Iowa Watershed Approach Focuses on Flood Resilience in the Clear Creek Watershed

Iowa Watershed Approach
Clear Creek Watershed Coalition Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, at 5 pm
Coralville City Hall

In 2008, Iowa City and Coralville were among the three communities hardest hit by floodwaters. The Iowa River crested at almost 32 feet (seven feet above flood-stage level), devastating the community and propelling Iowans to take action. Since this major flood event, both cities have put their efforts and resources into flood mitigation projects including the reconstruction of bridges, roads, and wastewater plants. Citizens working together to prepare for floods as a resilient community will increase the community’s ability to recover from flood events, mitigate flood damage, and support susceptible residents.

The Clear Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) will hold its next quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 18, at 5 pm at the Coralville City Hall, 1512 7th St., Coralville, Iowa 52241. These meetings are open to the public; emergency managers, representatives of social and service organizations, city officials, soil and water conservation district staff, landowners, agricultural partners, and community members are particularly encouraged to attend.

The Clear Creek Watershed is one of eight rural watersheds participating in the $96.9M grant received by the state of Iowa from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA). The IWA will address issues associated with the devastating and dangerous floods Iowa communities experience year after year, and help communities identify ways to increase resilience to future flooding.

The Flood Resilience Program, led by a University of Iowa team, is a subcomponent of the IWA. The program will partner with local organizations, including community action programs, to engage and support communities in flood resilience planning to:

- Identify flood resilience strengths, challenges, and priorities
- Develop actions or interventions that will help build resilience to floods
- Implement these actions or interventions
- Measure the progress toward flood resiliency

The Flood Resilience team will introduce the flood resiliency program at the next Clear Creek Coalition meeting. This presentation will explore the concept of flood resilience and how local citizens can

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Breanna Shea (319-384-1729, breanna-shea@uiowa.edu) or Ashlee Johannes (319-384-1730, ashlee-johannes@uiowa.edu)
participate in defining flood resilience for their community. All are welcome to attend. Other IWA partners will also share updates on their IWA activities.

The IWA is a collaboration of numerous agencies, universities, non-profits, and municipalities. Partners include: Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management, University of Iowa/Iowa Flood Center, Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa, City of Dubuque, City of Coralville, City of Storm Lake, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Agricultural Water Alliance, local Resource Conservation & Development offices, local Council of Governments offices, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Association of Counties, Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Team, and many more.

For more information, visit http://www.iihr.uiowa.edu/iwa.

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I. Call to Order & Introductions

II. Administrative Update
   • Approval of November 30, 2016 Board minutes

III. Clear Creek Watershed Planning Process Update (DNR grant)

IV. Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA)
   • Iowa Watershed Approach Update (resiliency) – Iowa Flood Center
   • Iowa Watershed Approach Partner Updates
   • Review and Approve Project Coordinator job description
   • IWA Planning Services RFP/RFQ – Kate Giannini

V. Announcements & Events

VI. Public Comments

VII. Next Meeting – 5:00 pm, April 19, 2017 at Coralville City Hall

VIII. Adjourn
A vision for a more resilient Iowa

The Iowa Watershed Approach

Craig Just – Flood Resilience Team
Assistant Professor, IIHR—Hydroscience & Engineering
craig-just@uiowa.edu
The IWA Flood Resilience Team is ready to serve

Staff
- Ashlee Johannes
  Flood Resilience Communications
- Valerie Decker
  Center for Evaluation & Assessment
- Julie Kearney
  Center for Evaluation & Assessment

Faculty
- Eric Tate
  Geographical & Sustainability Sciences
- Craig Just
  Environmental Engineering & Science
- Ibrahim Demir
  Iowa Flood Center

Students
- Christina Muñoz
  Geographical & Sustainability Sciences
- Becca Mattson
  Environmental Engineering & Science
- Kendra Miner
  Environmental Engineering & Science
The IWA Resilience Team is partnering with many groups.
The IWA Resilience Team timeline is staggered

The IWA Flood Resilience Team will engage stakeholders in nine watersheds for 3 to 5 years.

