

# Water Resources Coordinating Council

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

Iowa State Capitol, Room 103

WRCC Website: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/WRCC.asp>

## AGENDA

### **Welcome & Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Northey. A list of attendees from member agencies and the public is attached. 16 agency representatives and 16 other persons were in attendance.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in observation of September 11 and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **WRCC Member Agency Updates (All)**

Adam Schneiders- Iowa DNR- Distributed point source update and discussed permits and feasibility studies completed. Also provided update on Nitrate sensors. DNR has 8 in place and is coordinating with IIHR to not duplicate monitoring sites.

Chris Jones- IIHR- There are 26 real-time monitoring sites this year. 15 more to be deployed next year (nitrate sensors). Some for load calculations, others to assess WQI projects. Key additions at Redfield and West Nishnabotna. Also looking to add a couple of groundwater monitoring sites to look at nitrate in Karst systems. Sensors are looking at treated effluent and are used with grab sampling to get whole picture.

Question from audience about monitoring in WQI products. What scale is monitoring being done? Response is that sensors are being deployed in Audubon, Story, and Wright counties in projects at point where projects enter larger streams. Point is to establish baselines in those projects. Question about looking at paired watersheds with those. Answer is that there is a lot of interest in the Nishnabotna (E and W) in pairing.

Ken Brink- IDOT- Flood modeling/planning pilot was completed in March. Will aid in project planning/maintenance. Also wrapping up project with Flood Center on study completed this year. Finally, looking at funding opportunities in systems planning through Transportation Alternatives Program that can address stormwater improvements. Looking at water quality components in TAP projects.

Tim Whipple- IEDA- Sales tax revenues for flood improvements passed in 2014. IEDA is working with other departments to fix conflicts with that program and other tax programs.

John Benson- IHSEMD- One Presidential Disaster declaration this summer impacting 19 counties. Agency is working with others on HUD Disaster Resiliency application. Tom Oswald updated WRCC on progress with Phase 2 application. \$1B available, Iowa is applying for \$100-\$120 million for mitigation and watershed-based work. Partnership includes DNR, IDALS, IEDA, Iowa Flood Center, HSEMD, and others. Question about where funding will go. Some for planning, some for flood prevention/control structures. Adding funding for sensors and MesoNet. Money also going for housing and to look at social vulnerability associated with flooding. Phase 2 application is due in October.

Maureen Clayton- UNI- No report.

John Whitaker- FSA- CRP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tour is coming up. Will look at a CREP site and a depression site, as well as a CP-39 site. Heavy interest in targeted, continuous enrollment. Watching activity in wetland work. Question on total acres in Iowa. Currently about 1.4 million acres total. Peak was 2.2 million acres. 22 million acres General CRP in 2016.

Stu Schmitz- IDPH- Working with DNR to monitor algal blooms and microcystin. Draft report distributed. November presentation on larger 5-6 year trends. Monitoring occurs at state parks and a couple of reservoirs. Question from Osterberg to clarify elevated levels versus reports from health care providers. Unsure if there are any reports on animal illness.

Jon Nania- USGS- Streamflow conditions updated. New streamflow gauges have been installed. StreamStats website has been updated. Interactive- looks at all streams regardless of whether or not there is a stream. New nitrate sensors in Redfield and Randolph going in- numbers will be available on USGS website. Question on annual costs and equipment costs for sensors. About \$20K upfront and about \$12k per year to operate.

Ken Podrzik- NWS- Strong El Nino- means a little warmer and wetter than normal in the winter.

John Lawrence- ISU- Measures coordinator position will be posted next week and filled this fall. Outputs will be more frequent than annual reporting. Reviewing proposals for public/private in-field program. ISU, CDI, and Iowa Corn are distributing nitrate test strips for farmers to track their own levels. Also working to standardize measures regionally.

Karen Fluornoy- EPA Region 7- Water Quality Credit trading workshop in Lincoln next week. IDALS will be represented along with IA League of Cities. Will report back in November. Question on WOTUS from Northey. What is current status? Updates are

David Osterberg- University of Iowa- No report

Jake Hansen- IDALS- Water Quality Initiative

1,800 applications covering 187,000 acres (CC, NT/ST, Inhibitor -170k acres cover crops in this program alone)

- \$3.5 Million obligated
- Farmers in each of the 100 SWCD participated.
- Follow-up survey was done last year and will be repeated to get producer feedback.
- Participants include 980 1<sup>st</sup> time users and more than 830 past users (cover crops).

