

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
Meeting Notes

Polk County Extension Office

WRCC Website: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/WRCC.asp>

1:30 - Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 PM. Please refer to the sign-in sheets for attendance. There were 11 WRCC members and 28 members of the public in attendance.

1:35 - WRCC Member Agency Updates (All)

IDPH (Schmitz): Algal blooms are lower than anticipated this year. Fewer lakes and not as long duration of events. IDPH is developing some fact sheets on nitrates and nitrates for the public and for professionals. They will share those with the group at the next meeting.

ISU Extension (Benning): Iowa Nutrient Research Center reviewed proposals in June. 27 proposals were received and 10 will receive funding. A list can be found on the INRC website. ISU Extension has hired an outreach specialist for the HUD project. ISU Extension is also working to develop a database of available data in watershed plans that have been completed. There is a map showing what plans are done and links to the database so interested groups can see what kind of planning has been done.

NRCS (Adkins): RCPP awards for 2016 are getting very close. Some projects will be able to move forward soon but others may need more time. 2017 RCPP pre-proposals have been received and invitations for full proposals will be forthcoming within the next month.

FSA (Whitaker): Enhancements for CRP could be released/announced within 30 days. CRP interest is very strong, but not so much for wetlands. CP-39 wetlands are being explored as an expanded practice to improve water quality. Iowa has more than any other state but the practice is still underutilized.

IIHR (Weber): Discussed wetland monitoring on project near Osage. Last year monitoring showed a 61% reduction in nitrate load.

Initial HUD project is wrapping up in northeast Iowa. IIHR is working with ISU and U of I on a NASA initiative called SMAP (Soil Moisture Active/Passive): Looking at soil moisture conditions and hoping to improve satellite accuracy in looking at soil moisture.

Michael Wichman has left the State Hydraulics lab for another position. A search for his replacement is underway.

A field day was held in April with the Iowa Woodland Association with more than 200 attendees.

Univ. of IA College of Public Health (Osterberg): A drinking water symposium was held on June 17 in Des Moines, with about 150 in attendance. Another one is scheduled for July 28th at DMACC at the FFA Enrichment Center.

National Weather Service (Zogg): In September NWS will work to give an update on the Rainfall Runoff Risk DSS.

EPA Region 7 (Fluornoy): Iowa has been working with the Association of Clean Water Agencies to develop measurement criteria. EPA is also looking to survey wastewater treatment plants to look at optimization designed to reduce nutrient loads.

DNR (Schnieders): DNR is coordinating a report on stream water monitoring with IDALS, IIHR, and ISU, which will be completed soon and has been presented to WPAC. A series of new permits has been issued for nutrient removal components for wastewater facilities.

IDALS (Hansen): IDALS Staff participated in a Missouri River tour of shallow water habitat projects north of Omaha hosted by the Omaha District of the USACE, and also participated in the June SIMRA meeting held in Onawa. The SIMRA meeting centered on a review of the 2011 Missouri River floods five years later, along with future plans for management of the Missouri River basin.

Statewide signup for participation in the Water Quality Initiative began on July 5th. Currently we have 718 first-time users in 89 Districts obligated to complete management practices this year, and more than 900 first-time and past users pending approval for assistance. First-time users will receive priority for sign-up through August 1, at which time past users will be batched into the system.

This year the Legislature included language in the Ag and Natural Resources appropriations bill which suspends the activities of the Watershed Improvement Review Board. There are still 25 active projects that will be able to conclude their projects over the next 18 months.

This year the state received 110 applications for the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award. The review committee has met and has approved 94 recipients of the award. The awards ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, August 17th at the Iowa State Fair. Awardees will be recognized by the Governor's Office, IDALS, and the Iowa DNR, with many other dignitaries on hand as well.

Environmental Working Group Buffer Report

EWG has requested that this item be postponed until the September meeting as they are unable to present today due to staff conflicts.

Iowa Ag BMP Mapping Project

Adam Schnieders, Iowa DNR, provided an update on the Ag BMP Mapping project, being undertaken jointly by ISU, DNR, IDALS, and INREC. The current effort is aimed at establishing a 2007-2010 baseline of practices, off which changes over time can be detected using LiDAR and color infrared photography. **A copy of the presentation is included on the WRCC website.**

Nutrient Reduction Strategy Annual Report

A final draft of the Iowa NRS Annual Report was presented by Laurie Wissler, Measures Coordinator with ISU Extension. The full report was distributed in advance of the meeting to the WRCC and the interested parties mailing list, and a summary handout was distributed at the meeting. The report will be forwarded to the Governor's Office incorporating any final revisions by August 1, 2016. **A copy of the presentation is included on the WRCC website.**

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update

Larry Weber, IIHR, provided an update on the HUD Iowa Watersheds Approach project. A series of kickoff meetings were held in late spring and early summer, and the next round of WMA meetings is set for August and September. WMAs are scheduled to meet quarterly for the duration of the project. Additionally, the Iowa Economic Development Authority is working with HUD to finalize information in order to issue contracts to recipient counties and partnering agencies.

WPAC Update

Clare Lindahl, WPAC Chair, gave an update on the WPAC meeting held on July 13 in Des Moines. The WPAC is posting their meeting notices and summaries on the IDALS website.

Public Comments

There were no requests for public comment. Rep. Charles Isenhardt announced the Prairie Lakes Conference to be held in Spirit Lake from August 10-12.

Adjourn

The next meeting is on the calendar for the afternoon of Wednesday, September 28th. We can either continue to meet in Altoona or return to the Capitol for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Next Meeting: September 28, 2016; Location TBD.

July 19, 2018

WRCC Representative	Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Bill Northey	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Terry Branstad <i>Julie Vande Hoef</i>	Governor <i>Designee</i>	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Chuck Gipp <i>Bruce Trautman</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Bill Ehms</i>	Director <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Jim Gillespie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Jake Hansen</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Gerd Clabaugh <i>Kenneth Sharp</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Stu Schmitz</i>	Director <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mark Schouten <i>John Benson</i>	Administrator <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Wendy Wintersteen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>John Lawrence</i> <i>Samie Bunning</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Susan Curry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>David Osterberg</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Public Health, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 John Fritsch <i>Maureen Clayton</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Paul Trombino III <i>Ken Brink</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Debi Durham <i>Sherry Timmons</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Dave Jamison <i>Lori Beary</i>	Executive Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Alec Scranton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Larry Weber</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Kevin Richards	Director	USGS, Iowa Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Kurt Simon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Marty Adkins</i>	State Conservationist <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 John Whitaker	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Services Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Bill Menner <i>Kate Sand</i>	State Director <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Mark Hague <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Karen Flournoy</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Damon Frizzell</i> <i>Mike Tate</i>	Regional Administrator <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Craig Baumgartner <i>Diane Karnish</i> <i>Angela Freyermuth</i>	Rock Island District Commander <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Jeff Zogg

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Designee

National Weather Service

WRCC Public Attendance Sign-In Sheet
(Public comments will be accepted at specified time on agenda)

July 19, 2016

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Jerry Neppel	IDALS	N
2	Roger Wolf	Iowa Say	N
3	Linda Guinan	IWA	N
4	Robin Fortney	IRR	N
5	Deb Kozei	LEA	N
6	Mike Delaney	IWLA	N
7	Karen Floumey	EPA	N
8	Marian Riggs	INHF	N
9	Calvin Walker	FDNR	N
10	Greg Wandry	TNC	N
11	Tyler Bottin	Iowa Park	N
12	Dash Miller	ZLOC	N
13	Rh Hobart	GROW MARK	N
14	Jeff Ross	National Weather Service	N
15	Carly RW Kalina	Baeker Lemax Engineering	N
16	Jeff Phillips	"	N
17	Chare Lihelahl	CI	
18	Darren Fife	Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition	N
19	Will Myers	IDALS	N
20	Steve Roe	Raccoon River Watershed Assoc	N
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Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Highlighted Partner Efforts—2016 Reporting Period

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Iowa Institute for Hydrologic Research deployed 30 nitrate sensors in the 2015 calendar year, and 45 in 2016.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) coordinated a collaborative paper to review the current network of water quality monitoring across Iowa (publication forthcoming).

NRS MEASUREMENT

12 member organizations of the Water Resources Coordinating Council and the Watershed Planning Advisory Committee and 4 other partners submitted reports on funding and efforts. These data contribute to tracking of NRS progress.

The three-year NRS Measurement Pilot Project commenced, and has begun evaluation of protocols for improving NRS tracking.

A public-private partnership was formed between Iowa State University (ISU) and the Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council (INREC) to tackle data challenges by surveying in-field practices through agricultural retailers and crop advisors.

A conservation practice mapping project conducted by DNR, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and ISU has digitized over 9 million acres to map structural practices including terraces, ponds, grassed waterways, and water and sediment control basins.

POINT SOURCE UPDATES

DNR has issued permits to 86 point source facilities, up from 54 reported last year. The NRS requires permits for 149 facilities.

Water quality data are obtained from 41 publicly owned treatment works, up from 13 last year.

NEW AWARDED FUNDING

Collaborative efforts have resulted in new funding availability for the 2017 reporting period, including:

- \$96.6 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a five-year project focusing on flood mitigation and nutrient reduction.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), under U.S. Department of Agriculture, has awarded \$9.5 million to the Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership for conservation demonstration projects.
- An urban-rural partnership led by Charles City was awarded \$1.6 million from RCPP to support the Rock Creek Watershed.

NRS RESEARCH

Three projects funded through the Iowa Nutrient Research Center have been completed. These projects shed light on the scientific processes behind nutrient loss and the effects of conservation practices.