

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Friday, December 11, 2015
9:00-11:30AM

Iowa State Capitol, Room 103

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

AGENDA

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting began at 9:06 AM. Sign-in sheets showing member and public attendance are attached with these notes.

WRCC Member Agency Updates (All)

Lawrence (ISU Extension) - Distributed ISU STORIES magazine and discussed water quality/nitrogen management articles contained within.

Introduced Laurie Wissler as the new Measures Coordinator and discussed her role with ISU and in assembling the data associated with the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

WRCC Measures Subcommittee will meet today at 1:30 PM at the Wallace Building.

Whitaker (FSA) - CRP General Signup is open. Acres are going very fast and only wetland acres are currently left. Question on availability for CREP. Whitaker indicated that dedicated acres are left for CREP, as well as some riverine, pothole, and CP-39 acres. Also some CP-21 buffer acres left.

Weber (IIHR) - Closing current HUD grant in Chequest Creek. Current application decision anticipated in January.

Nail (USACE) - State of Iowa Partnering meeting is January 26 in West Des Moines. Rock Island District is looking for Ecosystem partnering projects.

VandeHoef (Governor's Office) - Water Quality in the Governor's budget, please share ideas with staff on funding and structure of WQ funding. Also working with HSEMD on their application.

Benson (HSEMD) - Working through mitigation and public assistance on open disaster declarations. Not as many this year.

Brink (DOT) - Working with other agencies on partnering agreements. Also looking at ways to integrate water quality measurement/monitoring into construction projects.

Simon (NRCS) - Introduced himself as new State Conservationist. Proposals for RCPP currently under review that were invited. Six proposals submitted (3 National, 2 State, 1 CCA).

Group met this week to discuss watershed planning and cooperation on broader coordination in that effort.

Osterberg (U of Iowa Public Health) - No report.

Ehm/Schneiders (Iowa DNR) - Working with Iowa DOT and USACE on mitigation method for project impacting streams. More to report in 2016.

Schneiders distributed the Point Source report. Report will be condensed and summarized going forward as the number of permits goes up.

2014 Nitrate load estimates are completed. A map was distributed that utilizes the linear interpolation method. More will be discussed in the Measures Subcommittee.

IDALS:

Budget request summary (Northey) - WQI request for \$10 million. \$1.92 million for Ag Drainage Well closures. Also funding for Avian Influenza response/recovery. Finally, IFIP (cost-share request) will be \$7.5 million based on demand and work getting done.

WQI Update (Lechtenberg)

- a. Demo Projects – 16 demos, 4 practice-based, evaluating 12 more proposals- we anticipate a decision this month.
- b. Edge of Field Initiative- TSPs- working with private partners to design edge of field practices in projects and through statewide initiative.
- c. Urban Projects/Applications- 9 active projects, next round of pre-applications due today.
- d. Statewide WQI- \$3.5 million obligated- processing bills, about 100,000 acres in management practices.
- e. Other- RCPP submissions- IDALS participated in two. We have updated the Clean Water Iowa website with new content.

Hypoxia Task Force Summary (Lechtenberg)

- a. November recap- Point and nonpoint common measures were discussed, along with a focus on discussion of nutrient credit trading.
- b. Next meeting is set for late April in St. Louis or St. Charles.

Schneiders discussed point source monitoring discussion from meeting and the differences among states within the task force. Challenge is finding a uniform reporting methodology.

Cost-share Update (Gillespie):

Copies of the SFY 2015 Annual Report were distributed. Highlights-

- State Contribution \$9.8 million (a new record for one year, set in SFY 2014 \$9.5 million)
- Iowa landowner farmer contribution \$12.8 million
- Total Investment reported through IFIP was \$22.6 million
- More importantly we were able to work with 1,904 applicants
- Installed 515 miles of terraces (the state is 200 miles wide)
- Installed 1,264 miles of waterways
- Installed 96 471 Grade Stabilization Structures
- Installed 471 Water and Sediment Structures; Balance went into acres of management practices (i.e. cover crops, no-till/strip-till, strip cropping, and pasture/hayland plantings)

Question from Osterberg on size of waterways. Gillespie replied that waterways are recorded in acres but we used a typical width of 40 feet to measure. The purpose of the waterway is to reduce concentrated flow on longer slopes that will prevent ephemeral gullies in the fields and trap sediment. The minimum width for a waterway to receive assistance is 30 feet.

Algal Blooms and Microcystin Study- Stu Schmitz, IDPH

Stu Schmitz was unable to attend. This presentation is tabled until the next meeting.

