

Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors
1:30 pm, January 27, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 guidance to practice social distancing

Board Members Attending Zoom Meeting: Cedar Rapids – Cara Matteson; Linn SWCD – Bruce Frana; Marion – Steve Cooper; Hiawatha – Patrick Parsley; Stephanie Lientz – Linn County;

Others Present: Rick Sandstrom – resident; Marty St. Clair – Coe College; Todd Stiegerwaldt – Marion Water Department; Mike Kuntz & Mary Beth Stevenson – City of Cedar Rapids; Emery Davis – Soil Health Coordinator; Jennifer Fencel – ECICOG

Call to Order at 1:34 pm and introductions

Approval of January 27, 2021 minutes: Motion by Frana, second by Parsley. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Motion by Matteson, second by Parsley to elect Steve Cooper representing the City of Marion as Chairperson. Motion carried. Motion by Frana, second by Matteson to elect Stephanie Lientz representing Linn County as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried.

FY21 Budget Update: Fencel reviewed the FY21 budget tracking table documenting revenue and expenditures to date. Fencel presented a request from the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority for \$1,500, the same as last fiscal year. The amount was not specifically in the FY21 budget, but there are funds for it. Motion by Matteson, second by Frana to pay the \$1,500 to the Lower Cedar WMA. Motion carried.

USGS Gage Proposal: Fencel presented a proposal from the USGS to reinstall the gage equipment and operate for one or three years. If choose a one-year contract, the installation fee will be \$22,000 and the operation and maintenance cost will be \$14,400. If choose a three-year contract, the installation fee is waived, and the operation and maintenance fee will be \$14,400 per year for a total of \$43,200. Fencel provided funding scenario using the current contribution formula and a possible budget forecast table. Discussion was held and the need and timing. Motion by Matteson, second by Parseley to contract with USGS for a three-year contract at \$14,400 per year to reinstate the stream gage at Thomas Park now and use “remaining funds” to pay for it. Motion carried.

Soil Health Partnership Project: Davis provided an update on the project. Planning a Women Caring for the Land virtual event March 3rd. Completed four edge of field practices with landowners and partners. Installed monitoring wells for pre and post project results. Planning a virtual field day this spring with video of projects being installed.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership: Fencel reported that The Nature Conservancy is applying for \$15.5 million to focus on wetland easements in frequent flood areas in the Lower Cedar watershed. They requested a small amount of cash match, \$500 per year for 5 years, and a letter of support for the application. Motion by Frana, second by Matteson to approve the letter of support committing \$2,500 cash match for the project. Motion carried.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations: Fencel requested approval of a letter of support submitted with the application committing to sponsoring the reinstatement of the USGS gage and in-kind staff time totaling \$18,000. Motion by Parsley, second by Frana to approve the letter of support. Motion carried. Stevenson explained the next step was for NRCS to conduct a Preliminary Investigation in Indian Creek and Big Creek watersheds. If the results are favorable, the watersheds become eligible for further funding.

Cedar River Source Water Partnership: Stevenson submitted an application requesting \$9.5 million to focus on source water protection in the Cedar River watershed. The project will partner with ag coops to support technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation practices.

Lower Cedar Watershed Plan: Fencil reported that the technical committee is working through the process of selecting HUC-12 watersheds to focus on for the plan.

Creekside Pride Water Trails / Greenways Master Plan: The Corridor MPO is preparing an RFQ to hire a firm to complete a Recreation Access Concept Plan in Marion.

Creekview Cove urban practices: Sandstrom reported that several practices are completed in his neighborhood and they hope to partner to do more.

Partner Updates:

- Lower Cedar WMA Board of Directors meeting 6:30 pm on February 9, 2021

Announcements:

- Linn Soil & Water Conservation District's annual tree sale online
- Iowa Water Conference April 6 – 8 online

Public Comments: none

Next meeting: The next ICWMA Board meeting 1:30 pm, April 14, 2021 location TBD

Adjourn: Meeting adjourn at 3:55 pm