

WRCC Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2014

Introductions: See sign-in sheets. 42 total in attendance.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy Updates:

Point source update- DNR (Schnieders)- see handout

- Provided Update on permit issuance regarding nutrient-related permits.
- Updated committee on technical work group progress relating to NRS.
- Annual report is underway for NRS.

WQI/DSC Update- Matt L.

- Provided handout on 2nd RFA for targeted demo projects. Eight applications received. Five will be funded and a 6th will be rolled into an existing project.
- Coordinators are on board for all existing projects. Some kickoffs have occurred and others will happen this spring/summer.
- July 1 anticipated start date for the new projects.

Jim G.- update on statewide cost-share program. Claims are all in and in final processing stages. Slippage will return to the WQI program. About 100-120K acres of cover crops in the program for the first year.

Northey provided general comments on cover crop termination and feedback on program participation.

Budget update provided next. WQI has \$4.4M in general fund appropriation, \$6.75M cost-share. Also one time funding included \$5M for cost share and \$3.5M for WQI. One-time funding also has \$1.24M for ADW. Presently the bills have yet to be signed by the Governor. REAP has \$25M between the funds also.

One-time funding has statewide flexibility if passed this year. WQI allocation also includes funding for urban conservation practices.

Q: Is there a document summarizing all of the funding sources available for the NRS?

A: We will have that announced as soon as everything is finalized.

Comment from Schnieders- within priority watersheds, new NPDES permits have nutrient reductions

ISU Update (Amy Kalita)

- Two interns have been hired to help in NRC to focus on LU inventory and FSA data
- Measures committee will reconvene this summer
- Organized faculty meeting with regents universities
- Progress reports will be posted to NRC site within a week or so for research projects underway.

Funding in budget for INRC is down from \$1.5M to \$1.375M in general fund.

Hypoxia TF Update- Northey

Meeting was held in Little Rock, AR this week. 12 states represented. IDALS and ISU representatives attended.

States participating discussed progress toward state-level strategies to address nutrient management. Differences in organizational structures were discussed and structure of task force is being formalized to advise within states and to improve research on nutrient reduction issues, particularly being conducted by land grant/research universities.

Shift is occurring from strategy development to implementation among several states. Discussions were held on federal funding streams and status of those programs (319, RCPP, etc.). Also discussed data management and dissemination, including challenges of fully quantifying adoption of practices.

WOTUS rules were discussed with respect to implications for conservation implementation.

Next steps- are states ready for nutrient criteria? How does it fit into strategies? Nutrient credit trading also reviewed. What would it look like and how would it work? Algal blooms in some states are triggering action as well.

Project tours included MRBI sites in Arkansas.

Next meeting will be October 20-24 in Alton, IL @ Lewis and Clark College.

Q: Measures subcommittee update? They will meet this summer.

Q: Anti-degradation concerns- Peter Goodman from Kentucky is working on it.

USGS has nitrate meter on Maquoketa River now- 16 meters total in Iowa- all live on Internet.

Waters of the US Proposed Rule- Karen Fluornoy, EPA

Comment period is open on proposed rule and interpretive rules on WOTUS. Public meetings have been completed in Region 7. Comments have been consistent. Extension of comment period has been requested- no action taken though.

Objectives of rule are to determine how to define WOTUS based on recent court rulings. Clarification on what waters are jurisdictional and what are not. 3 categories- Yes, No, Other waters. Focus here is on Other Waters. Examples are certain types of lakes, ponds. Some geographic focus is considered within the region. Connectivity of waters is a consideration.

Additional clarification provided on what is included and what is not. Focus is on Section 404 permits and when they are needed. Science Advisory Board is reviewing and their findings may impact final rule. Interpretive rule lists types of practices that are exempt from 404 permit and from consultation. Rule was made final on April 21 but 45 day comment period is ongoing through June 5.

Q: Why did EPA publish draft rule before SAB provided input?

A: Determination not made at regional level. Priority was to get something out and let comments and SAB drive final rule. Work to find a way to minimize disruption of conservation work.

Q: Is the interpretive rule binding?

A: (Jay Mar)- We have to do something while Final Rule is being sorted out. This rule keeps work going and covers bases regarding coordination.

(Dan Hayes)- this is what we believe the existing law to say and we are trying to implement current law while new Final rule is made.

