects and project locations are a priority for the WMA.

Matteson shared that new data centers will have funding for large-scale water projects that cities and counties could look into.

Other Updates from Board & Partners

- **Linn County Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Letter of Support – Action Item**

Matteson introduced the Iowa Cancer Consortium grant opportunity that Linn County is applying for and asked for the WMA to contribute a letter of support. The grant application is for a Linn

County Water Sampling and Monitoring Program. The board's support will require data background, input for desired end goals, and continued support of sampling efforts.

M/S by Frana and Cooper to contribute a letter of support. Motion carried.

Announcements / Public Comments

None

Next ICWMA Meeting- Wednesday, July 9th, 2025

Billings offered Hiawatha as a meeting place, if that does not work, Cooper said Marion Public Works would work again as well. Comer also made it known ECICOG is available.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:57 pm.