

WPAC Meeting Summary  
September 30, 2013  
Metro Waste Authority  
Des Moines, IA

Present:

Ben Gleason, IA Corn Growers Association; Adam Schnieders, IDNR; Clare Lindar, CDI; Shawn Richmond, IDALS; Roger Wolf, ISA; Matt Gronewald, IDALS; Marty Atkins, USDA-NRCS; Luis Leon, IFSMA; Ann Robinson, IRR; Emily Piper, IRWA; Joe Bolkom, IA Senate; Chuck Isenhardt, IA House; Todd Coffelt, IDALS-DSC; Rick Robinson, IFBF; Mike Delaney, ICA/Izaak Walton League; Cody McKinley, IPPA; Chris Gruenhagen, IFBF; Dustin Miller, ILOC; John Crotty, IEC; Deb Kozel, LSB; John Lawrence, ISU; Lee Hein, IA House; Gary Edwards, IA corn Growers Association; Linda Kinman, IEC; Jerry Anderson, Drake University

The agenda was juggled to accommodate speaker's schedules.

**Shawn Richmond, IDALS** provided an update on the NPS portion of the IA Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The first round of funding has been awarded for implementation of practices new to a producer and includes no till, strip till, cover crops, and nitrate inhibitors. Approximately 110,000 acres will be put into one or more of these practices. These practices were selected in that they are easily adopted for implementation this fall.

A second *Request for Applications* (RFA) has gone out for demonstration projects. The deadline for receiving applications is today, September 30, 2013. They anticipate receiving 12-15 project applications totaling \$5.55 million. Focus for the RFP is for demonstration project funding.

Questions related to monitoring, standardized evaluation, eligibility, and long-term funding for practices was discussed. Questions were also raised as to how IDALS will evaluate producer adoption and how they will compare one project with other like projects to measure successes. Water monitoring before and after practices are put in place will be a part of the demonstration projects. The new Coordinator position, once on board will help to define how IDALS will measure project success.

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

- 1. What is or should be the Watershed Planning Advisory Council's (WPAC) relationship with the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC)?**

Overall consensus was that the relationship needs to be better defined. Two specific areas identified that the WPAC should be invited to participate in WRCC sub-committee meetings and that some WPAC meetings should be coordinated with WRCC meetings. It was suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be developed between WRCC and WPAC. It was also noted that both groups need to recognize that the WRCC charge is greater than the IA Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Gary Edwards will coordinate a meeting with Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, WRCC Chair to discuss interest in developing a MOU.

- 2. Should there be limitations or exclusions for a HUC12 watershed demonstration project with a well-established organization and projects in place? Should project awards be limited and targeted to watersheds without an organized group or projects in place? Is there a need to clarify the intent of the demonstration projects?**

Discussion did not result in any recommendations or conclusions from WPAC members. It is anticipated the responsibility for recommendations will come from the INRS Coordinator once employed.

**NOTE:** Format for future meetings will include receiving pertinent information through presentations. There will also be time to discuss questions raised by WPAC members and to review what the WPAC is charged with doing. Questions can be sent to Linda Kinman or Gary Edwards.

**Adam Schnieders, IDNR** updated INRS point source actions since the last meeting. Nutrient budgeting was used to develop an updated reduction model. Nutrient load based on this model was used to determine their technology based approach. EPA has not objected to the technology based limit approach. IDNR is arranging a technical advisory committee meeting for providing a regular nutrient budget in October. Outcomes of the meetings will be posted on WRCC and WPAC websites.

IDNR has issued 4 permits that require nutrient reduction feasibility studies. Six permits are on public notice with the nutrient strategies provisions.

Cost is a factor in a community's ability to meet technology standards. Affordability and disadvantaged community status are considerations. One short-term measure of success will be getting permits out the door. Staff resources are a limiting factor for issuing permits. DNR is working to issue approximately 20 permits per year.

**Jerry Anderson, Drake University Law School** presented on the significance of the recent US District Court in New Orleans ruling. (Power point on WPAC website)

**WPAC meeting logistics discussion:**

Quarterly meetings are appropriate

Schedule before or after lunch

Place can be moved around

Agenda items can be sent to Linda Kinman or Gary Edwards

Questions for discussion – include what the WPAC is charged with doing

There is interest in joint meetings with the WRCC, depending on the agenda

(WPAC could meet following the WRCC meeting)

(WRCC future meetings November 20, 2013 and the first week of January)

**John Lawrence, Iowa State University** will chair the INRS/WRCC-Measures of Success sub-committee. The committee met following the WRCC meeting and discussed what to measure, that there must be transparency of the process, include qualitative and quantitative measures, and short and long-term indicators. The discussion that day was around three categories: changes in human attitudes and behaviors, changes in land use and practices on the land, and changes in nutrient loads in the water. The committee also discussed managing expectations and to capture what steps are occurring to improve water quality. How do we identify the process to define improvement? The committee is determining what information is available today to help establish a baseline and that can be used to track changes in important indicators. A second meeting will take place in mid-October with recommendations finalized in January 2014.

Questions related to can we measure the phosphorus and nitrate leaving the state (numbers are in the INRS), measuring nutrient loads leaving a specific watershed, who will measure changes in

attitudes (Lois Wright-Morton and J. Arbuckle, ISU), and that there is a need to align goals of the Measures of Success sub-committee and the Nutrient Research Center. Also, to coordinate the Measures Committee with the committee developing the water monitoring protocol led by DNR.

Other considerations for future agenda's:

Monitoring stations (USGS-IDNR) what are they monitoring?

Nutrient Trading – taxes on bonds – who would manage – need willing partners – what to shoot for, there is no number (numeric standard) and in some cases a TMDL has not been completed.

What measures are important (such things as clarity, nitrate and phosphorus, wildlife, and what practices are on the ground and what practices have been removed?

Representative Isenhart announced the Interim Committee on river and waterway restoration will meet December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol, but a room has not been designated to date.

2:00 PM Meeting Adjourned