The Iowa Wastewater Project- Dr. Craig Just, University of Iowa

Dr. Just presented on a wastewater study being conducted at the University of Iowa College of Engineering. This is a look at alternative wastewater treatment that will lower infrastructure costs. The presentation is included on the WRCC website.

Comment from Bolkcom- many communities are impacted by cost of wastewater treatment upgrade. This is not just about nutrient reduction but also about community vitality and survival based on the high cost. Resources needed to continue the research. How much? Just responded that estimate is that \$1.6-\$1.9 million needed to complete the study and to test the findings in order to get established. Later question- can the funding be spread out over multiple years and can research funding come from Iowa Nutrient Research Center? Just replied that this could be a possibility.

Question from Vandehoef on what funding is for- direct assistance or for data gathering? Just replied that the funding is for the data gathering facility, not for facilities in the pilot communities? Where would funding come from? Direct from Legislature or through the University? Funding request would come through the University. How does this fit the disadvantaged communities law? Just replied that staff is looking at that and how some communities are excepted from that. Some communities that are excepted see this as a way to continue to exist even though they don't have to complete improvements.

Comment from Schneiders- this could either get solutions to reduce the number of disadvantaged communities or give those more time to get a long-term fix. Question from Osterberg- is DNR approval difficult? Response is that goal is to make sure community's proposed fix works for whole design life. Unproven technologies typically take longer to be documented in Iowa since many of them are piloted in warmer climates where winter data is not relevant.

Question- Are researchers offering in-kind services to design systems? Not so far and even if so, it would be important not to bias the research.

Question- Are assumptions on climate change factored into the 20-year design horizon being evaluated? Answer is that most of the cost of these systems are conveyance, not necessarily treatment.

Question from Dustin Miller- IA League of Cities is committed to helping with a solution for this. Committee presents an opportunity for these communities as long as there is some certainty. Still some concerns about specifics with implementation and O & M costs.

Nutrient Reduction Efforts at Iowa Golf Courses- Jeff Wendel, IGCSA and Keith Schilling, IIHR

This is a report from a group of golf course superintendents looking at ways to reduce their contributions of runoff into the state's waters and into local treatment systems. The group is doing a two-year monitoring project and is evaluating soil and water quality data at six golf courses in the state. Jeff Wendel and Keith Schilling gave a presentation which is on the WRCC webpage.

Question on surface water evaluation- Response is that surface waters coming into the courses as well as ponds on the courses are being evaluated to give a more holistic view of the contributing factors to loading and water quality.

Comment/question on optimal fertilizer application rates. Response is that this will be evaluated and that in most cases, due to tight profit margins many courses are not applying any more than they absolutely have to.

Overview of Final HUD National Disaster Resiliency Competition Proposal- Iowa HSEMD

Dennis Harper with Iowa HSEMD gave a short presentation on the final application that was submitted to HUD and a summary of next steps. The presentation is included on the WRCC website.

The final total amount of the proposal is \$130 million and will incorporate a watershed-based approach to reduction of flood risk and improvements in water quality, as well as improvements to certain housing and infrastructure.

We expect to learn before our next meeting if this proposal is funded and for how much. The final project will be scaled based on the amount of the final award. A group of stakeholders will convene to discuss the scope at that time.

Comment that HUD sees this as a two-year project, but an extension was requested for four additional years. Clarification was given on the distribution of funds and what is being set aside for administration.

Question on eligibility of project areas and where activities could be located. Response that eligibility is tied to damage declarations, environmental need, and also HUD eligibility. Comment from Iowa DNR that the evolution of the project has been significant and has been positive for all agencies involved.

WPAC Update and Presentation of Annual Report

Susan Heathcote presented the WPAC Annual report with assistance from Greg Sindt. The report includes an overview of the history of the WPAC and its efforts in 2015. The final WPAC report will be published on the WPAC website and submitted to the Iowa Legislature. The WPAC is charged with seven tasks and focused on three of those tasks in 2015, including economic incentives, optimizing costs of improving water quality, and developing reliable procedures for quantification of pollution control and monitoring of water quality.

The WPAC has a couple of recommendations dealing with improved interagency and intergovernmental collaboration, and commissioning a study of water quality monitoring efforts in the state. They are charged with making formal recommendations to the WRCC and the Legislature. The recommendations as presented are attached to these notes.

Public Comments

No requests for comment were received from the public.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM. The next meeting will be held in February at a location and date to be determined.