- **Year 1**: Clear Creek Upper Iowa English River
- **Year 3**: Middle Cedar Upper Wapsipinicon Dubuque
- **Year 4**: Ongoing Assessment
- **Year 5**: Ongoing Assessment

North Raccoon East Nishnabotna West Nishnabotna
Many Iowans know what it means to be personally resilient
Iowans also know what it means to lack resilience
Iowa communities help decide who is **flood resilient**
Iowa communities help decide who is flood resilient
Increasing flood resilience requires **actions** and resources

deals with the future, and **long-term, actions** that increase flood resilience
Increasing flood resilience requires **actions** and resources
deals with the pre-disaster **actions** that enable an effective flood response
Increasing flood resilience requires **actions** and resources deals with the immediate and short-term **actions** in the state of emergency prior to, during, or right after a flood
Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources
deals with the short-term and long-term actions that help communities regain economic and social functions
Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources
Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources

Social Resources are community characteristics that facilitate collective action. The ability to trust, build partnerships, form social networks, and pursue collective learning are examples.
Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources.

Mitigation

Preparedness

Resources
- Social
- Human
- Institutional
- Natural
- Economic
- Physical

Response

Recovery
The IWA Flood Resilience Team can help you improve hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans.
The IWA Flood Resilience Team can help you improve hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans

A thoughtful & detailed hazard mitigation plan is critical to compete for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program dollars.
The Iowa Flood Center will provide a hydrologic assessment of your watershed.
The hydrologic assessment will inform the built practices prioritized in your watershed plan.
A dynamic Flood Resilience Action Plan can make hazard mitigation and watershed planning more valuable.
The IWA features a customizable watershed information visualization system.
Flood inundation visualizations from previous versions of the Iowa Flood Information System are available.
Flood resilience resources can be visualized spatially as combinations of “low”, “medium” and “high” scores.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
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<td>Social</td>
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<td>% high school diploma</td>
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<td>% employment</td>
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<td>Institutional</td>
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<td>Natural</td>
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The IWA online information system will also be equipped with socio-economic indicators.
Flood resilience can be visualized at the intersections of various resource indicators and flood risk.
The IWA Flood Resilience Team is ready to work with YOU to create value for your watershed community

The IWA Flood Resilience Team seeks to provide value to Iowa’s watershed communities through partnerships to develop the tools to measure and visualize flood resilience in ways that make future mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning actions more meaningful and useful.

We can make our watershed communities more flood resilient, together.
A vision for a more resilient Iowa

The Iowa Watershed Approach

Iowa Flood Center
The University of Iowa
100 C. Maxwell Stanley Hydraulics Laboratory
Iowa City, IA 52242

319-384-1729
www.iowafloodcenter.org
A vision for a more resilient Iowa

The Iowa Watershed Approach
How Can We Become More Flood Resilient?

Many Iowans know what it means to be personally resilient. We have jumper cables and spare blankets in our vehicles for when a winter driving mishap that leaves us, or a loved one, in a roadside ditch. We have cell phones to keep us in touch with family, friends, and neighbors in times of need. We overstock our personal food pantries, buy flashlights and weather radios, and we build shelters to prepare for tornados and thunderstorms. When a grain farmer is injured, 10 combines and as many semi-trucks are known to almost magically appear and complete the harvest within hours. Family helping family; friends helping friends; neighbors helping neighbors – an Iowa tradition that improves our resilience.

Iowans also know what it means to lack resilience. The recently laid-off manufacturing worker with a family of four lacks resilience. The elderly woman, with no family, who lives in her childhood home, surrounded by neighbors she no longer knows – she lacks resilience. People in small Iowa towns with aging water and wastewater infrastructure and a shrinking tax base – they might not feel resilient. And, after a September rain of over 12 inches in Greene, after 22 feet of Cedar River elevation in Cedar Rapids in 2016 and 31 feet in 2008, and after countless other local and regional floods in Iowa - many Iowans are feeling less and less flood resilient.
Iowa communities help decide who is flood resilient

Community flood resilience is the ability of people living in a common watershed to plan and act collectively, using local capacities, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a flood. Flood resilient communities also learn from previous floods that they, or others near them, have experienced. Flood resilient communities understand that actions can reduce flood risk through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Flood resilient communities also know how to utilize local and regional resources that make collective action successful. Because the Iowa Watershed Approach invites communities to think “flood first”, it is important to identify community resources that can be leveraged to increase flood resilience.

Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources

Mitigation deals with the future and long-term actions that increase flood resilience. Mitigation is more effective when it is incorporated into recovery plans and into the general development plans of a community. Examples of mitigation include building levees, preventing further development in floodplains, and raising the elevation of existing homes.

Preparedness deals with the pre-disaster actions that enable an effective flood response. These actions are primarily plans and resources that are prepared in case of an emergency. For flood preparedness, this may include having an agreement with friends or family members about where you would sleep in case of an evacuation, and having extra stored food in case of being trapped in your house.

Response deals with the immediate and short-term actions in the state of emergency prior to, during, or right after a flood. Flood response includes moving supplies from the basement to a higher level, evacuating, sandbagging, and search and rescue.

Recovery deals with short-term and long-term actions that help communities regain economic and social functions. An example of short-term flood recovery includes repairing damaged buildings. A long-term recovery can include regaining a similar, or even stronger, economic activity the community has prior to a flood.
Social Resources are community characteristics that facilitate collective action. The ability to trust, build partnerships, form social networks, and pursue collective learning are examples.

Human Resources are population characteristics of individuals, such as doctors, builders, trained responders, business owners, and community leaders.

Institutional Resources are provided by private, public, or government entities and include things such as insurance, health care, emergency plans, and recovery grants.

Natural Resources are natural features such as marshes, undeveloped flood plains, and protected grasslands that increase flood resilience for a watershed community.

Economic Resources are the finances needed to improve flood resilience.

Physical Resources are built resources such as housing, roads, hospitals, levees, and floodwalls.

The IWA Flood Resilience Team can help you improve hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans. Many Iowa towns and counties have hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans that enable the allocation of federal disaster assistance funding when sought. No plans, no funding. We understand that many community mitigation plans are not thoughtfully prepared and are lacking in detail. A lack of planning leads to a lack of effective action – especially when it comes to flood resilience. We want to work with watershed communities to lower the barriers to effective hazard mitigation planning, particularly for floods, so your community is eligible and ready for action when funds from sources like the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are available.

A dynamic Flood Resilience Action Plan can make hazard mitigation and watershed planning more valuable. Let’s face it, hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans are planning tools that most Iowans will not enjoy reading and discussing while sipping a good cup of coffee with friends. The format of these plans are prescriptive and not all that user friendly. Thankfully, the Flood Resilience Action Plan can take on a different form which can include plain language and helpful maps and graphics. Some watershed communities may choose to embed all or part of the Flood Resilience Action Plan into their watershed plan.

The Iowa Watershed Approach is backed by the Iowa Flood Center. Have you seen those great Iowa Flood Center flood maps online? Those maps are made possible by a powerful team of scientists and engineers that do watershed scale hydrologic assessments. The Iowa Flood Center will make similar maps available online for your Flood Resilience Action Planning needs.

Ashlee Johannes
Outreach & Engagement Coordinator
Iowa Watershed Approach Flood Resilience Team
Phone: 319-354-1730
ashlee-johannes@uiowa.edu
http://www.ihr.uiowa.edu/fwa/
The Iowa Watershed Approach – Flood Resilience Team

The IWA features a customizable watershed information visualization system

The map on the left shows the 9 watershed communities across the state of Iowa that are the focus of the Iowa Watershed Approach project. The map on the right zooms in on Cedar Rapids, at the southeastern border of the Middle Cedar watershed, to visualize the Cedar River during normal flow as it flows through this urban center. These maps represent the hydrologic assessment and visualization capabilities that have helped make the Iowa Flood Center well-known to, and valued by, many Iowans.

Flood resilience can be visualized at the intersections of various resource indicators and flood risk

The map on the left overlays a relatively simple representation of social resource indicators, such as education level, median income, and unemployment rate, onto the Iowa Flood Center community flood inundation map (during normal river flow) for Cedar Rapids. The lightest blue color might represent “low” social resource availability and the purple color might represent “high” social resource availability for individuals in the census block groups that are shown. The map on the right shows the same data and the massive flood inundation during the historic 2008 event in Cedar Rapids. This map represents how flood resilience could be visualized to potentially inform active flood mitigation planning.