RCPP Summary:

- IDALS is leading 2 RCPP applications, both invited for full proposals, due November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Current RCPP underway- 1<sup>st</sup> Batching Date was completed in July. Strong interest from producers- next batching will be this fall.

Final numbers for FY2015 are in. \$9.8 million in State cost-share was completed, leveraging more than \$12.4 million in landowner contributions. This represents an all-time record in terms of conservation implementation.

Question on next generation RFAs and on surveys on cover crops. Response is that surveys are being done and information on cost share rates is included. Follow-up question on survey work and who is participating/ following up. 80% response rate in first survey- 90% said they were willing to participate again.

Question from Rick Robinson back to EPA on WOTUS regarding additional streams protected. Fluornoy responded that EPA is working to address concerns and to continue to work through general and regional permits and impacts on those where applicable.

**Iowa Nutrient Research Center Update- Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach**  
Lawrence gave a presentation updating the Committee on INRC. The presentation is included with the meeting notes and will be posted on the website.

Question- What will findings from projects mean for NRS? Answer is that confidence intervals and coefficients in nutrient reductions will be better refined. Also we hope to add practices to the strategy and better pinpoint barriers to adoption. Is the center evaluating demonstration projects? Response is that IDALS is evaluating projects and other partners are doing so as well. Question as to whether IDALS can apply to INRC for measurement funds to evaluate the projects more rigorously (Bolkcom).

**2015 Iowa Water Conference Water Resources Priorities Report- Melissa Miller, Iowa Water Center**  
Melissa Miller with the Iowa Water Center presented a water resources priorities report developed at the 2015 Iowa Water Conference, along with a general overview of the Iowa Water Center. A copy of her presentation is posted to the WRCC website. Question on participation- about ¼ of attendees participated (75 or so). Question about outreach on statewide outreach on NRS.

**NRCS DamWatch Overview- Lee White and Allen Gehring, USDA-NRCS**

Lee White gave a demonstration of the NRCS DamWatch program. This program utilizes weather radar precipitation estimates, seismic activity, and spillway flow monitors where installed to assess vulnerability of NRCS-supported dam structures. NRCS will provide information to relevant users about how to subscribe- currently the site is not completely available to the public.

**WPAC Update**

Ben Gleason provided an update for the WPAC, which will meet later today. Continuing to work on report

No requests for public comment were received.

The next meeting will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 9:00 am, same location as today. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

20 Ad. Final

	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 Julie Vande Hoef	Governor Designee	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 Chuck Gipp <del>Bruce Trautman</del> A. Johnson 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham Tim Whipple	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 <del>Larry Weber</del> Chris Jones	Dean Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 <del>Kevin Richards</del> Jan Nania	Director	USGS, Iowa Water Science Center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 Richard Ellsmore <del>Marty Adkins</del> Allen Gehring	Acting 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18 Mark Hague Karen Flournoy Damon Frizzell	Acting Regional Administrator Designee Designee	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Pudronik	Designee	National Weather Service

# WRCC Public Attendance Sign-In Sheet

(Public comments will be accepted at specified time on agenda)

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Heidi Woerber	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv.	N
2	Jim Jordahl	Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance	N
3	<del>John Pearson</del>	HSEM	N
4	Tom Oswald	HSEM	
5	Tyler Betha	Iowa Park	N
6	Liz Hobart	GROWMARK	N
7	Nate Perry	GROWMARK	N
8	Sean McMatton	IAWA	N
9	<del>Ken Podrasik</del>	National Weather Service	N
10	Jennifer Terry	Ia Environment Council	N
11	<del>Jon Nania</del>	US Geological Survey	N
12	<del>Maryellen Clayton</del>	UNI	N
13	Ben Gleason	Iowa Corn	N
14	Sherman Lundy	State Soil Conservation Committee	
15	Susan Heathcote	Town Environmental Council	N
16	Joe O. Ikorn		
17	Allen Wolf	NRCS	Presenting
18	Lee C. White	NRCS	"
19	Robin Fortney	Iowa Rivers Revival	N
20	<del>John Lawrence</del>	ISU	
21	<del>Karen Flournoy</del>	EPA	N
22	Melissa Miller	Iowa Water Center	presenting
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# Point Source Nutrient Reduction Strategy Report

