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Watershed Assessment Group Minutes
Administration Building Public Meeting Room and Zoom
Date: March 2, 2022

Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/biuw6CS0Jnu8igf6XTGpxs_c5YiZkDoCDIZsMQgHQaU85BVjn0keLFBPAb1mkhDk.wWiR2aVPHgJaK1qm Passcode: u3z!XUGj

Committee members present: Mike Cox, Leanne Harter, Sara Carmichael, Amelia Schoeneman, Andrea Wagner, Matt Boeck, Kimberly Grandinetti, Scott Wall

Harter called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve – Wagner/Wall

II. Review Meeting Notes from prior meeting – January 28, 2021

Motion to Approve – Cox/Schoeneman

III. Old Business

a. Review and Edit Implementation Matrix

- Carmichael lead the final walk through of the matrix with updates. The updated version will be given to BOS to approve either April 5 or 12th.
- Cox and Carmichael will bring this matrix and give an update to the Conservation Board on March 7.
- Cox discussed how we should look at hiring a consultant to review the matrix and create measurable outcomes. Would look at putting this action in CIP and asking for budget money. Suggests this process could start in a couple of years.

IV. New Business

a. Updates on Iowa Legislative Actions

- Cox, Schoeneman, and Grandinetti gave updates on bills they are tracking
 - o Trust Fund is no longer.
 - o Bill to restrict county and IDNR on how much can be spent to acquire property. It has passed the Senate.
 - o Senate Study bill to restrict stormwater regulation is no longer.
 - o Bill to restrict where solar can be put on land.
 - o Bill to restrict counties from penalizing people that do not pump their septic systems. Has passed both chambers and waiting on the Governor's signature.

V. Staff Updates and Assignments

- Wagner/Schoeneman: finishing Natural Resource Ordinance and will bring it to Planning and Zoning Commission soon. Will also bring it to Conservation Board in May.

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- Schoeneman: working with City of Ames to update their Urban Fringe plan. INHF purchased the property west of Ada Hayden for potential stormwater management which will eventually go to the City.
- Wall: gave an update on the Hamilton/Story Counties Drainage District (DD) project and how it could impact an Edge of Field (EOF) project. Carmichael/Cox are working closely with partners involved in this DD project to figure out a way to move forward with the EOF project.
- Boeck: worked with Heartland Coop and Carmichael to identify new EOF sites. Sent the list to Carmichael who will mail about 60 landowners regarding the EOF program.
- Grandinetti: helping homeowners apply for new septic systems with state grant dollars through Iowa Finance Authority. Four systems have been approved which is ~\$100,000. Also applying for a new grant to replace septic systems for low-income homeowners.
- Harter: participating in a national study looking at historical floodplain regulations.

VII. Other Items Not on the Agenda - none

VI. Next Meeting Time and Date

- Looking at meeting again in May, after the BOS approves the matrix. Carmichael will organize the next meeting as we get closer.

IX. Adjournment – adjourned at 9:15am motion by Wall, Second by Grandinetti