

# AGENDA

## Watershed Planning Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2015; 1:00 – 4:00PM, Iowa Corn, 5505 NW 88<sup>th</sup> St, Johnston

Welcome and Introductions

Reports and Recommendations

- Work Group #1
  - Discussion and Vote: New recommendations on rural/urban collaboration, legislative priorities, and economic incentive learning opportunities– 45 minute discussion followed by vote (*see recommendations below*).
- Work Group #2
- Work Group #3

Annual Report

Public Comment Period

2016 Meetings and Co-Chairs

Adjourn

# **Watershed Planning Advisory Council**

## **2015 Task Force Work Group #1 Recommendations**

### **Members:**

Conservation Districts of Iowa, Clare Lindahl, *Group Recorder*

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Jim Gillespie/Jake Hansen/Will Myers

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Rick Robinson

Iowa Soybean Association, Roger Wolf

### **Task Force Group #1: CREATE ECONOMIC INCENTIVES**

Creating economic incentives for voluntary nonpoint source load reductions, point source discharge reductions beyond those required by the federal Water Pollution Control Act, implementation of pollution prevention programs, wetland restoration and creation, and the development of emerging pollution control technologies.

### **Current recommendations:**

#### **1. Encourage rural/urban collaboration within watersheds.**

- 1.1 State and federal support should be provided for an offset/exchange program. A state or federal guidance document should encourage local governments to help landowners/farmers install conservation practices that can generate credits for the program.
- 1.2 A pre-compliance offset/exchange program is being developed to encourage urban/rural collaboration in a cost effective manner. Organizations should monitor, support and participate in the development of this program.
- 1.3 State agencies should work with local governments and private organizations to raise awareness among rural and urban stakeholders about the State Revolving Fund and the value of it and similar opportunities.
- 1.4 Include in the 2016 IDALS Iowa Soil and Water Quality Funding Summit a session on conservation finance opportunities for watershed projects.

#### **2. Create three legislative priorities annually all WPAC members can support.**

- 2.1 Provide support of the Secretary of Agriculture's request for the Water Quality Initiative.
- 2.2 Provide support for increasing conservation practice incentives and funding.

2.3 Provide support for programs that encourage and/or reward urban and rural collaboration.

### **3. Facilitate Economic Incentive Learning Opportunities**

3.1 In 2016, WPAC request information from IDALS-DSCWQ and DNR to assess existing conservation programs and determine if needs are being met and if new innovative programs and projects should be developed.

- Quantify the backlog of conservation practices awaiting state cost share funds to be installed throughout the state.
- What is the status of watershed planning throughout the state?
- What is the status of technical assistance throughout the state?

3.2 In 2016, WPAC invite experts to help the WPAC identify, understand and compile private sector incentive opportunities for conservation and agricultural technologies in order to determine recommendations that promote private sector engagement, nongovernment incentives and agricultural technology development.

- Ask Shawn Richmond, AAI to speak with subcommittee to develop recommendation to advance the installation of CREP Wetlands.
- Michelle Perez, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute
- Panel of private sector conservation initiatives: Heartland Co-op, United Suppliers' SUSTAIN, Winfield and others

3.3 In 2016, WPAC invite experts to outline the opportunities for urban and rural collaboration, and the status of current efforts.

- Dustin Miller, Iowa League of Cities – CIG Water Quality Trading Grant Status
- Steve Hershner, Cedar Rapids Utility Director – Cedar River RCPP Project
- Dave Taylor, Madison, WI Waste Water – Adaptive Management Pilot Project
- Representatives from Iowa Cities and Rural Stakeholders