

WRCC / WPAC

October 31, 2012

WRCC, WPAC and guests Present:

Secretary Northey, Jim Gillespie, Kevin Richards, USGS, Larry Weber, Oserman, Bill Ehm, Tim Hall, Lee Hein, Cody McKinley, Lori Beary, John Lawrence, Adam Schneiders, John Whitaker, David Osterberg, Bill Freely, Sean McMahon, Michelle Soupir, Jerry Neppel, Rick Robinson, Diane Karnish, Matt Groenwald, Jackie Suckow, Adam Broich, Shawn Richmond, Dean Lemke, Stu Schmitz, Linda Kinman and Charles Isenhardt

Meeting convened @ 10:05 AM CST

Introductions

- Nutrient Reduction Strategy
 - Potentially out in middle of November.
- Point Source – Adam Schnieders, IDNR
 - Brief overview of work that has been endeavored. Technology based approach, 102 municipalities and 28 key industries discharging more than 1 million gallons per day. Major dischargers handle 80% of wastewater in the state.
 - Implementation plan addresses best available technology
 - Results – 2/3 reduction in P and N loading compared to current permitted discharge – would be 16% of P load reduction relative to Hypoxia goal. Would account for 4% of N load reduction towards Hypoxia goal.
 - Feasibility study within 2 years, construction schedule amended to permit, would include timeline relative to case specific circumstances.
 - Short term load reduction pending potential future nutrient criteria.
 - \$1 – 1.5 billion over 20 years
 - Outreach - Lawrence
 - Once released, series of events for distribution. Effort will be to raise awareness of strategy and where to find information.
 - Integrated Crop Management Conference – 900+ CCAs
 - Pesticide Applicator Training 16,000 private – 900 for co-ops
 - Manure applicator certification training – 2500
 - Crop Advantage series – 2200 annually
 - Video series.
 - Directions and locations for people to leave comments.
 - Will be public for viewing and will provide immediate response.
- Is there a value in having WRCC make recommendations to legislation in concert with release of Nutrient Reduction Strategy? - Weber

- Northey – We are a coordinating body, but able to make a case.
- An organized effort would create energy through conversation and effort culminating in legislative action.
- Regulatory, Uplands, Lowlands, funding efforts from past flooding – Ehm
 - Efforts were to break up the larger topic and address by category. A similar effort would provide a broader effort for public comment.
- Osterberg, Would be good. But, nothing was done in the end. We should be ready to not have a “wow” effect. \
- Coordination is key. – Northey -Would it be helpful to have a group meet between meetings to initiate discussion for this topic?
- This would allow for other groups to understand what efforts are being made. – Kinman.
- Rep. Isenhardt – We need to be doing more, faster, at an incremental scale to have an impact. Would be beneficial to develop a number that can have a meaningful impact. Budget more than can be achieved.
- Kinman – need to show this is an economic driver – jobs, money, business, other ways, etc.
- Weber – EPA released a public notice – 2 centers funded – Is reaching out to put together teams to apply. Proposal is due in mid-January, 2013. 4 years of funding. Could be seed money for a long term nutrient research and education center. ISU and U of Iowa would be working together. WRCC would be glad to help as is able – letters of support.
- Watershed Project – Going through 2nd quarterly update meetings. Soap Creek, Turkey River, and Upper Cedar River.
 - Model of Soap Creek is up and running. Technical data has been captured for projects that have already been built.
 - Hydro-geosphere model is running. This is very detailed modeling on a 10 ft. by 10 ft grid.
 - Information is being distributed to WMAs through quarterly meetings.
 - In spring 2013, IFC will be looking at HUC 12 candidates.
 - Northey – Part of strategy addresses beds and banks. There may be opportunity for flows and loading of beds and banks in an effort to identify contribution. This may be an opportunity to learn more than what we typically do.
 - Weber – modeling will allow for the inclusion of current efforts – MRBI – and look at large scale models by connecting to nutrient based understanding compared to the tract of land approach.
 - Rep. Isenhardt – utility of WMAs is proving successful and develops common interest approach to water quality. WMAs could have direct interface with property owner and average citizens.
 - Richards – Educational component will need to be huge. We are doing this for the future, but won’t see immediate results.
- WMA – Kinman
 - Will provide a 1 pager regarding WMA for distribution.

- Ad hoc group for implementation – broad, including resources on the hill, landowners, other resources, to get some momentum.
 - Members -
- David Bailey, Electric Power Research Institute – Water Quality Credit Trading
 - Presentation – will request electronic copy
 - Jessica Fox (EPRI) is primary project manager / point of contact.
- Watershed Prioritization Working Group – Coffelt
 - Nutrient Loading ranking of HUC 8 watersheds is underway
- Science Assessment Workshop – November 13 – 15 at Davenport.
 - Share outcomes and process from Iowa’s effort with the strategy.
 - How to build a science assessment in another region or state.
 - Web address will be provided.
- December Meeting –
 - ICGA
- January Meeting
 - State Capitol
- WPAC will be invited.