

**Minutes**  
**Hazard Mitigation/ River Use Commission**  
**Waverly Civic Center**  
**7:00 pm, June 21, 2011**

**Attendance**

Commissioners: Triplitt –Present Parry –Absent Engel –Present Jacks –Present Reinhardt –Absent Schloemer –Present Neuendorf –Present	Staff: C.E. Cherry –Present C.A. Crayne –Absent  Liaison: C.C. Lieb –Present Mayor Brunkhorst –Present	Guests: Kip Ladage Duane Liddle
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**Approve Agenda:** Motioned- Neuendorf, seconded- Schloemer

**Approve Minutes:** Motioned- Schloemer, seconded- Neuendorf

**Questions/ Comments**

- Gene Lieb commented that the next Cedar River Watershed Coalition meeting would be Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (time and location to be announced). The focus of the meeting will be agriculture practices. Topics will include water and soil quality, decreasing surface runoff, demonstrations of conservation efforts, and implementations made to the Lime Creek Watershed.

**Unfinished Business**

- Informing SE residents on flood protection status-** As discussed at the previous meeting, it was recommended to Council to not pursue recommendations from AECOM for flood protection of SE residents. It was discussed that in the future there may be a possibility of subsidies for raising homes but this has not yet been discussed at council. The main priority for flood protection right now is working on improving the Dry Run Creek and not SE Waverly. The Commission agreed that would be a better use of money. Schloemer has a contact list for SE residents and will send an email with our decision and information discussed at last month's meeting as well as tonight.

**New Business**

- Plan amendment** – The W-SR School System submitted a letter stating an amendment to the city's Hazard Mitigation plan. It is a requirement for the school board to submit this amendment in order to receive funding for a new safe room in the high school. They are going to participate in the 2014 update of the plan and adapt it with the city. Ladage will call Jere Vyverberg and clarify the school's current plan and follow up with the commission.
- Water trail**- To start the process of getting a water trail we need to decide where it will start and end. We also need to map all the access points and amenities at each. The DNR has strict guidelines for access point construction and for signage along the trail to be part of their designated trail system. It is important that we work with the conservation board during the process because they will be maintaining some access points, ex. Cedar Bend. Another important thing to consider is the dam in Waverly and the portage route, expected to be north of City Hall down to the Riggs' property. Cherry has talked with Kevin Blanch about doing a

brochure for the trail. They have done brochures for Cedar Falls and the Wapsi trails. There is interest in doing something from Charles City down to Cedar Falls. We may be able to partner with Janesville as they have interest in a water trail. This would help with funding as the DNR does not have grant money for access development. Cherry would like to have brochures ready in March or April 2012 to start promoting the trail. Brunkhorst commented there is roughly \$3000 left from Lincoln Savings in the Hazard Mitigation account. He is wondering if that money can be used for River Use, possibly on brochures for the trail. Brunkhorst will check on this.

Jacks will begin compiling access points in Bremer County to present at the next meeting.

#### Tabled Items -None

#### Project Status Report

- **Waverly Dam reconstruction**- Cherry reported the east gate and control room are up and operational and working as expected. There has been little variation, 1", in the river level at the dam. Waverly Light & Power is running all 3 hydros, so the dam is allowing good power from the flow rate. People have been happy with the looks of the new dam. It will be about 14 weeks to complete the west half. Target dates: July –August: setting rebar and forming concrete, August: drilling rock anchors, September: installing gate system and project cleanup. Discussion was also held concerning the USGS gauge. The current cost is ~\$10,000/year for maintenance. The gauge is upstream from the dam and will not give an accurate reading for downstream of the dam. Relocation south of the dam was discussed, but costs are unknown for that.
- **Dry Run Creek crossing gates**- Gates are up and people have noticed them. We have heard comments about location and size of the gates. It will take time for residents to adjust and get used to the gates being up. Cherry reported reflective markers would be added to both sides of the gates. The commission will review the use of the gates next spring.

#### Subcommittees

- **River Use**- Water trail discussed earlier in meeting.
- **Planning and Zoning**- no report
- **Soil and Water Conservation District**- Triplitt attended meeting, mostly geared toward agriculture.
- **SE Flood Evaluation**- Schloemer will send information to residents as discussed earlier. A plan and map with river levels and areas that will be flooded at those levels will also be distributed.
- **Community Action Plan** – Nothing new to share. Mayor Brunkhorst raised the idea about setting up a desk top exercise to test the plan. It would engage the hospital, Waverly Light & Power, fire department, police department, and directors. Engel said to plan on 3-4 hours for the exercise but that could vary depending on parties involved and the simplicity of the situation exercised. Mayor Brunkhorst will work on scheduling a date in September or October.

#### Group Discussion(s)

- A joint meeting for Comprehensive Land Use is set for July 13<sup>th</sup>, moved from June 12<sup>th</sup>. The commission will present priorities as stated in the May 10, 2010 minutes.
- Mayor Brunkhorst stated he had been contacted by Evansdale about purchasing some rain barrels. Waverly bought 75 to sell and there are about 45 remaining. The commission is ok with Evansdale buying rain barrels from our stock.

- Liddle expressed concern about SE flood protection and the lack of protection leading to eventual transition from residential housing to green space and open areas. Many residents had expressed that they do not want flood walls or levees built but would rather be responsible for themselves. They know the risk involved with living next to the river and may not be as concerned as we had thought. The commission recommended waiting to do anything for SE flood protection at this point, but it will be kept in mind for the future.

**Adjournment:** Motioned –Neuendorf, seconded- Engel