WRCC – September 2015

## Permits Issued

#	Facility/Location	Issued Date	Status
1	Dairiconcepts, L.P. - Allerton	9/1/2013	Feasibility study received, under review
2	City of Grinnell	9/1/2013	
3	Rembrandt Enterprises - Thompson	9/1/2013	Feasibility study received, under review
4	City of West Liberty	9/1/2013	Feasibility study received, under review
5	City of Dubuque	10/1/2013	
6	City of Harlan	10/1/2013	
7	Tyson Foods - Perry	11/1/2013	Submitted a Feasibility Study with their Facility Plan to DNR in November 2014 for the installation of phosphorus removal
8	City of Atlantic	12/1/2013	
9	City of Eldridge (South Slope facility)	12/1/2013	Amended permit to include construction of nutrient removal
10	Manindra Milling Corporation - Hamburg	12/1/2013	
11	Oakland Foods LLC – Oakland	12/1/2013	
12	City of Grundy Center	2/1/2014	
13	City of Mount Pleasant (Main facility)	2/1/2014	Amended permit to include construction of nutrient removal
14	City of New Hampton	4/1/2014	
15	City of Boone	5/1/2014	
16	City of Cedar Falls	5/1/2014	
17	City of Iowa City	5/1/2014	Currently conducting total nitrogen removal
18	City of Red Oak	5/1/2014	
19	City of West Burlington	5/1/2014	
20	City of Winterset	5/1/2014	
21	Walter Scott, Jr. Energy Center - Council Bluffs	5/14/2014	
22	Swiss Valley Farms - Luana	6/1/2014	
23	Climax Molybdenum Company - Fort Madison	7/1/2014	

#	Facility/Location	Issued Date	Status
24	City of Davenport	8/1/2014	
25	City of Waukeee	8/1/2014	Scheduled to connect to the Des Moines WRA by January 1, 2019
26	City of Charles City	9/1/2014	
27	City of Cherokee	9/1/2014	
28	City of Eldora	9/1/2014	
29	John Deere Dubuque Works	9/1/2014	
30	City of Adel	10/1/2014	
31	City of Greenfield	10/1/2014	
32	City of Newton	10/1/2014	
33	City of Eagle Grove	11/1/2014	
34	Iowa Fertilizer Company – Wever	11/1/2014	
35	City of Anamosa	12/1/2014	
36	City of Oelwein	12/1/2014	
37	City of Council Bluffs	1/1/2015	
38	City of Forest City	1/1/2015	
39	Iowa Premium Beef – Tama	1/1/2015	
40	City of Muscatine	1/1/2015	
41	Tyson Fresh Meats - Storm Lake	1/1/2015	
42	City of Waverly	1/1/2015	
43	City of Vinton	2/1/2015	
44	City of Fort Dodge	3/1/2015	
45	City of Iowa Falls	3/1/2015	
46	City of Maquoketa	3/1/2015	
47	City of Mount Vernon	3/1/2015	
48	City of Estherville	4/1/2015	
49	City of Independence	4/1/2015	
50	City of Sioux City	4/1/2015	
51	IP&L Burlington Generating Station	5/1/2015	
52	Lime Springs Beef - Lime Springs	5/1/2015	
53	City of Montezuma	5/1/2015	
54	City of Coralville	6/1/2015	

#	Facility/Location	Issued Date	Status
55	City of Emmetsburg	6/1/2015	
56	Associated Milk Producers – Arlington	7/1/2015	
57	City of Creston	7/1/2015	
58	City of Knoxville	7/1/2015	
59	Pinnacle Foods Group – Fort Madison	7/1/2015	
60	City of Humboldt	8/1/2015	
61	Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District	8/1/2015	
62	City of Sioux Center	8/1/2015	
63	CF Industries Nitrogen – Port Neal	9/1/2015	

\*Bolded facilities mean these are newly issued permits since the last report to the WRCC.

#### Draft Permits on Public Notice

#	Facility/Location	Noticed Date	Status
1	City of Britt	7/21/2015	
2	City of Jefferson	7/6/2015	
3	Des Moines Metropolitan WRF	8/26/2015	
4	City of Sheldon	7/25/2015	

\*Bolded facilities mean these are newly noticed permit renewals since the last report to the WRCC.

