

MINUTES
Watershed Planning Advisory Council
November 17, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Location:

Metro Waste Authority
 1st Floor Conference Room
 300 East Locust Street
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Member Attendance:

Organization	Member Name or Delegate
Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities	John Dunn
Iowa League of Cities	Jessica Hyland Harder
Iowa Association of Business and Industry	Scott Ickes (absent) Nichole Molt
Iowa Water Pollution Control Association	Jay Brady
Iowa Rural Water Association	Emily Piper (absent)
Growing Green Communities	Tom Hadden
Iowa Environmental Council	Linda Kinman
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation	Rick Robinson
Iowa Corn Growers Association	Gary Edwards
Iowa Soybean Association	Roger Wolf
Iowa Pork Producers Council	Jeff Schnell (absent)
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa	Darrell Weems
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Chuck Gipp
Department of Natural Resources	Bill Ehm
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 1	Jeremy Rosonke
Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 2	Rich Meyer (absent)
Iowa Drainage District Association	Vicki Stoller (absent) John Torbert
Senate Seat 1	Dick Dearden (absent)
Senate Seat 2	David Johnson (absent)
House of Representatives Seat 1	John Beard (absent)
House of Representatives Seat 2	Betty DeBoef (absent)

Guests:

Deb Kozel (LSA), Allen Bonini (DNR), Diane Karnish (USACE Rock Island District), Susan Judkins (RIO), Jace Mikels (Senate Democratic Caucus), Lew Olson (House GOP Caucus), Todd Sutfin (ISA), Cathy Kling (ISU), Duane Sand (INHF),

- I. Call to Order, Tom Hadden
- II. Welcome & Introductions
- III. Topics of Discussion
 - a. Agenda approved
 - b. Minutes of September 22, 2010 approved
 - c. Bill Ehm introduced Cathy Kling, Iowa State University Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

Kling discussed market-based incentives for environmental improvement, specifically, water quality trading and reverse auctions with the group, describing how each might work in Iowa.

Water quality trading requires a regulatory cap on discharges so that incentives are in place to incentivise trading. Those with a cap (NPDES permit holders) use money to have others make pollutant reductions when the cost of doing so is less than reducing pollutant discharges on their own. Because such a high percentage of pollutants in Iowa are coming from non regulated sources, achieving significant reductions with trading in Iowa is unlikely.

Reverse auctions require bids to be solicited for quantifiable environmental improvements. Funds need to be provided from any source seeking the improvements. In theory, competition would drive the price to the most cost-effective level.

The group discussed various scenarios in which each market-based scenario may work, who might potentially provide the funds, etc.

Kling stated that significant reductions, such as meeting the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia task Force will require significant changes in the landscape and that new systems to achieve these goals will be necessary.

- d. Ehm distributed Recommendation #4 that was adopted by the Smart Planning Task Force. The recommendation deals with watershed planning and how it needs to be integrated with municipal and regional planning.
- e. Hadden reminded the Council that their report was due to the Legislature by December 1 and that the committee chairs will meet with him next week to put together a first draft of the report. The committee chairs provided the Council with updates from the work of their respective committees.
- f. The Council decided to meet quarterly beginning at 10:00 Am on January 12, 2011 at Metro Waste Authority
- g. The Council adjourned at 11:40 at which time the committees convened for further work.