Interpretive Rule and Regional Permit 33- Marty Adkins, NRCS and Dan Hayes, USACE

Comment period expires June 5. Extensions have been requested but no action taken. There has been significant uptick in projects done by NRCS that required consultation and in some cases permits. The interpretive rule and development of the final rule have clarified what required consultation and permits, and volume of consultation has started to stabilize in last two months. Key outstanding issues are smaller dams that fit under RP33 currently (there is some contradiction here) and structures smaller than RP33 thresholds that are not exempted by final rule.

Handout distributed on Regional Permitting Strategy and on number of reviews conducted. Hayes says that he believes number of reviews required will decrease. Strategy documents distributed are based on RP33 with guidance from NRS.

Northey requested clarification on how jurisdiction is claimed/determined going forward. Hayes- USACE is looking at impacts to make determinations where needed and trying to figure out a threshold where review is or is not needed. Strategy document provides some methodology on how to see what is exempt and what requires coordination/permit.

Gillespie- document appears to utilize thresholds currently in place but that were only verbally agreed to. If the strategy document remains as is, there could be a new regional permit that is basically consistent with the current verbal RP process. Hayes- new temporary employees are helping to address volume of requests.

Ehm- Draft document appears workable to DNR although more review is needed (document was only finalized on 5/22).

Mar- NRCS will instruct staff to send permits in where necessary but need to provide additional help and turn around requests quicker at field office level. Adkins stated that training is ongoing with NRCS and that focus on proactive planning is in place to minimize disruption when a producer is ready to do work.

Ehm- Is this interpretation of existing RP33 or baseline for a new permit? Hayes- A little of both. Ehm- if it is a new permit, DNR may need to update its rules to reflect what compliance is aimed toward.

Q: Kinman- Is this open for public comment? Hayes- public notice will trigger comment period. LK- specific issues will be with tile drainage and water quality impacts. Hayes- Grade Stabilization structures are the predominant type of structure sent in for review.

Mar- NRCS will review its own specs to evaluate impacts of practices on WOTUS.

WPAC Update- Linda Kinman, DMWW

Last meeting was held in March and the group will meet later today. March meeting included work with John Lawrence on identifying partners and organizations and their level of partnership. Survey was sent out to WPAC to gauge this. It is being discussed today but the hope is that additional work will be received.

WRCC Annual Report and WPAC role will be discussed, including the NRS update and any changes people may want to see. Matt L. has indicated that we are looking at July report, with NRS update would cover the first year of implementation (May 2013-May 2014).

Set up conference call to determine WPAC and public involvement in annual report development if WPAC discussion does not address this

Other Topics and Comments:

Northey provided additional information on budget process. Support for GF was on party line split but one-time funding bill passed 97-1 in house showing bipartisanship. We believe that legislature did the work.

Delaney comment- Was there any discussion on how reduction is being assessed? Answer- measures workgroup is working on ways to measure nonpoint reduction. We are working to quantify loading on the nonpoint side. There are technical estimates for loading reductions in the strategy. Point source applicants will be assessing reductions.

Adkins made comments on RCPP. State resource concerns are being evaluated and announcement is forthcoming for project opportunities regardless of scale. Contact NRCS with questions or project proposal ideas. Mar- reported that Marty is available to help with RCPP projects.

Jen Terry- Is it too early to tell if nutrient reduction is occurring in demonstration sites? Matt L: depends on projects but generally projects are only a few months in.

Gillespie- RCPP will yield 8 designated areas without an RFP or RFA. Encourage people to write USDA Secretary to support Upper Mississippi as a priority area for the program. Jim also reminded people that IFELA nominations are open through June 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Friday May 23rd, 2014

9:00-11:00 AM

Iowa State Capitol

Supreme Court Chamber Room 103

WRCC Website: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/WRCC.asp>

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update (IDALS/ISU/DNR)

Hypoxia Task Force Update (IDALS)

Waters of the United States Proposed Rule (EPA)

Interpretive Rule & Regional Permit 33 Update (Corps/NRCS)

WPAC Update

Other Topics

Future Meeting Dates/Locations

- **July 17, 2014 – Capitol (Room 103)**
- **September – Date & Location TBD**
- **November 14, 2014 – Location TBD**

Public Comments (Please contain comment length to 3 minutes per person)

Adjourn

Water Resources Coordinating Council Attendance

	WRCC Representative	Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Bill Northey	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Terry Branstad	Governor	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Julie Vande Hoef	Designee	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Chuck Gipp	Director	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruce Trautman	Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Ehm	Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Jim Gillespie	Director	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jake Hansen	Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Mariannette Miller-Meeks	Director	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenneth Sharp	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stu Schmitz	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Mark Schouten	Administrator	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Benson	Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Wendy Wintersteen	Dean	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Lawrence	Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
	<i>Amy Kelly</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Susan Curry	Dean	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Osterberg	Designee	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9 Joel Haack	Dean	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maureen Clayton	Designee	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Paul Trombino III	Director	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Marler	Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham	Director	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Whipple	Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12 Dave Jamison	Executive Director	Iowa Finance Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lori Beary	Designee	Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Alec Scranton	Dean	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Weber	Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
	<i>Keith Shilling</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 Kevin Richards	Director	USGS, Iowa Water Science Center
	<i>sub ?</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 Jay Mar	State Conservationist	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marty Adkins	Designee	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16 John Whitaker	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Services Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Bill Menner	State Director	USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Peiffer	Designee	USDA, Rural Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18 Karl Brooks	Regional Administrator	EPA-Region 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Flourney	Designee	EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Damon Frizzell	Designee	EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Mark Deschenes	Rock Island District Commander	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Karnish	Designee	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
	<i>(Dan Hayes)</i>		

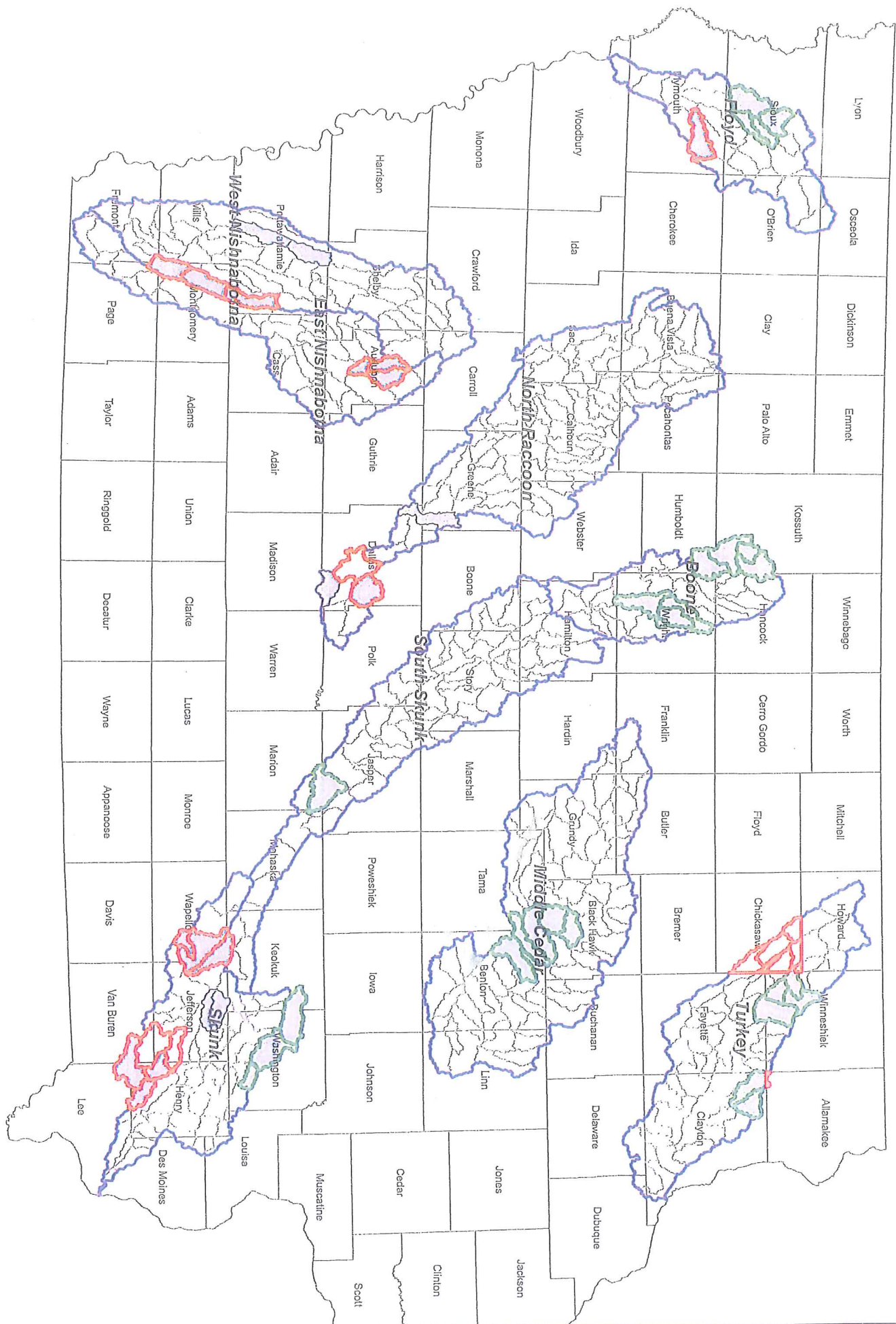
WRCC Public Attendance Sign-In Sheet

5-23-14

(Public comments will be accepted at specified time on agenda)

