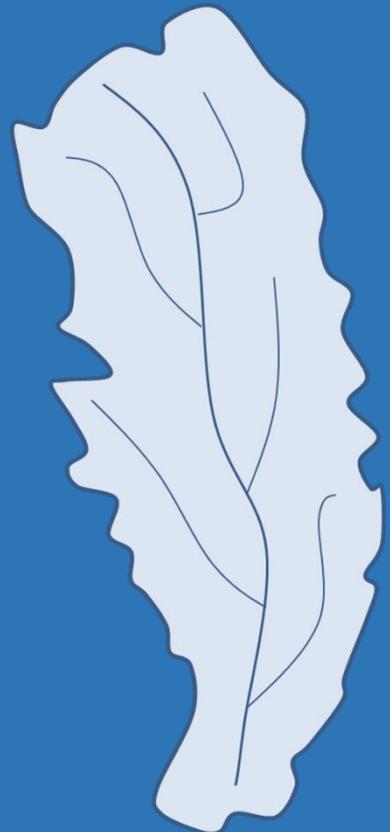


WATERSHED PLANNING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Legislative Background**

The Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) was established by the Iowa Legislature (Iowa Code 466B.31) to assemble a diverse group of stakeholders to make recommendations to state and federal agencies to protect water resources in Iowa. (See more detail in Appendix A.)

WPAC met on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to listen to three presentations based on previous areas of agreement listed below, and then broke into small groups to develop recommendations based on SMART goal principals and the ideas proposed within these three categories.

Presentations were:

- Partnerships and Practice Implementation at the Local Level – Clark Porter, Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
- Monitoring and Measurement – Nathan Young, Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa
- Economic Benefits of Nitrogen Reductions in Iowa – Chuan Tang, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development at Iowa State University

Three small working session groups were organized at random with each group having four voting members. Once the recommendations were made within the small groups, we reconvened to discuss each recommendation and propose changes to language and ask clarifying questions. The group then voted on each of the recommendations. Of the 23 organizations listed in Iowa Code 466B.31, 13 were present to develop recommendations.

Present organizations were:

- Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- Iowa League of Cities
- Iowa Association of Business and Industry
- Iowa Water Pollution Control Association
- Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
- Iowa Pork Producers Council
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa
- Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Conservation Alliance
- Iowa Drainage District Association
- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association
- Iowa House Representative: Representative Charles Isenhardt

Absent:

- Iowa Rural Water Association
- Growing Green Communities
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Iowa Corn Growers Association
- Iowa Soybean Association
- Agribusiness Association of Iowa
- Iowa Rivers Revival
- Iowa Senate Members: Senator Dan Zumbach, Senator Joe Bolcom
- Iowa House Representative: Representative John Wills

## **WPAC Recommendations for 2019 Legislature**

### 1. Monitoring and Measurement

- i. We recommend that strategically selected HUC 12 projects include appropriate in-stream water quality and field practice monitoring in order to evaluate effects of practices on nutrient load reductions and other water quality success measures. A base line for these HUC 12 watersheds will be completed by 2023.
- ii. Quantify financial resources necessary to meet the monitoring goals including those identified in goal one (2019) and request legislature, WRCC, and other groups to identify financial resources to complete monitoring goals. Facilitate measurement and monitoring in watersheds receiving financing from programs created by Senate file 512.
- iii. Bring scientific community and water professionals involved with water quality and quantity monitoring together to share information with interested stakeholders (2019 -2020).

### 2. Partnerships

- i. To establish a shared information system, we recommend establishing an Iowa water data clearinghouse for the public to access all public information available on water. It will be an index of digestible information housed by a public, unbiased organization that does not generate data on water resources. It should be authorized in FY19 and established in FY20.
- ii. To increase promotion of SRF sponsored project stories, in order to learn from more partners, we recommend the DNR SRF staff develop success stories and increase outreach by utilizing those stories.