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

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Laurie Wissler	ISU	Y
2	Ann Robinson	IEC	N
3	Craig Just	U of Iowa	
4	GREG SINDT	IOWEA / BELTANS MENK	Y
5	Tom Oswald	IA HEMO	N
6	Dannu Horper	IA HEMO	
7	Bill Ethel	FA DNR	N
8	Kurt Simon	NRCS	
9	Jan Glendenning	TNC	N
10	Roger Bruner	DNR	N
11	John Jensen	HSEM/D	N
12	Susan Heathcote	Iowa Environmental Council	
13	Brian Bekke	ADR	N
14	Jace Mikals	Senate Dem Caucus Staff	N
15	Will Myers	IDALS	N
16	Julie Vandettauf	GOV	No
17	Kathy Schilling	IHR / U of Iowa	No
18	Jan Lawrence	ESA	NO
19	KICK ROBINSON	IFBF	NO
20	Jim Callaghe	IDALS - DSU@	NO
21	Mike Schaney	ICA	No
22	Tyler Bettin	IPPA	NO
23	Randy Robinson	Iowa Turfgrass Institute	N
24	Jeff Wendel	Iowa GCSA	N
25	BILL FREELAND	HOUSE D CAUCUS STAFF	N
26	Joe Bolker	Iowa Senate	Not sure yet
27	Alan Gorn	ONR	N
28	Robin Fortney	Iowa River Revival	N
29	Christie Schumway	IDALS	N
30	Dustin Miller	IA League of Cities	
31	Tim Whipple	IA Association of Municipal Utilities	
32			
33			
34			
35			

12/11/15

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

See inside

Brian Nail



WATERSHED PLANNING
ADVISORY COUNCIL
2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Summary

The Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) was established by the Iowa Legislature (see Appendix A: 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. In 2015, WPAC prioritized the seven areas for recommendations outlined in 466B.31, and small work groups drafted recommendations for approval by the full membership.

The WPAC approved the following recommendations which are described in greater detail in the Recommendations section:

- Commission a study, conducted by experts in water quality monitoring and data analysis, of all of Iowa's water quality monitoring programs. The study will evaluate the existing framework, develop recommendations for coordination of efforts, and identify ways to make data easily accessible to the public.
- Encourage rural/urban collaboration, support legislative priorities, and facilitate economic incentive learning opportunities.

In addition, from the 2014 WPAC report, the greatest challenge for any public or private water resource program continues to be long term financial and technical resources. These programs need time and resources in order to meet their goals. This obstacle is ongoing and will need continued attention in the future.

This report provides background on WPAC formation and 2015 activities, recommendations to protect Iowa water resources, and reports from the three work groups.

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 non-governmental 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 the 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 needs 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>.

The WPAC continues to consult with the WRCC and other governmental and non-governmental organizations and provides recommendations on watershed planning and implementation effectiveness.

In 2015, WPAC met in March, June, September, and December. In January, a survey was sent to members to gather input for a framework and priorities for 2015. Based on the survey results, the seven areas for recommendations from Iowa Code 466B.31 (see Appendix A) were prioritized to three. WPAC members were asked to volunteer to work in small groups in one of the three priority areas and draft potential recommendations. At each quarterly WPAC meeting, the work groups provided updates on their work and/or presented recommendations for full membership approval.

Recommendations

The full WPAC membership voted and approved the following recommendations contained in two work group proposals: “Commission a Statewide Study of Monitoring Programs” and “Encourage Collaboration, Support Legislative Priorities, and Facilitate Learning Opportunities”.

Commission a Statewide Study of Monitoring Programs

We recommend commissioning a study, conducted by experts in water quality monitoring and data analysis, of all of Iowa’s water quality monitoring programs. The study will evaluate the existing framework, develop recommendations for coordination of efforts and identify ways to make data easily accessible to the public.

Objectives of the Recommendation:

1. Ensure coordination of water quality monitoring activity around the state;
2. Identify any gaps and/or redundancies in monitoring;
3. Make the information readily available to the public at the watershed level so that Iowans have an accurate sense of Iowa’s water quality;

Additionally, the Recommendation would:

- Support the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee’s June 2015 statement in support of water quality monitoring and the need for a “cooperative, coordinated effort among those entities currently funded to conduct water quality monitoring [including but not limited to Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC), Iowa State University (ISU), University of Iowa Hygienic Lab (UI), Iowa Soybean Association (ISA), Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC), United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR)].”
- Support recommendations in the 2014-2015 Nutrient Reduction Strategy annual report calling for “a robust reporting framework that provides information needed to direct resources and show progress”; to understand the “multiple nutrient monitoring efforts”; and “identify opportunities and potential data gaps to better coordinate and prioritize” nutrient monitoring efforts; (Annual Report, page 3)
- Support the call for coordination of the Water Resources Coordinating Council and WPAC nutrient monitoring efforts in the 2014-2015 Nutrient Reduction Strategy annual report which would “better coordinate and prioritize future nutrient WQ monitoring efforts”. (Annual Report, page 24)

Suggested Process for Conducting the Study:

- Compile a detailed inventory of current monitoring programs including names of organizations that are conducting monitoring programs; data quality information; and monitoring locations, frequencies, and parameters.
- Define state monitoring program objectives and potential uses of monitoring data.
 - i. Multiple objectives at different HUC levels
- Evaluate adequacy of the existing monitoring framework including monitoring locations, methods, and parameters, as well as gaps and/or redundancies, and recommend appropriate modifications.
- Develop recommendations for coordination of monitoring programs by various organizations to ensure a comprehensive, cost effective program. Combine resources of several groups and agencies including:
 - i. Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 - ii. United States Geological Survey
 - iii. Iowa State University
 - iv. IHR Hydroscience and Engineering, University of Iowa
 - v. Commodity Producer Organizations such as the Iowa Soybean Association
 - vi. Environmental Interest Groups such as Iowa Environmental Council and its member organizations
 - vii. Professional and Trade Organizations such as the Iowa Water Environment Association and American Water Works Association including wastewater and water treatment facility operators
 - viii. Others

Potential Experts to Conduct the Study:

- Environmental consulting firm (ENVIRON, TetraTech, others) to conduct the study, act as facilitator among the monitoring entities, and make appropriate recommendations;
- In-state review panel (in addition to potential experts mentioned above) such as universities and other stakeholders.

Encourage Collaboration, Support Legislative Priorities, and Facilitate Learning Opportunities

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 public and 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
 - Representatives from Watershed Management Authorities

Work Group Reports

Work Group #1

Charge: 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.

Work Group #1 met three times, including meetings with representatives of state agencies and private industry and discussed possible recommendations. Recommendations considered to be contrary to a member's organizational policy were discussed, but not approved. The work group focused on

recommendations with which all could support and that provided the best opportunities for rural-urban watershed improvement and collaboration.

In 2016, Work Group #1 intends to continue this focus, including further assessment of existing conservation programs and a determination of needs for new, innovative programs; and a more thorough understanding of private sector incentive opportunities for conservation and agricultural technologies that promote their engagement through the use of technology.

Work Group #2

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

Work Group #2 discussed possible recommendations for providing nitrogen testing equipment and educational materials directly to farmers and landowners. Individuals can then directly monitor their local waters and evaluate practices to implement on their land to improve water quality.

In 2016, Work Group #2 intends to evaluate current projects and develop a recommendation to the Water Resources Coordinating Council to help expand the availability of this water monitoring equipment. Current projects are being conducted by Iowa Corn and Conservation Districts of Iowa/Iowa State University Extension. Iowa Corn has provided nitrate test strips to its board members, county associations, and local watershed projects. Conservation Districts of Iowa and Iowa State University have developed a pilot program that provides nitrate test strips and informational materials to soil and water conservation districts and extension offices for use by private individuals.

Work Group #3

Charge: 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.

Work Group #3 discussed three possible recommendations: including appropriate water monitoring and other assessment elements in all Water Quality Initiative projects; commissioning a study of all Iowa water quality monitoring programs in order to ensure coordination, identify any gaps, and make the information available to the public at the watershed level; and developing statistical methods for normalizing nutrient water quality data to account for seasonal variations that impact nutrient transport. The second recommendation (commissioning a study) was approved by WPAC.

In 2016, Work Group #3 will continue to discuss its possible recommendations for including monitoring in Water Quality Initiative projects and developing statistical methods to normalize water quality data.

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 stormwater 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

Organization	Member Name or Delegate
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. Lee Hein
Agribusiness Association of Iowa	Joel Brinkmeyer
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Jim Gillespie
Department of Natural Resources	Bill Ehm
Growing Green Communities	Reo Menning
Iowa Association of Business and Industry	Scott Ickes
Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities	Bill Stowe
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 1	Jeremy Rosonke
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 2	Mike Delaney
Iowa Corn Growers Association	Ben Gleason, Co-chair
Iowa Drainage District Association	John Torbert
Iowa Environmental Council	Susan Heathcote, Co-chair
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation	Rick Robinson
Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management	Luis Leon
Iowa League of Cities	Dustin Miller/Dean Mattoon
Iowa Pork Producers Association	Tyler Bettin
Iowa Rivers Revival	Rosalyn Lehman
Iowa Rural Water Association	Emily Piper
Iowa Soybean Association	Roger Wolf
Iowa Water Environmental Association	Jay Brady
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Iowa	Clare Lindahl