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Ben Gleason	Iowa Corn Growers Association	N
2	Maureen Clayton	UNI	N
3	Don Hayes	USACE	
4	Mary Braun	House Democratic Research Staff	N
5	Jace Mikels	Senate Democratic Research Staff	N
6	Luis Leon	IFSMA	N
7	Quida Korman	IEC IAWA-DMWW	
8	Wendy Bonini	DNR	n
9	Steve Felsk	ELPC	N
10	DAVID HANCE	RACCOON RIVER WATER	N
11	Mike Delaney	Citizens For a Healthy Iowa	N
12	Jennifer Terry	Iowa Environmental Council	?
13	Jessica Rose	Iowa Environmental Council	N
14	Eric Evans	HDR Engineering	N
15	Eric Wiklund	FDNR	N
16	Wendy Hieb	IDNR	N
17	JOHN MORELAND	SENATOR WORKING	N
18	Duane Sand	Iowa Natural Heritage Fnd.	N
19	Del-Kozel		
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WQI HUC12 Watershed Applications - Application Status



Current Active Projects as of 4/25/14

Agreement #	Project Name	Lead District	Coordinator	email	email1	email2	Phone #	Partners
1 13WQI-001	Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project	Benton SWCD	Bruce Gardner	bruce.gardner@ia.nacdn.net			319-472-2161	Pioneer, ISUE, ISA, PFI, ILF, FB, NRCS, IDALS, Kossuth SWCD, Humboldt SWCD, NRCS, ACWA, Hagle, Conservation Fund, North Central Coop, ISUE
2 13WQI-002	Boone River Watershed Nutrient Management Initiative	Wright SWCD	Bruce Voigts/Emily Funk	bruce.voigts@ia.nacdn.net	emily.funk@ia.nacdn.net		515-532-2165	Turkey R WMA, ISUE, NICC, NEIA RC&D, Farmers Union Coop, Wirm Coop, FB, Iowa Corn, ISA
3 13WQI-003	Central Turkey River Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project	Winneshiak SWCD	Michelle Elliott	michelle.elliott@ia.nacdn.net			563-382-4352	St. Clief Ag Sales and Service
4 13WQI-004	Demonstration of Targeted Nutrient Reduction Systems for Clayton County	Clayton SWCD	Eric Palas	eric.palas@ia.nacdn.net			563-245-1048	Jasper SWCD, Pathfinders RC&D, ISA, NRCS, ISA, NRCS
5 13WQI-005	Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project	Black Hawk SWCD	Shane Wulf	shane.wulf@ia.nacdn.net			319-235-0704	ISUE, NRCS
6 13WQI-006	Van Zante Creek Water Quality Improvement Project	Marion SWCD	Terry McNeely	terry.mcneely@ia.nacdn.net			641-842-5314	IDALS, FSA
7 13WQI-007	West Branch of the Floyd River Water Quality Initiative	Sioux SWCD	Erin Breetzke	erin.breetzke@ia.nacdn.net			712-737-2253	Dordt College, ISUE, IDALS, IPPA, FB, Farmers Coop Society
8 13WQI-008	West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative	Washington SWCD	Teresa Munn (Sec)	teresa.munn@ia.nacdn.net			319-653-8654	ISUE, Keokuk SWCD

