

MINUTES

WPAC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

January 27, 2015

Urbandale Public Library

WPAC designees in attendance: Mike Delaney – Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 1; Jeremy Rosonke - Iowa Conservation Alliance Seat 2; Tim Hall – Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Clare Lindahl – Conservation Districts of Iowa; Jake Hansen – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS); Robin Fortney / Roz Lehman – Iowa Rivers Revival; Ben Gleason / Gary Edwards – Iowa Corn Growers Association; Luis Leon – Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management; Rick Robinson – Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Jennifer Terry – Iowa Environmental Council.

I. Welcome and Introductions.

There will be a couple of new faces in the group: Robin Fortney will attend meetings on behalf of Iowa Rivers Revival, and Dean Mattoon of Catfish Creek WMA/ City of Dubuque will attend on behalf of Iowa League of Cities when Dustin Miller is unable to attend. Jeremy Rosonke and Mike Delaney will identify a designee to attend when Jeremy is unable to travel to the meetings.

II. Survey Results Based Upon 12 Responses

Ben Gleason reviewed the results of the group survey which were then used to guide the discussion for the remainder of the meeting.

III. New Framework Approved

The group agreed to adopt a new work framework for 2015 in order to achieve maximum productivity and effectiveness. WPAC will hold general group meetings quarterly rather than bi-monthly. All WPAC members will be asked to join one of three task forces by mid-February. These task forces will each work on one of the three identified goals (see below) selected by the group from those listed in Iowa Code 466B.31. The groups must hold at least one meeting in between the quarterly meetings. Each task force group will submit a brief report and action items to the larger WPAC body for discussion. The first WPAC meeting will be early March, so the task force groups must meet to get organized prior to that time, including selecting a chair and a recorder. Members will be receiving an email about signing up for task forces soon.

IV. Three Main Objectives Identified

The group agreed to work on three main areas in 2015, which will be led by the task force groups. They are:

1. 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
2. Improving water quality and optimizing the costs of voluntarily achieving and maintaining water quality standards.
 3. 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.

These objectives are broad; each task force group will break them down into workable goals.

V. Define consensus for WPAC

The group agreed that, in order to proceed on action items brought to the larger group, we will need to define consensus. Here is what the group decided:

"The definition of consensus is 'you don't have to love it; you just have to be able to live with it'. Here's how it will work: WPAC will discuss action items, then each designee in attendance will indicate whether he or she is generally in favor of the item. If there seems to be general agreement with no strong dissent, we will have reached consensus. In the event that there are a few designees who cannot support the item, then we will discuss further and try to reach a common ground that everyone can live with. If this is not possible, then we will approve the item, but also include a minority report in the recommendations--a summary of dissenting opinions by the minority."

The group noted that this is a new way of working together, and that we are seeking a common ground in order to make real progress. There are some topics on which our groups will never fully agree; but we are seeking the middle ground in order to produce results.

VI. Interaction with WRCC

The survey indicated most members are satisfied with the level of involvement WPAC has with WRCC, and the group generally agreed. According to the Code, WPAC is to make recommendations to the Water Resources Coordinating Council in its annual report. The group noted that WPAC is not empowered to draft legislation or administrative rules, but rather tasked with making pertinent recommendations on water resources to WRCC.

We will have WPAC meetings in March, June, September, and early December. These dates will be determined in the very near future. Task force groups must meet in between and be ready with recommendations. WPAC will make regular reports to WRCC. We will attempt to hold our meetings jointly with WRCC at least once this year in order to accommodate those who travel.