

Watershed Planning Advisory Council Fall Meeting
October 9, 2019 8AM – 3:30PM
Iowa League of Cities
Board Room
500 SW 7th St #101, Des Moines, IA 50309

Present: Jake Hansen (Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship), Ben Gleason (Iowa Corn Growers Association), Mark Land (Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management), Shawn Richmond (Agribusiness Association of Iowa), Robin Fortney (Iowa Rivers Revival), Rick Robinson (Iowa Farm Bureau), Laura Sarcone (Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities), Dean Mattoon (Iowa League of Cities), Roger Wolf (Iowa Soybean Association), Greg Sindt (Iowa Water Pollution Control Association), Adam Schnieders (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Brad Hartkopf (Iowa Association of Business and Industry), Alicia Vasto (Iowa Environmental Council), Drew Mogler (Iowa Pork Producers Council), John Whitaker (Conservation Districts of Iowa), Gregory Huff (Iowa Rural Water Association), Fred Long (Iowa Conservation Alliance)

Other: Hanna Bates, Rick Cruse, Melissa Miller, Matt Helmers, Chris Jones, John Swanson, Joyce Flinn, Aaron Schroeder

Absent: Representative from Iowa Drainage District, Rep. Charles Isenhardt, Rep. John Wills, Senator Dan Zumbach, Senator Joe Bolcom, Steve Roe (Iowa Conservation Alliance)

- A. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview
 - a. Provided by John Whitaker, Chair
- B. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Motion: Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance
 - b. Second: Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Association
 - c. Vote:
 - i. In favor: All
 - ii. Opposed: None
 - iii. Minutes passed
- C. Small group assignments and introductory session led by Iowa Water Center
- D. Presentations
 - a. Iowa Nutrient Research Center Update and Opportunities in Nutrient Management – Matt Helmers, Director, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, Iowa State University
 - b. Overview of Recent Study on Stream Nitrate and Monitoring – Chris Jones, Research Engineer, IIHR-Hydroscience & Engineering, University of Iowa
 - c. Update on the Governor’s Flood Advisory Task Force - Joyce Flinn, Director, Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
 - d. WMA structure and utilizing funding sources - John Swanson, Water Resources Planner, Polk County Public Works
- E. Working Lunch facilitated by the Iowa Water Center
 - a. Group work commenced in developing recommendations for partnerships, economics, and monitoring for water resource policy
- F. Small group presentations and voting on recommendations

- a. Present: Laura Sarcone, Iowa association of municipal utilities; Dean Mattoon, Iowa League of Cities; Brad Hartkopf, Iowa Association of Business and Industry; Greg Sindt, Iowa Water Pollution Control Association; Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council; Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Association; Roger Wolf, Iowa Soybean Association; Drew Mogler, Iowa Pork Producers Council; John Whitaker, Conservation Districts of Iowa; Mark Land, Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association; Robin Fortney, Iowa Rivers Revival; Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance; Gregory Huff, Iowa Rural Water Association; Adam Schnieders, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- b. Quorum met
- c. Partnerships
 - i. The officers of WPAC and ex officio members are tasked to bring the annual report to the legislators to provide the report and a verbal presentation to the legislature. The officers will then report back to WPAC on legislator's comments to inform the next year's working session.
 - Recommendations passes unopposed
 - ii. To enable successful, long-term watershed project implementation, consideration for funding should be given to projects that have demonstrated sufficient involvement of partners within a watershed project. Quantifiable measurements of success may include greater awareness of watershed goals and practice implementation on the ground.
 - Recommendation passes unopposed
 - iii. For watershed projects to be effective long-term, watershed coordinators should be funded by the state with full benefits. By funding coordinators long-term, this will enable more effective relationships with partners.
 - Opposed: Brad Hartkopf, Iowa association of business and industry; Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance
 - Recommendation passes
 - iv. For partnerships to be more effective at the watershed level, we encourage broader public involvement beyond WMA members and agencies. Partners and the public should be invited to annual statewide watershed or conservation-based meeting to share updates and opportunities for involvement in the watershed. This will be quantified by measuring how many partners and cooperators are involved in projects.
 - Motion passes unopposed
- d. Monitoring
 - i. Where applicable, require Watershed Management Authorities (WMAs) and watershed projects to integrate water monitoring activities into their project applications. Funding originating from Senate File 512 will be based on grant application process that would prioritize WMAs or projects with existing or strong watershed plans.
 - Opposed: Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Association; Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau; Brad Hartkopf, Iowa association of business and industry
 - Recommendation passes

e. Economics

- i. In order to holistically evaluate the cost/benefit ratio of flood protection, we recommend that Iowa encourages Congress to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to incorporate water quality and ecosystem benefits of flood mitigation practices beyond avoiding disaster recovery costs.
 - Motion passes unopposed
- ii. In order to accelerate the adoption of new research and data into practice, we recommend dedicating resources to a data analytic staff position at the Iowa Nutrient Research Center and the Iowa Flood Center that analyzes the vast amount of publicly available data and build capacity for connecting researchers with water managers.
 - Opposed: Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Association
 - Recommendation passes
- iii. In order to achieve Iowa's water goals in an economically feasible systems approach, we recommend incorporating new data and recommendations from all existing efforts into future policy recommendations.
 - Opposed: Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau
 - Recommendation passes
- iv. In order to accelerate investment in ag/urban partnerships for the benefit of water quality, flood control, source water protection and overall resilient watershed communities, we recommend commissioning a policy review to identify legal and financial barriers to innovation (e.g. land purchases outside of city limits, procurement law), issue recommendations to remediate those barriers, and allowing a watershed to pilot those recommendations on a trial basis.
 - Opposed: Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau
 - Recommendation passes

G. Meeting adjourned at 3:32PM