2nd RFA Applications - Currently under review

Application #	Project Name	Lead Group	Coordinator	email	email1	email2	Phone #	Partners
1 2014-001	Bluegrass & Crabapple - E Nish WIS Projects	Audubon SWCD						IDALS-DSC, DNR, Agriland FS, Aspinwall Co-op, West Central Co-op, Crop Production Service, Brinkman Ag Solution, DC AG, C3 Technologies, Cole Christensen Consulting, City of Audubon, Iowa Rural Water Association, landowners
2 2014-002	Cedar Creek Partnership Project	Wapello SWCD						Keokuk SWCD, Jefferson SWCD, Pathfinders RC&D, ISU Extension, Golden Furrow Fertilizer
3 2014-003	Dallas SWCD Nutrient Reduction Project	Dallas SWCD						NRCS, Pioneer, FC Coop, Heartland Coop, Syngenta, West Central, Crossroads Ag Supply
4 2014-004	Deep Creek WQI Project	Plymouth SWCD						NRCS, ISUE, Plymouth Co. FB, Plymouth Co. PF, Plymouth Co. Pork Producers, LeMars Agri-Center, Remsen Farmers Coop, Farmers Coop, Iowa Corn Growers, Iowa Soybean Assoc, IDALS-DSC
5 2014-005	Lower Skunk WQ and SH Initiative	Henry SWCD						Jefferson SWCD, Lee SWCD, Van Buren SWCD, Pathfinders RC&D, NRCS, ISA, Chem Gro Inc.
6 2014-006	Turkey River WIS- Rural & Urban Targeted WIS Demo	Northeast Iowa RC&D						Postville CSD, Driftless Area Scenic Byway, Turkey R WMA, Allamakee SWCD
7 2014-007	Understanding & Utilizing New Soil Health Tools	Chickasaw SWCD						Turkey R WMA, Cornell U, Cedar Basin Crop Consulting, Publication Services LLC
8 2014-008	Walnut Creek WS Project - SubWIS of Nish R WQI	Montgomery SWCD						United Farmers Mercantile Coop, Green Cover Seed, PF, E Pott SWCD, ISUE, NRCS, IDALS-DSC

MAP LEGEND

- Applications in 2013 (1st Rd)
- Applications in 2014 (2nd Rd)
- Active Projects as of 4/25/14
- Priority HUC 8 WIS (designated by WRCC)

Point Source Nutrient Reduction Strategy Report

WRCC – May 2014

6. Accountability and Verification Measures

The IDNR will convene a technical work group beginning in 2013 to define the process for providing a regular nutrient load estimate (i.e., nutrient budget) based on the ambient water quality data network. This will include specifying the most appropriate mathematical model, the acceptability of the data, and a process for making future adjustments based on the latest information and advancements in science and technology.

Status: The technical work group first met December 3, 2013. At the meeting the “charge” from the Nutrient Strategy was described and discussed with potential solutions (different load calculation techniques) offered and discussed.

At subsequent meetings a method to compare the various solutions was discussed and established. At the end of the meeting, subtasks were developed, including development of a standardized data set based on the work completed for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy development, assigning workgroup members with specific load calculation techniques to apply to the standard data set, and a general timeline agreed to by the workgroup. Outcomes from the different load calculation techniques that were tested were evaluated. Members of the subcommittee are producing write-ups of the different models for nitrogen that were discussed. These will be compiled into a report that will identify the nitrogen model to provide a regular nitrogen load estimate.

Work is continuing on developing the report for nitrogen. Phosphorus, which is a more difficult problem to solve, will be evaluated next. Future meetings on phosphorus may be delayed till fall due to field work for most participants.

The IDNR will track progress for implementing the point source nutrient reduction strategy using several measures:

- 1) Number of permits issued that require nutrient reduction feasibility studies

Status: The following permits have been issued or put on public notice:

	Facility	Issued
1.	Dairiconcepts, L.P. – Allerton, IA	9/1/2013
2.	City of Grinnell	9/1/2013
3.	Rembrandt Enterprises – Thompson, IA	9/1/2013
4.	City of West Liberty	9/1/2013
5.	City of Dubuque	10/1/2013
6.	City of Harlan	10/1/2013
7.	Tyson Foods – Perry, IA	11/1/2013
8.	City of Atlantic	12/1/2013
9.	City of Eldridge	12/1/2013
10.	Manildra Milling Corporation – Hamburg, IA	12/1/2013
11.	Oakland Foods LLC – Oakland, IA	12/1/2013
12.	City of Grundy Center	2/1/2014
13.	City of Mt. Pleasant	2/1/2014
14.	City of New Hampton	4/1/2014
15.	City of Boone	5/1/2014
16.	City of Cedar Falls	5/1/2014
17.	City of Iowa City	5/1/2014
18.	City of Red Oak	5/1/2014
19.	City of West Burlington	5/1/2014
20.	City of Winterset	5/1/2014
21.	Walter Scott, Jr. Energy Center	5/14/2014

	Facilities on Public Notice	
1.	Climax Molybdenum Company – Fort Madison, IA	
2.	City of Fort Dodge	
3.	City of Greenfield	
4.	John Deere Dubuque Works	
5.	Swiss Valley Farms – Luana, IA	
6.	City of Waukee	

If there any questions on this report or suggestions for improvements, please contact Adam Schnieders at 515.281.7409 or adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov.