

Water Resources Coordinating Council

May 30, 2019

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. Sign-in sheets showing members and public attendance are included with these notes.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

IEDA (Geerts): New water/sewer applications received April 1. Awards will be announced in mid-June with new applications due July 1. First CDBG project to be paired with an SRF Sponsored Project was announced in May. Also partnering on a WQI Urban demonstration project in Ottumwa. Community Facilities project deadline is coming in July. Iowa Energy Center is now accepting grant applications.

NRCS (Simon): NRCS is assisting with flood recovery through Emergency Watershed Program. All counties in Iowa are now eligible for EWP assistance. Currently looking at 45 local applications to restore more than 100 sites. NRCS is also accepting CIG applications through July 15 with focus on on-farm trials.

EPA (Tate): EPA is getting ready to release N-SMART program aimed at nutrient reduction projects. Hoping to get clearance in coming weeks. EPA Water Reuse Action Plan is being developed and will be released in September. A draft framework is available online, and comments can be submitted through July 1. HAB Advisory group is up and running, and work on nutrient credit trading is starting to accelerate within Region 7.

ISU Extension (Nowatzke): Iowa Nutrient Research Center grant application cycle closed in April and will announce awards this summer. INRC has also added an Assistant Director who will start in July. A Watershed Academy was held in May, and the Iowa Learning Farms 15th anniversary celebration is scheduled for July.

ISU is starting to collect reports from partners for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy by June 1 and has received some reports. That information will project the bulk of measurement information for the NRS Annual Progress Report. Goal is to release a draft in the Fall with a final report released before the end of the year.

DNR (Schneiders): DNR is actively working on flood emergency response, including monitoring of excess wastewater discharges. BMP mapping project is officially complete and has been quality control inspected. Data can be used to establish conservation practice baseline and will be critical in measuring progress over time. Nutrient Reduction Exchange is now online and will be incorporated into regulatory protocols at DNR. Agency is also establishing rules to deal with emerging contaminants (i.e. manganese, cyanotoxins) after some isolated issues have come up.

IDPH (Schmitz): IDPH is working along with DNR on emerging contaminants, including development of standards for drinking water and recreational impairment thresholds. EPA is considering new standards and the state has weighed in on the methodology for development of those standards.

IIHR (Jones): Iowa Flood Center 10th anniversary will be held on June 13th in Iowa City, with activities throughout the day. National Science Foundation project has kicked off to establish water quality information system for entire upper Mississippi River basin.

IDOT (Nicholson): DOT is active in flood response and recovery. Many roads are underwater for a second time this year in western Iowa. Current information on closures is available on 511ia.org. DOT is hopeful that closures are only days long, not weeks long.

USGS (Nania): USGS crews are deployed to respond to flooding issues. Current flooding issues are different from March issues. Staff is helping to collect data and model flows to predict ongoing flooding magnitude and extent. USGS is also working with HSEMD to survey high water marks throughout the state in order to update the Flood Event Viewer. Staff are also collecting water quality samples to analyze contaminants and ongoing nutrient loads. USGS is conducting research using turbidity as a surrogate to estimate phosphorus loads.

NWS (Zogg): Staff has been heavily focused on flooding and severe weather events, with flooding on most of the state's major rivers. NWS provided an update on short-term temperature and precipitation outlooks, indicating above average temperatures and normal seasonal precipitation chances in next 7-14 days. For the summer months, NWS is projecting normal precipitation and normal to below normal temperatures.

Regular releases of precipitation and temperature outlooks can be accessed at <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.

IDALS: Secretary Naig gave an update on the May Hypoxia Task Force meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA. He discussed state and federal partnerships and common issues and opportunities in state-level nutrient strategies. Naig also discussed recent meetings of the Flood Recovery Task Force, which was convened in April and has been meeting regularly since then. Staff has participated with the Flood Mitigation Board to implement \$15 million in allocated flood recovery funds. Emergency rules are in place for that program and funds will be made available this summer to help leverage federal disaster recovery funds and to assist with unmet needs in 9 Iowa counties.

We have released guidance to our SWCDs on this year's statewide cover crop program. We will use this program in part to support prevent planting of cover crops on flooded ground, and we anticipate a significant percentage of new users in flooded areas to participate in order to address this concern. In recent years we have obligated around \$5 million annually in WQI funds for management practices, and we anticipate obligating a similar amount again in 2019.

IDALS has made awards to eight applicants for WQI Planning and Development funds. The total amount of these awards is just over \$600k and recipients will use funds to identify and prioritize opportunities to rapidly accelerate WQI practices in order to implement SF512 funding. Key practices to be sited will include edge-of-field practices and in-field infrastructure and management practices.

IDALS has also made awards to 11 applicants for WQI Urban Demonstration program funds. The total amount of these awards is just over \$900k and recipients will use funds to leverage more than \$2 million in other public and private investments. Urban conservation projects capture storm water and allow it to be better absorbed into the ground. This reduces the property's contribution to water quality degradation, stream flows and flooding.

Iowa State University/Iowa DOT Stormwater Research Update

Dr. Michael Perez, Iowa State University, gave a presentation on a research initiative he is completing with Iowa DOT to examine effectiveness of stormwater management practices, including flood reduction and water quality impacts. **A copy of the presentation can be accessed on the WRCC website.**

INREC: 2017 Crop Year Statistical Survey of In-Field Practice Adoption Levels

Shawn Richmond, Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council, gave a presentation on updated findings on estimates of cover crop adoption in Iowa. **A copy of the presentation can be accessed on the WRCC website.**

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach

Jeff Geerts, IEDA gave an update on the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. There was a semi-annual partners meeting in Dubuque earlier in May where project progress was discussed with partners and watershed

coordinators participating in the project. The meeting also highlighted Dubuque's housing and infrastructure efforts and included a discussion on WMA issues.

WPAC Update

There is a WPAC meeting scheduled for June 12 in Altoona.

Public Comments

There were no requests for comment.

Adjourn

The next meeting will be held in late August or early September. The Council will be notified via e-mail in advance of the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

May 30, 2019

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>Nate Ristow</i>	Governor <i>Designee</i>	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Bruce Trautman <i>Adam Schneiders</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Susan Kozak <i>Jake Hansen</i>	WRCC 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> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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 Joyce Flinn <i>John Benson</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 Joe Coletti <i>Jamie Benning Laurie Numbke</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 Chris Jones</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Jon Nania <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <i>Steve Kalkhoff</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 Kurt Simon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Marty Adkins</i>	State Conservationist <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 Amanda DeJong	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Grant Menke <i>Kate Sand</i>	Acting State Director <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Jim Gulliford <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Doug Jones Mike Jank</i>	Regional Administrator <i>Designee</i>	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Steven Sattinger <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Diane Karnish</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <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

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

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Cara Morgan	E+W Nish WMA	N
2	Shawn Richmond	INREC	N
3	Megan Schlotz	Senate Exec Staff	N
4	Jim Jordahl	IAWA	N
5	Emma Harper	IAWA	N
6	Greg Wandrey	TNC	N
7	KREG Sindt	IAWA	N
8	Roger Bruner	Iowa DNR	N
9	Michael Jones	ISU	N
10	Robert Fortney	USGS	N
11	Jon Nania	USGS	N
12	Deb Kuzel	LSA	✓
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