The IWA Flood Resilience Team is ready to work with YOU to create value for your watershed community  The IWA Flood Resilience Team seeks to provide value to Iowa’s watershed communities through partnerships to develop the tools to measure and visualize flood resilience in ways that make future mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning actions more meaningful and useful. We can make our watershed communities more flood resilient, together.

Ashlee Johannes
Outreach & Engagement Coordinator
Iowa Watershed Approach Flood Resilience Team

Phone: 319-354-1730
ashlee.johannes@uiowa.edu
http://www.ihr.uiowa.edu/uirwl
How many Watershed Management Authority (WMA) meetings or meetings about forming a WMA have you attended? (Please check the appropriate box below.)

- □ This is the first WMA meeting I’ve attended.
  [If this is the first WMA meeting you’ve attended, how did you learn about the meeting?___________________]
- □ I attended one WMA meeting before this one.
- □ I have attended two or more WMA meetings.

This section asks you to think about the meeting you just attended and about your ideas about resilience. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Please check the box to indicate the extent of your agreement with each statement.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
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<td>Written materials I received at the meeting were helpful to me in understanding flood resilience.</td>
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<td>The resilience discussion at the meeting was helpful to me in understanding flood resilience.</td>
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<td>As a result of attending this meeting, I better understand what it means to be flood resilient.</td>
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<td>Working with the Iowa Watershed Approach flood resilience team will provide value in my community.</td>
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<td>Community engagement influences overall flood resilience.</td>
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<td>Active partnerships between local organizations influence overall flood resilience.</td>
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<td>Improving flood resilience requires an understanding of the watershed that surrounds the community.</td>
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<td>It is important to measure community flood resilience and track its progress over time.</td>
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<td>My community is flood resilient.</td>
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Thinking about the resilience discussion at the meeting, in what important ways does your community need to become more flood resilient?

In your experience, where in your community is flooding likely to occur?
Who in your community is most affected by these flood events?

Who else do you think should be involved in the IWA project or in resilience activities in your watershed area who were not present at this meeting?

What other questions do you have (if any) about improving your community’s flood resilience?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how interested are you in being involved in the work of the IWA in your watershed area? (Please circle the number that best represents the level of your interest below)

Not at all interested       Very Interested
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Any other comments or questions?

Thank you for completing this survey. Your feedback is important to inform the work in your watershed! If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Julie Kearney at julie-kearney@uiowa.edu.
# Iowa Watershed Approach

**Clear Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Sign-in Sheet**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 5 pm at Coralville City Hall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>Add Me to IWA Mailing List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sean Olson</td>
<td>IA Legal Aid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lgavin@iowalaw.org">lgavin@iowalaw.org</a></td>
<td>317 7th Ave SE #404</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Bradley</td>
<td>IFC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allen-bradley@uiowa.edu">allen-bradley@uiowa.edu</a></td>
<td>11HR/SHL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashlee Johannes</td>
<td>IFC/#HR</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashlee-johannes@uiowa.edu">ashlee-johannes@uiowa.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breanna Shea</td>
<td>IFC</td>
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<td>Craig Just</td>
<td>IFC/#HR</td>
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<td>Valerie Becker</td>
<td>CEA</td>
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<td>Eric Tate</td>
<td>IFC/#HR</td>
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<td>Cristina Muñoz</td>
<td>#HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Wilke</td>
<td>ISU Extension</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awilke@tcstate.edu">awilke@tcstate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Beebe</td>
<td>City of Coralville</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Charles.Beebe@gmail.com">Charles.Beebe@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>1310 Moseley Ave IowaCity IA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Drake</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Shope</td>
<td>JCEMA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shawn.shope@jcem.org">shawn.shope@jcem.org</a></td>
<td>4529 Mellen Ave J.C. IA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Bossy</td>
<td>JCEMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Berg</td>
<td>Farm Service Agency</td>
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<td>Kasey Hutchinson</td>
<td>Shive-Hattery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:khutchinson@shive-hattery.com">khutchinson@shive-hattery.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Beth Stevenson</td>
<td>DNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Campbell</td>
<td>IDALS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:felicia.campbell@iowagovernor.state.gov">felicia.campbell@iowagovernor.state.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Cassell</td>
<td>Coralville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Guinnup</td>
<td>HRGerson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aguinnup@hrgerson.com">aguinnup@hrgerson.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth Sommerville</td>
<td>Bur Oak Land Trust</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Fincher-Drait</td>
<td>A&amp;K Engineering</td>
<td>joraize@hkeengineering</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
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</table>
Clear Creek Watershed Coalition
Board of Directors
5:00 pm, January 18, 2017
Coralville City Hall, Council Chambers

Board Members Present: Coralville – John Lundell; Iowa City – Ben Clark; North Liberty – Tracey Mulcahey; Tiffin – Al Havens; Johnson County – Kate Giannini; Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District – Jody Bailey

Others Present: Jim Bartels – Tiffin; Amy Foster & Charles Beebe – Coralville; Mel Schlachter – Iowa River Friends; Seth Somerville – Burr Oak Land Trust; Breanna Shea, Ashlee Johannes, Allen Bradley, Craig Just, Eric Tate, Cristina Muñoz – Iowa Flood Center/IIHR; Valerie Decker – University of Iowa CEA; Lisa Gavin – Iowa Legal Aid; Adam Wilke – ISU Extension; Shawn Sharp & Nicole Jones – Johnson County EMA; Matt Berg – Farm Service Agency; Felicia Campbell – IDALS; Aaron Gwinnup – HR Green; Kasey Hutchinson – Shive Hattery; Vanessa Fixmer-Oraiz – HBK Engineering; Mary Beth Stevenson – Iowa DNR; Jennifer Fencil - ECICOG

Call to order and introductions: Chairperson Lundell called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Administrative Update:
- Approval of November 30, 2016 minutes: Motion by Bailey; second by Clark to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Clear Creek Watershed Planning Process:
- Data collection is on hold for the winter.
- Social Assessment: changed course on this and plan to get the request for proposals ready to go out as soon as possible and use the DNR watershed planning funds for this activity.

Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA) Update:
- Craig Just with the Iowa Flood Center gave a presentation about the resiliency part of the IWA.
- IWA partner update: Felicia with IDALS reported that she would be available for outreach assistance and training for watershed coordinators.

- Review & approve project Coordinator job description: The Johnson County SWCD will hire & house the project coordinator. Giannini presented a job description for that position. Seeking WMA approval and then will go to Johnson County Board of Supervisors approval. The goal is to post the position opening on February 1st and take applications until March 1st. Motion by Havens, second by Bailey to approve the job description. Motion carried. The hiring committee is Kate Giannini, Mary Beth Stevenson, Jennifer Fencil, Amy Foster, John Lundell, Kate Timmerman, Wendell Jones, and Josh Busard.

- IWA Planning Services RFP/RFQ: Giannini presented the RFP for planning services. Seeking WMA approval and then will go to Johnson County Board of Supervisors approval. The goal is to release the RFP on February 1st and take proposals until March 1st. Motion by Clark, second by Mulcahey to approve the RFP. Motion carried. The planning services review committee is Kate Giannini, Jody Bailey, Ben Clark, and Mary Beth Stevenson.
Announcements & Events:

- Iowa Watershed Approach Advisory Board meeting January 26th in Iowa City
- WMA state coalition forming meeting February 7th in the AM in Dubuque
- Statewide WMA meeting February 7th in the PM in Dubuque
- Watershed Symposium in Dubuque February 8 – 9
- Prairie Preview by Burr Oak Land Trust March 9th at the Clarion Highlander in Iowa City
- Iowa Water Conference March 22 – 23 in Ames
- 3rd Annual Seize the Carp Festival August 5th at City Park

Next CCWC Board meeting:
Fencl will send out a Doodle poll to set up a special meeting in early March to approve the survey work RFP.

The next regular CCWC Board schedule is the third Wednesday of the first month of each quarter at 5:00 pm at Coralville City Hall. At this point, additional upcoming meetings include:

- April 19th at Coralville City Hall
- July 19th at Coralville City Hall

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm