

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Wednesday November 20th, 2013 @ Iowa State Capitol

Meeting Minutes

WRCC Members/Designees Present:

Bill Northey, Adam Schnieders, Jim Gillespie, Jake Hansen, John Lawrence, David Osterberg, Maureen Clayton, Scott Marler, Laurel Foreman, John Whitaker, Diane Karnish

Public Attendance:

Jerry Neppel, Liz Hobart, Matt Lechtenberg, Ben Gleason, Shawn Richmond, Mary Braun, Brian Bakke, Allen Bonini, John Moreland, Tyler Bettin, Steve Falck, Dustin Miller

Meeting convened @ 9:03 AM

- Welcome and Introductions made by Secretary Northey
 - Matt Lechtenberg introduced as new Water Quality Coordinator for IDALS
 - Jake Hansen introduced as new Water Resources Bureau Chief for IDALS-DSC
 - Public comments will be received at end of meeting
 - Call for additional agenda items made
- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update
 - IDALS Updates
 - Overviewed \$2.8M put out statewide for farmers new to practices
 - Overviewed priority watershed demonstration projects
 - 17 applications received
 - \$6.5M ask with \$5.55M available
 - \$9.8M of match included in applications
 - Review committee will make recommendations to Secretary Northey
 - Review committee open to public to attend
 - Q – Will there be another funding request?
 - A – Will likely request more than the \$4.4M included in last year's budget
 - Q – Is the nutrient reduction strategy (NRS) different than the water quality initiative (WQI)?
 - A – Yes. NRS is a strategy document that action plans will be guided by. WQI is an implementation component.
 - Overviewed WIRB
 - \$3M appropriation, ½ for nutrient reduction practices
 - RFA closed on Oct. 13, 2013
 - \$2.3M in projects awarded by WIRB Board
 - \$900K for nutrient reduction, \$1.4M other

- Anticipate follow-up RFA in near future
 - Overviewed Clean Water Iowa Website
 - ISU Updates
 - Update on nutrient research center provided
 - 10 projects awarded funding in Sept.
 - Abstracts of all projects will be posted on nutrient strategy website
 - Upcoming ICM conference will have 3-4 topics on soil and water conservation included in program, reaches over 2200 farmers
 - DNR Updates
 - Summary report handed out on point source reportables
 - 7 permits issued, 5 on public notice
 - Hearing interest in water quality trading from point sources
- Measures Sub-Committee Update
 - Draft discussion items list for committee handed out
 - Committee work was reviewed
 - Utilizing logic model approach to look at long term goals with interim measures
 - Many measures exist that can be modeled, calculated, or monitored
 - Track elements of inputs, human, land, and water indicators
 - Measures are targeted for looking at N & P reductions
 - Will include point and nonpoint sources
 - Recommendations will be made back to WRCC. Encourage all interested WRCC members to participate in committee
- Iowa Farm & Rural Life Poll – Nutrient Management
 - Initial report on poll findings related to nutrient management questions on poll
 - PPT presentation given providing detail on specific questions included in poll
- Iowa Nutrient Budget Workgroup
 - PPT overview of working group activities
 - Utilizing ambient WQ network in conjunction with modeling
 - Group working to identify gaps and “wish list” items to assist with effort
 - Schilling work on NO₃ trends coming out soon
 - Both increasing and decreasing trends occurring
 - Hoping to replicate effort for P
 - Initial goal of looking at what we have now and how it can be improved
 - Collecting information at high flows is risky, expensive, and labor intensive
 - Building predictive models off of sparse datasets is challenging
 - Q – Should monitoring be prioritized in priority HUC8 demo projects to serve as statewide indicator?
 - A – Can’t assume that these watersheds are representative of statewide status
- Future Meeting Dates/Locations
 - January - TBD
- Public Comments

- None

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM