

Watershed Planning Advisory Council

Fall Meeting
October 31, 2017

WPAC Member Attendees: Tyler Bettin, Iowa Pork Producers; Catherine DeLong, Chair, Conservation Districts of Iowa; Robin Fortney, Iowa Rivers Revival; Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Assoc.; Jessica Harder, Assoc. of Business and Industry; Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship; Charles Isenhardt, Iowa House of Representatives; Mark Land, Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Assoc.; Dean Mattoon, Iowa League of Cities; Ann Robinson, Vice-chair, Iowa Environmental Council; Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Steve Roe and Glenn Vondra, Iowa Conservation Alliance; Shawn Richmond, Agribusiness Association of Iowa; Adam Schneiders, Iowa DNR; John Torbert, Iowa Drainage District Association; Tim Whipple, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities; Roger Wolf, Iowa Soybean Association

Other Attendees: Carol Balvanz, Iowa Soybean Association; Mike Delaney, Raccoon River Watershed Association; Bill Freeland, House Democratic Caucus; Linda King, Conservation Districts of Iowa; Deb Kozel, Iowa Legislative Services Agency; Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance

Speakers: Laurie Wissler Nowatzke, Iowa State University; Jon Tack, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority; Nathan Young, Iowa Flood Center-University of Iowa; Jamie Benning, Iowa Nutrient Reduction Center-ISU.

- A. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Meeting convenes at 1PM
 - b. Roundtable introduction around the room
- B. Review Agenda and Official Vote
 - a. Ann Robinson, Iowa Environmental Council, reviews agenda, thanks attendees, interested parties, and Iowa Water Center for assistance with meeting planning/facilitation.
 - b. Catherine DeLong, CDI, will be taking over the rest of year for leadership for WPAC for former WPAC Chair Clare Lindahl, who now works for the Soil and Water Conservation Society.
 - c. Informal vote occurred over email to vote DeLong (with a quorum approving)
 - d. Need to confirm official vote at the meeting
 - e. DeLong states she wants to finish out term: this would just make her chair for the rest of WPAC session, ending with the next meeting in spring 2018. Asks that people think about who should run for next year.
 - f. Robinson asks for vote for WPAC Chair
 - g. Unanimous vote for DeLong to remain chair (14)
 - h. No nays, no discussion
 - i. DeLong continues to be chair
- C. 2017 Legislative Session WPAC Areas of Agreement Overview
 - a. DeLong goes over accomplishments from 2016
 - b. Charge and reminder of Iowa Code and reasons for WPAC
 - c. WPAC general practice in prior years had been to meet quarterly
 - d. Last year's focus was on bright spots, or areas where there is agreement

- e. Decided to follow up this year to focus on themes and agreements from last year and digging deeper, considering possible recommendations.
 - f. Evaluation and survey suggest progress and improvements in attitudes about WPAC meetings
 - g. Encourage next chair and vice chair to include an unbiased research-based organization to help facilitate meetings in the future
 - h. Robinson reminded people to sign in for future meeting notices
- D. Goals and Outcomes Overview
- a. Rick Cruse, IWC, introduces goals and outcomes for the meeting today
 - b. Hanna Bates, IWC, hands out presentation materials
- E. Progress Report on the Iowa NRS and Logic Model
- a. Nowatzke presents on topic
 - b. Questions:
 - i. Shawn Richmond., IA Agribusiness Assoc. : can you go into detail of the calculations for inputs?
 - 1. Nowatzke: primarily depending on modeling the N and P load reductions incurred by agricultural operations. We estimate how much loss was reduced by new practices put in
 - ii. Steve Roe, IA Conservation Alliance: What is the baseline? How do we track progress towards reaching goals?
 - 1. Nowatzke: We are working with two baselines/benchmarks for the NRS. The first is the 1980-1996 baseline established by the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force. The second is the 2006-2010 benchmark the state has more data points for. The 2017 report section on Water focuses on the state benchmark. The 2018 report will have a more in-depth discussion related to both benchmarks.
- F. State Revolving Loan Fund
- a. Jon Tack, Iowa DNR Water Bureau Chief, presents on topic, with assistance from Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
 - b. Questions? No specific questions.
- G. Iowa Watershed Approach
- a. Nate Young, Iowa Flood Center, presents on topic
 - b. Questions:
 - i. Mike Delaney, with Raccoon River Watershed Association: are you taking into account the impact of field tiles on hydrology of river systems?
 - ii. Young: we are doing our best. The large-scale techniques for monitoring include water that comes from tile. At the smaller scale, we're taking into the account the physics and prediction models. The placement of tiles is not well documented and so it's largely based on guestimates..
 - iii. Mike Delaney: ISU Researcher Bill Crumpton argues that field tile increases absorption capacity? Is there any argument for holding capacity? Any comment?
 - iv. Young: Researchers at IFC are working with agronomists to work on this. The answer is probably sometimes yes, sometimes no. I can get you the paper that references it. (reference¹)

¹ Drainage hydrology papers (footnote continues on page 3):

- v. DeLong: Who qualifies for the cost-share in WMAs? Is it just for flooding practices
 - vi. Young: Usually, though not always just for practices that can provide flood-reduction benefits. For ex., there is cost share for grass waterways which has a marginal impact on flooding, but effects water quality.
 - vii. Richmond: Is there a goal set for flood reduction in the HUD grant?
 - viii. Young: We don't have a specific goal. Could vary so much. We are interested in understanding the small scale to look, observe, and use what we learn to broaden it to a larger scale
 - ix. Richmond: What would be considered a substantial impact? 10% of a 100-year?
 - x. Young: We need to look at community impacts, too for success. I am dancing around the issue, but we don't have a specific number other than what's feasible.
- H. Watershed Academy
- a. Benning presents on topic
 - b. Questions? None.
- I. Public Comment Period – Agenda revised to offer opportunity for public comments before WPAC members break into small work group sessions.
- J. Small Group Facilitation
- a. Partnerships
 - i. SRF as a success point – encourages urban/rural collaboration, flexibility enables strong and flexible partnerships, success stories need to be shared by partners, need to do outreach to bring more partners in so they understand what SRF does
 - ii. Public-Private partnerships – WMA integrated approach positive for engaging diverse stakeholders, gaining support beyond state approps, and support for learning, assessment, implementing, monitoring. Hydrologic assessment critical. Important to think of supply-chain model and reaching out to corporate partners interested in 'sustainability'. Helps to leverage for more funding.
 - iii. Data sharing – helps to avoid duplication, we need a clearing house, transparency builds trust, accessibility is key.
 - b. Economics
 - i. Support SRF model – opportunities to grow the model, would be great to see a similar USDA program

Sloan, B.P., Mantilla, R., Fonley, M. Basu, N.B.. 2017. Hydrologic impacts of subsurface drainage from the field to watershed scale. *Hydrologic Processes* 31: 3017-3028.

Boland-Brien, S.J., Basu, N.B., and Schilling, K.E. 2014. Homogenization of spatial patterns of hydrologic response in artificially drained agricultural catchments. *Hydrologic Processes* 28:5010-5020.

Schilling, K.E. and M. Helmers. 2008. Effects of subsurface drainage tiles on streamflow in Iowa agricultural watersheds: Exploratory hydrograph analysis. *Hydrologic Processes* 22:4497-4506.

Zhou, X. *, M.J. Helmers, and Z. Qi. 2013. Field scale modeling of subsurface tile drainage using MIKE SHE. *Applied Engineering in Agriculture* 29(6): 865-873.

Schilling, K. E., and M.J. Helmers. 2008. Tile drainage as Karst: Conduit flow and diffuse flow in a tile-drained Watershed. *Journal of Hydrology* 349: 291-301.

- ii. As program gets more competitive, encourage state to consider prioritizing where funding goes, based on watershed assessment, planning (at last initial effort to organize and assess for best use of funds).
 - iii. Encourage state to allow a percentage of funds (5-10%) for planning and administration to support coordinators and assessment. In some places, other sources of funding may be available, but much more difficult in some areas.
- c. Monitoring
- i. Plan is critical
 - ii. Hydrologic assessment is critical
 - iii. Additional financial resources
 - iv. Grant writing is key
 - v. Website is key for data sharing
 - vi. Integrated approach is critical
 - vii. All happens with good leadership
 - viii. Source I WILL for financing
 - ix. Mutual agreement
- K. Adjournment
- a. DeLong stated they would send out survey, meeting minutes and legislative report to review in a timely manner
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM