

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM. Sign-in sheets showing members and guests in attendance are attached to these notes.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

IEDA (Geerts)- IEDA oversees CDBG program which supports water/wastewater program. Also supports some stormwater projects. CDBG program received a 10% increase in new omnibus bill. Agency also administers HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. Working with IDALS and DNR on sustainable stormwater management. IEDA has invested heavily in Storm Lake as a pilot community for comprehensive water/stormwater improvements.

U of Iowa College of Engineering (Weber)- Overview on college of engineering and water-based missions, including IIHR, the Iowa Flood Center, and the Iowa Geologic Survey. Gabriella Villarini is new director of IIHR following Weber's promotion. Weber introduced Dr. Susie Dai as new representative from State Hygienics lab as well. The Legislature has also passed a bill permanently moving the State Geologist and the Geologic Survey to the University from DNR.

ISU Extension (Benning)- Dr. John Lawrence has been appointed the permanent Vice President for ISU Extension. ISU is also in the process of replacing the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and has a search committee formed. Goal is to have a new dean by August. ISU continues to work with research and science on Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and with outreach and education through Iowa Watershed Academy and Iowa Water Conference.

Laurie Nowatzke addressed the Council and announced that annual requests for partner reports will be coming for the Iowa NRS in the next month. The reporting timeframe each year runs through May and the goal will be to release a final report in late summer/early Fall.

EPA Region 7 (Tate)- EPA participates on WRCC in support of partners, especially DNR given close association through programs. Tate mentioned involvement with INRS and that Iowa's program is viewed very favorably by national peers. David Ross has been named as Assistant Administrator for Water Programs and will lead the federal side of the Hypoxia Task Force. Ross has identified nutrients as a priority under his leadership.

DNR (Schneiders)- Gave overview on DNR contribution to WRCC including flooding, point and nonpoint source water quality, and role in implementing and measuring progress in Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Permitting on NRS program point source program is ahead of schedule, with many permittees starting to schedule construction/equipment installation. DNR is working with partners to evaluate nonpoint source loads from 1980-1996 in order to establish baseline report for tracking Iowa NRS progress. Point source stakeholders are doing a 5 year review on NRS progress this year, which will commence in late April. Schneiders also distributed a map showing IA network of real-time turbidity sensors, which will be included in NRS Annual Report. Plan is to use these sensors as an affordable surrogate for real-time phosphorus sensors. DNR is also working on development of an in-lieu fee program for stream mitigation and will meet again with stakeholders in April. Also finishing a source water project funded by EPA in Spirit Lake and Winterset.

IDPH (Schmitz)- IDPH participates in WRCC through monitoring of microcystin (HABs), health impacts of flooding and floodwaters, and groundwater quality testing. Agency also reviews impacts of chemicals on water safety and wildlife stability.

DOT (Nicholson)- DOT reviewed contributions to WRCC, focusing on environmental responsibilities associated with bridge and transportation infrastructure construction. DOT is currently working with partners on stream and wetland mitigation efforts, using WRCC partnerships where possible to improve water quality in addition to completing required mitigation projects. DOT is engaged in ILF program development and continues to work in Iowa Stream Mitigation Method.

FSA (Goettsch)- Currently FSA cannot take new CRP applications as agency is very close to national cap of 24 million acres. If there is a sign-up it will be limited this year. New grassland program is underway but has a small Iowa footprint (less than 500 acres). Currently about 1.8 million acres of CRP under contract in Iowa with 110,000 contracts in place. Predominantly small contracts for filter strips, buffers, grassed waterways. Fate of CRP is still unknown.

UNI (Clayton)- UNI supports WRCC through education on water quality focused on nutrient and sediment transport, and through soil conservation through roadside management and prairie restoration. Also doing some remote sensing work to monitor water quality and assist with local decision making and social aspects of environmental issues, including those pertaining to water.

USGS (Kalkhoff)- USGS is focused in Iowa on water quality and hydrology. Maintains sensors and gauges on ground water and surface water, including real time nitrate sensors and stream gauges.

NRCS (Adkins)- Kurt Simon (State Conservationist) has been detailed to Washington DC as senior policy advisor to USDA transition. Jon Hubbert will be acting conservationist for next 4 months. There are 2 new RCPP projects with Iowa involvement. One is led by Environmental Defense fund with participants in north-central Iowa and another led from Wisconsin with emphasis on driftless area (NE Iowa). Some new PL-566 structures are also being built in Ringgold County, which are the first new ones in several years. Also developing agreements for Iowa Partners for Conservation recipients. There will be 11 new agreements this year. NRCS is also working actively with ag retailers as partners to deploy conservation practices and nutrient management information through a couple of recent broad-based efforts.

NWS (Zogg)- Under NOAA. Provides long-term weather and climate information to partners, including warning systems, long range forecasts, climate outlooks, and river level modeling, including seasonal flooding outlooks. Zogg also announced that this week is Severe Weather Awareness week and that the statewide tornado drill is March 28.