#### Updates/Closed

#	Facility/Location	Date	Status
1	City of Ankeny	January 2014	Sewer connected to Des Moines WRA. NPDES permit closed on 1/6/2014.
2	City of Bloomfield	March 2015	Facility was rerated and is no longer a Major facility as of 3/30/2015. Facility removed from Strategy list.
3	Sioux Preme Packing Company - Sioux City	May 2015	Signed consent decree with Attorney General. They were issued an operation permit for land application only on 5/1/2015 and the facility has been removed from the Strategy list.
4	Kalona Cheese (formerly Twin Counties Dairy)	September 2015	The facility has elected to operate under a total retention operation permit while they decide to either proceed with a land application permit or an NPDES permit.

If there are any questions on this report or suggestions for improvements, please contact Adam Schnieders at 515.725.8403 or [adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov).



## 2015 - Suspected Cases of Microcystin (Harmful Algal Bloom) Poisoning

Date	Location	Symptoms
Sunday, June 28, 2015	Green Valley Lake	Runny nose, diarrhea
Friday, July 03, 2015	North Twin Lake	Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea
Friday, July 03, 2015	Black Hawk Lake	Blisters on chest, rear, and leg; headache, nausea
Friday, July 03, 2015	Peterson Pits	Shortness of breath, allergic reaction
Saturday, August 01, 2015	Pine Lake	Trouble breathing, dizziness, tired, abdominal pain
Saturday, August 01, 2015	Pine Lake	Trouble breathing, dizziness, tired, abdominal pain
Saturday, August 15, 2015	Lake Wapello	Headache, rash on face and torso and vomiting
Saturday, August 15, 2015	Rathbun Reservoir	Nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, headache, weasling, confusion

## 2015 - Elevated Microcystin Levels at Iowa Lakes

Date (Week Of)	Location
6/1/2015	Lake Darling
6/8/2015	Big Creek
6/15/2015	Black Hawk Lake, Pine Lake
6/22/2015	Red Haw Lake
6/29/2015	Black Hawk Lake, Geode Lake, Green Valley Lake, Lake of Three Fires, Union Grove Lake
7/6/2015	Black Hawk Lake, Pine Lake, North Twin Lake
7/20/2015	Green Valley Lake, Pine Lake, Saylorville Reservoir
7/27/2015	Green Valley Lake, Black Hawk Lake
8/3/2015	Green Valley Lake, Black Hawk Lake, Lake Wapello, Springbrook Park Lake, Saylorville Reservoir
8/10/2015	Green Valley Lake, Black Hawk Lake, Rathbun Reservoir, Saylorville Reservoir
8/17/2015	Green Valley Lake, Black Hawk Lake
8/24/2015	Green Valley Lake
8/31/2015	Lake Wapello, Big Spirit Lake, Pleasant Creek Lake, Lake of Three Fires, Green Valley Lake, Lake Darling

WRCC

Friday, September 11, 2015 @ 9AM

Iowa State Capitol, Room 203

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**Follow up to November 2014 visit from the Bridge Team** – Discussed a pilot study conducted in two Iowa river basins - the Cedar River Basin and the South Skunk River Basin - to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of technology to produce scenarios of future flood conditions.

Iowa's Bridge and Highway Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment Pilot

- Goal – To develop the necessary building blocks of an interactive and proactive planning process for maintenance, repair, and replacement of Iowa's primary highway structures.

Sponsors - Iowa DOT and FHWA

- Principal Investigators
  - Gene Takle, Director, Climate Science Program, ISU
  - Chris Anderson – Assistant Director, Climate Science Program, ISU
- Contributor
  - Ricardo Mantilla – Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UofI
    - Iowa Flood Center

Published in March 2015

- 6 – Key Findings
- 8 – Project Successes and Accomplishments
- 4 – Planned and Anticipated Next Steps

**Follow up to June 2015 conversation from DOT** – Discussed looking into funding opportunities at the DOT for water quality related projects.

DOT Office of Systems Planning Grant Team

- Manages a number of grants, one of which is the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
  - Stormwater projects are eligible – no projects yet with that primary focus.
  - Some project elements (Dubuque trailhead and sidewalk project):
    - Permeable pavement
    - Nutrient separating baffle box
  - Eligibility Criteria - Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to:
    - Address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.
- OSP allowed green/permeable elements on regular projects based on engineering judgment.
- I have a couple more rocks to turn over.