

## Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ Iowa State Capitol

### Meeting Minutes

#### WRCC Members/Designees Present:

Secretary Northey, Julie Vande Hoef, Chuck Gipp, Bill Ehm, Jim Gillespie, Todd Coffelt, Stu Schmitz, Wendy Wintersteen, Maureen Clayton, Larry Weber, Kevin Richards, John Whitaker, Karen Flournoy, Diane Karnish

#### Public Attendance:

Ben Gleason, Tyler Bettin, Shawn Richmond, Jerry Neppel, Adam Broich, Margaret Thomson, Jacob Greer, Alex Lidgett, Lee Thomsen, Ella Giehrke, Breanna Bagby, Bill Freeland, John Torbert, Matt Gronewald, Lora Friest, Bill Micheel, Jennifer Fencil, Jason Smith, Jennifer Welch, Steve Williams, Greg Sindt, John Crotty, Dean Mattoon, Eric Schmechel, Tony Toigo, Adam Kiel, Sara Steussy, Eileen Bader, Susanne Hickey, Linda Kinman, John Moreland, Mike Delaney, Allen Bonini, Steve Hopkins, Steve Falck, Jace Mikels, Deb Kozel, Rick Robinson, Roger Wolf, Adam Schnieders

Meeting convened @ 9:04 AM CST

- Welcome and Introductions made by Secretary Northey
  - Public comments will be received at end of meeting
  - Call for additional agenda items made.
  - WPAC meeting summary added to agenda.
- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update
- IDALS Updates
  - Final nutrient strategy released last week
  - Response to comments and updated strategy available on website
  - Changes included additional information highlighting point source and nonpoint source collaboration, additional emphasis on need for private partnerships and efforts, and WRCC wording to be consistent with statutory role
- DNR Updates
  - A progress report was distributed on status of point source efforts
  - 2 plants currently removing N
  - Clinton removing P as well
  - IA City update likely soon
  - Working on state nutrient budget, expect to report on progress at next WRCC meeting
- ISU Updates
  - Funding for Iowa nutrient research center was discussed
  - Will help significantly to move forward on research needs
- Legislative Update

- \$2.4M & \$4.4M funding to IDALS for water quality initiative in next two fiscal years
- \$10M one-time funding for water quality initiative
- \$7M of additional C/S over the \$6.7M normal appropriation
- \$16M for REAP, up from \$12M last year
- \$3M for WIRB
- \$20M+ total package increase
- \$1.5M for Iowa nutrient research center to advance science and research needs related to nutrient management, practices, and transport
- IDALS working on filling coordinator position for nutrient strategy efforts authorized in appropriations
- Working on watershed demonstration projects in priority HUC8 watersheds
- Expect to issue a request for applications soon
- Many partnerships involved in these projects
- Center for Nutrient Management EPA proposal by U of I/ISU was unsuccessful
  - Weak on climate element
  - Weak on lack of transformational technology to solve issues in near term
  - Commitment will continue
- Iowa-Cedar Interagency Team
  - PowerPoint presentation made to WRCC group covering existing efforts of team
  - Providing science to guide local actions
  - Local/Regional mix critical to success
- WMA Update
  - 8 WMA's exist
  - 7 in past year
  - 6/8 receiving funding to develop implementation plans
  - Construction funds next in 2014 for Turkey, Upper Cedar, and Soap Creek
  - Some issues have been experienced with formation
  - Fear that counties shouldn't participate due to being perceived as accepting responsibility for flooding
  - "Authority" term puts people off, makes it difficult to engage people
  - Timing and lack of facilitation funds created a challenge
  - Big groups of stakeholders (35+) makes coordination challenging
  - Soap Creek established in 1986
  - Receiving IFC grant funding
  - 132/150 structures completed to date entailing over 400 easements
  - Has a commitment from landowners and four county financial commitment
  - Board is familiar with landowners, rotate their meetings between counties, have tours every other year, and engage media coverage and visibility
  - DNR updated on 319 and 604B fund availability
  - Expect RFP for WMA's at end of June
  - Expect \$300K available for two grants of \$150K each

- Other Topics
  - WPAC Update
    - WPAC mission is to help advise legislature and WRCC
    - Final 2012 annual report is out for 2 week review
    - Progress has been obvious by WRCC engagement
    - Next meeting in August
- Upcoming Events
  - Green infrastructure workshop on July 15th
- Future Meeting Dates
  - July 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9am - TBD
- Public Comments
  - No public comments received

Meeting adjourned at 10:59am