IDALS (Hansen)- Final numbers for participation in the 2017 Statewide Water Quality Initiative are out. Last year we had more than 2100 participants try or re-apply cover crops on more than 200,000 acres. Both of these numbers are all-time highs for our program. IDALS obligated over \$3.7 million to these partners, who leveraged our funds with more than \$6.8 million. IDALS also partnered with RMA in 2017 to launch a crop insurance pilot program, which provided a \$5 per acre discount on crop insurance to participants who used cover crops and did not receive any other state or federal cost-share assistance. More than 750 producers took part in the program, signing up an additional 200,000 acres. We are currently in the process of verifying eligibility of participants and working with field staff to certify completion of the practice. IDALS has approved 11 new urban demonstration projects for funding which will start on April 1. These projects are receiving a total of \$889K in WQI funding, which will leverage more than \$3.4 million in other funding. With these projects, we now have 45 urban WQI projects total. 21 of the prior projects have been completed and 13 more are in progress, many of which will be completed by June 30 of this year.

We are working with a consortium of state, federal, and non-governmental partners to continue efforts to add monarch butterfly habitat throughout the state with the goal of restoring populations to the point where listing of the pollinators on the threatened or endangered species list can be avoided. Previous efforts have included monarch-friendly seeding mixes as part of urban conservation project, abandoned mine land reclamations, CREP wetlands, and riparian buffers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate monarch numbers later this spring and will determine whether listing is necessary.

IDALS is one of a handful of state agencies that will have a role in implementing SF512, which is the new long-term water quality funding bill. We will be working with the other agencies to establish funding programs included in the bill and over the next couple of years as the funding ramps up we will use the funds to accelerate existing efforts around water quality infrastructure practices. As other components of the program are developed, we will continue to update the WRCC along with our partners.

2017 Report on Iowa Nonpoint Source Management Plan

Allen Bonini, Iowa DNR, gave a presentation on the 2017 Nonpoint Source Management Plan Annual Report. [A copy of that presentation can be accessed on the WRCC website.](#)

Iowa Flood Mitigation Board Overview

Carol Tomb, Iowa HSEMD, gave a presentation updating the Council on the status of the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board. [A copy of that presentation can be accessed on the WRCC website.](#)

The Board reviews and approves flood mitigation projects in certain cities using sales tax increment funds approved by the legislature in 2012.

WPAC Update

Linda King, CDI Executive Director and WPAC Chair, gave an update on WPAC activities. Since the last WRCC meeting, the WPAC has submitted its 2017 Annual Report to the Legislature. The group will meet later this spring and will elect a new Chairperson.

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update

Larry Weber, University of Iowa, updated the Council on the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. All projects now have project coordinators on board and most have planning and engineering services procured. Landowner meetings have also been held in most watershed projects which have been well-attended. There have also been contractors' meetings in some projects to educate contractors on program opportunities and requirements. Hydrologic assessments are nearing completion and will be shared in substantial draft form at the next set of quarterly meetings with the WMAs. Partners are also completing ACPF runs in conjunction with the hydrologic assessments to determine initial conservation practice suitability.

Public Comments

There were no requests from the public in attendance to address the Council.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM. The next meeting will be held in mid- to late June.

3/27/2018

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WRCC Representative	Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Mike Naig	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Kim Reynolds <i>Kayla Lyon</i>	Governor <i>Designee</i>	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Chuck Gipp <i>Bruce Trautman</i> <i>Adam Schneiders</i>	Director <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Susan Kozak <i>Jake Hansen</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Gerd Clabaugh <i>Kenneth Sharp</i> <i>Stu Schmitz</i>	Director <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Mark Schouten <i>John Benson</i>	Administrator <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7 Joe Coletti <i>Jamie Benning</i>	Acting Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Susan Curry <i>David Osterberg</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Public Health, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 John Fritsch <i>Maureen Clayton</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10 Mark Lowe <i>Tamara Nicholson</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham <i>Jeff Geerts</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Carolann Jensen <i>Lori Beary</i>	Acting Executive Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13 Alec Scranton <i>Larry Weber</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 Jon Nania <i>Steve Kalkbrenner</i>	Acting Director	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center <i>Missouri Bay Bridge</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 Kurt Simon <i>Marty Adkins</i>	State Conservationist <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16 Amanda DeJong <i>Curt Brettsch</i>	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Tim Helmbrecht <i>Kate Sand</i>	Acting State Director <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18 Jim Gulliford <i>Mike Tate</i>	Regional Administrator <i>Designee</i>	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Craig Baumgartner <i>Diane Karnish</i> <i>Angela Freyermuth</i>	Rock Island District Commander <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeff Zogg</i>	<i>Designee</i>	National Weather Service

3/27/2018

WRCC Public Attendance Sign-In Sheet
(Public comments will be accepted at specified time on agenda)

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Steve Kalkhoff	USGS	No
2	Heidi Waeber	USFWS	No
3	Carol Tomb	IHSEMD	No
4	LINDA KING	CDI	No
5	Jenny Neppel	IDALS	No
6	Jeff Zogg	NWS	No
7	Adam Schmieders	DNR	No
8	Will Myers	IDALS	No
9	Susie Dai	SHL U of Iowa	No
10	Jessica Kinnaman	IAWA	No
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