### 3. Economics

- i. In order to participate in the rule-making process for the Water Quality Financing Program (revolving loan fund in SF512), WPAC will work with IFA and the rule-making committee to hold a presentation/feedback session at the next WPAC meeting, prior to the appropriate legislative subcommittee reviewing the rules.
- ii. In order to meet demand for funding watershed plans, IFA and the rule-making committee should consider allowing Water Quality Financing Program funds to be used for watershed planning

## **2018 Background Working Sessions**

In June 2018, WPAC Chair Dean Mattoon, representing the Iowa League of Cities, requested that each member of the WPAC present provide input as to what they would like to see in the next meeting where recommendation is made. Multiple topics were presented with some reoccurring themes. One of these was the idea that we should build off the areas of agreement which was presented in the 2017 annual report. The Areas of Agreement as were stated within the 2017 report were:

### **A. Partnerships**

- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) encourages urban/rural collaboration enabling strong and flexible partnerships. Increased promotion of success stories is needed by reaching out to more partners.
- Public-Private partnerships – The integrated watershed management approach (as implemented through Watershed Management Authorities) positively engage rural and urban stakeholders, gaining support beyond state appropriations, and providing support for learning, assessment, implementing and monitoring. Hydrologic assessment is a critical component. It is important to reach out to potential corporate, supply-chain partners interested in 'sustainability' to leverage additional resources of funding and other types of support.
- Data sharing is valuable to avoid duplication, create a shared benchmarking system and provide an accessible clearinghouse with transparency that can build trust.

### **B. Economics**

- Iowa should support the Iowa DNR's SRF and look for opportunities to grow the model. It would be great to see a similar USDA program.
- As the SRF program gets more competitive, we encourage Iowa to consider a prioritization strategy for distribution of funds, based on watershed assessment and planning. (An application could do at last initial effort to organize and assess for best use of funds).
- We encourage the state to allow a percentage of funds (5-10%) for planning and administration to support water quality coordinators and assessment. Funding is currently unreliable and regionalized in Iowa.

### **C. Monitoring**

- Planning is critical for a successful monitoring plan that can make best use of funds.
- Hydrologic assessment should be a critical element of monitoring.
- Additional financial resources are needed. Funding the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund could be a source of financing.
- A website is important for data sharing.
- An integrated, flexible approach is necessary because of diverse watersheds and access to varying community resources.
- It all happens with good leadership. Opportunities for training can help, for coordinators and volunteers.
- Grant writing is a key task of watershed-based staffing needs.

## **The Iowa Water Center**

For the third year, the Iowa Water Center (IWC) has continued to be a valuable partner to the WPAC. As an unbiased research-based organization who is not a member of WPAC, this group functions as a third-party facilitator for WPAC activity.

This year, the IWC has contributed by taking meeting minutes, helping identify and invite presenters for meetings, running small group sessions, and creating a press release kit for all WPAC members to use if they wish. In a survey following this year's meetings (70% response rate), WPAC members indicated that they are satisfied with the meeting with a majority indicating that they thought progress was made in achieving the goals established for the meeting.

## **2019 Meetings**

New chair and vice chair candidates will be nominated and voted upon in 2019 if recommended by WPAC members. Plans to modify tasks and targets within the areas of agreement will be planned for the first meeting, and creating recommendations will be the main topic of the second meeting.

## **Background**

The Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) was established by the 2010 Iowa Legislature (see Appendix A: Iowa Code 466B.31) to assemble a diverse group of stakeholders to review research and make recommendations to state and federal agencies regarding methods to protect water resources in Iowa, assure an adequate supply of water, mitigate and prevent floods, and coordinate the management of the state's resources in a sustainable, fiscally responsible, and environmentally conscientious manner.

The voting members of WPAC (see Appendix B) consist of representatives of designated nongovernmental organizations as well as representatives appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Department of Natural Resources. Nonvoting members include two members of the Iowa Senate and two members of the Iowa House of Representatives.

Many of the organizations that make up WPAC were involved in the Watershed Quality Planning Taskforce (WQPTF) that was called for by the Iowa Legislature in 2006 to make recommendations on water quality programs and the need to improve water quality and reduce pollution from both point and nonpoint sources (Senate File 2363). In November 2007, the WQPTF produced a consensus report:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/WPAC/pdf/finallegislativereport2007.pdf>. The WQPTF recommendations were considered by the Iowa Legislature in 2008, resulting in the creation of a Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC):

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/466B.pdf>.

WPAC continues to consult with representatives of the WRCC, other governmental and non-governmental organizations and provides recommendations on watershed planning and effective implementation.

## **Appendix A: Iowa Code 466B.31**

### WATER PROTECTION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, §466B.31

#### 466B.31 Watershed planning advisory council.

1. A watershed planning advisory council is established for purposes of assembling a diverse group of stakeholders to review research and make recommendations to various state entities regarding methods to protect water resources in the state, assure an adequate supply of water, mitigate and prevent floods, and coordinate the management of those resources in a sustainable, fiscally responsible, and environmentally responsible manner.

The advisory council may seek input from councils of governments or other organizations in the development of its recommendations. The advisory council shall meet once a year and at other times as deemed necessary to meet the requirements of this section. The advisory council may appoint a task force to assist the advisory council in completing its duties.

2. The watershed planning advisory council shall consist of all of the following members:

a. The voting members of the advisory council shall include all of the following:

- (1) One member selected by the Iowa association of municipal utilities.
- (2) One member selected by the Iowa league of cities.
- (3) One member selected by the Iowa association of business and industry.
- (4) One member selected by the Iowa water pollution control association.
- (5) One member selected by the Iowa rural water association.
- (6) One member selected by growing green communities.
- (7) One member selected by the Iowa environmental council.
- (8) One member selected by the Iowa farm bureau federation.
- (9) One member selected by the Iowa corn growers association.
- (10) One member selected by the Iowa soybean association.
- (11) One member selected by the Iowa pork producers council.
- (12) One member selected by the soil and water conservation districts of Iowa.
- (13) One person representing the department of agriculture and land stewardship selected by the secretary of agriculture.
- (14) One person representing the department of natural resources selected by the director.
- (15) Two members selected by the Iowa conservation alliance.
- (16) One member selected by the Iowa drainage district association.
- (17) One member selected by the agribusiness association of Iowa.
- (18) One member selected by the Iowa floodplain and storm water management association.
- (19) One member selected by Iowa rivers revival.

b. The nonvoting members of the advisory council shall include all of the following:

(1) Two members of the senate. One senator shall be appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one senator shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(2) Two members of the house of representatives. One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(3) By December 1 of each year, the watershed planning advisory council shall submit a report to the governor, the general assembly, the department of agriculture and land stewardship, the department of natural resources, and the water resources coordinating council. The report shall include recommendations regarding all of the following:

a. Improving water quality and optimizing the costs of voluntarily achieving and maintaining water quality standards.

- b.* 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.
- c.* Facilitating the implementation of total maximum daily loads, urban storm water control programs, and nonpoint source management practices required or authorized under the federal Water Pollution Control Act. This paragraph shall not be construed to obviate the requirement to develop a total maximum daily load for waters that do not meet water quality standards as required by section 303(d) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act or to delay implementation of a total maximum daily load that has been approved by the department and the director.
- d.* Providing incentives, methods, and practices for the development of new and more accurate and reliable pollution control quantification protocols and procedures, including but not limited to development of policy based on information and data that is publicly available and that can be verified and evaluated.
- e.* Providing greater flexibility for broader public involvement through community-based, nonregulatory, and performance-driven watershed management planning.
- f.* Assigning responsibility for monitoring flood risk, flood mitigation, and coordination with federal agencies.
- g.* Involving cities, counties, and other local and regional public and private entities in watershed improvement including but not limited to incentives for participation in a watershed management authority created under this chapter.

(4) Each year, the voting members of the advisory council shall designate one voting member as chairperson.

2010 Acts, ch 1116, §1; 2011 Acts, ch 131, §98, 158

**Appendix B: WPAC Membership 2018**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Member Name or Delegate</b>
Senate Seat 1 (non-voting member)	Senator Joe Bolkcom
Senate Seat 2 (non-voting member)	Senator Dan Zumbach
House of Representatives Seat 1 (non-voting member)	Rep. Charles Isenhardt
House of Representatives Seat 2 (non-voting member)	Rep. John Wills
Agribusiness Association of Iowa	Shawn Richmond
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Jake Hansen
Department of Natural Resources	Adam Schneiders
Growing Green Communities	vacant
Iowa Association of Business and Industry	Jessica Hyland
Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities	Laura Sarcone
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 1	Fred Long (vice-chair)
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 2	Steve Roe
Iowa Corn Growers Association	Ben Gleason
Iowa Drainage District Association	John Torbert
Iowa Environmental Council	Cindy Lane
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation	Rick Robinson
Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management	Mark Land
Iowa League of Cities	Dean Mattoon (chair)
Iowa Pork Producers Association	Drew Mogler
Iowa Rivers Revival	Robin Fortney
Iowa Rural Water Association	Gregory Huff
Iowa Soybean Association	Roger Wolf
Iowa Water Pollution Control Association	Greg Sindt
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Iowa	John Whitaker