

Water Resources Coordinating Council December 20, 2018

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM. Sign-in sheets showing attendance from members and the public are included with these notes.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

NWS (Zogg)- Gave an update on winter outlook. Mild temperatures caused by light El Nino. Some chance of snow over holiday week.

FSA (DeJong)- New Farm Bill is supposed to be signed today. CRP Acres will be stepped up over the life of the new bill to 27 million by the end. Rental rates are also indexed to county averages for general and continuous signups at 85 and 90% respectively. Also some opportunity for re-enrollment of 2016 expiring acres. New program included is Soil Health Investment Protection, aimed at targeted spots with shorter contracts. Also new provisions for haying and grazing. In Iowa, state staff is working to address concerns with lapses in between farm bills in order to make 2018 payments.

DNR (Schneiders)- Department is in transition. A new director has not been named but should be in the very near future. The EPC has received a petition for numeric nutrient criteria to be developed for Iowa's significant public lakes. Staff is reviewing and will assist the EPC with that process. DNR is also working with other state agencies to review the new Waters of the United States rule proposed by EPA

DNR is also helping to finalize an NRCS grant with partners looking at nutrient trading and a potential program in Iowa. DNR will advance a bill to establish an in-lieu fee program for stream and potentially wetland mitigation. There has also been a significant upgrade to the public interface for the ambient monitoring network that is being rolled out.

EPA Region 7 (Tate)- WOTUS National Listening session will be held in Kansas City, KS on January 23rd. EPA and NRCS have also sent a letter to states inviting suggestions on ways to accelerate water quality improvements through changes in regulatory policy. The groups are also looking at a convening in March to discuss issues that are brought up. DNR is continuing to work on the water protection project with EPA for the City of Greenfield. EPA is also working with DNR to recognize point source permittees that are doing good work in nutrient reduction. The ACWA nutrient workgroup is working on standardizing permitting for smaller facilities and may pilot something in Region 7 attempting to balance small scale of systems with permitting needs.

USACE (Howe)- Working on a tour of a dewatered lock in late January-early February. Also continuing to work on Sustainable Rivers initiative to study Des Moines River from Saylorville to the Mississippi River. Literature review is ongoing with goal to find ways to manage reservoirs and facilitate upstream treatment to optimize resource concerns in addition to flood control. Corps is planning to host a meeting in the summer with other similar initiatives. Also looking at mud flats for denitrification and shore bird habitat as a means of improving water quality. Corps is also looking at doing some floodplain restoration/oxbow restoration on floodplain land owned below Saylorville.

DOT (Nicholson)- DOT staff is reviewing new WOTUS rule to see how normal permitting will be implemented. Federal aid swap was implemented this summer to switch federal funds with state funds in order to expedite smaller projects that don't require as many federal permitting steps. DOT is also working on the in-lieu fee program being proposed. DOT is also considering implementation of some two-stage ditches through a research proposal being submitted as a follow-up to the presentation at the last WRCC meeting.

IEDA (Geerts)- Quarterly CDBG water/wastewater awards announced 3 weeks ago. 11 awards were made. 8 watersheds in HUD Iowa Watershed Approach continue to do watershed planning and some have started to prepare construction projects and landowner outreach. IEDA is working with USACE to clarify eligibility of HUD dollars for mitigation. HUD is willing to use their funds for mitigation and a waiver allowing this will be included in the Federal Register. IEDA is also waiting for clarification from FSA on ability to install practice on lands enrolled in CRP. EOR is working in two watershed plans to optimize nutrient reduction using ACPF.

U of Iowa (Weber)- Working on a project in the Iowa Great Lakes to look at flood protection through evaluation of structures in place and through hydrologic assessment. Iowa Flood Center issued a call for requests for flood gauges and received interest from more than 100 respondents.

Weber gave the IWA update as well here- ACPF runs are completed in project watersheds for eligible practices and available in map form. Hydrologic assessment reports are available in 7 of 8 watersheds and the final one will be done in January. First construction bid packets are being finalized in the Middle Cedar. Outreach is ongoing, including community meetings and a meeting with LICA in January. Urban infrastructure projects are in progress and Dubuque's housing program will accelerate in 2019.

ISU (Helmert)- ISU Extension is starting Crop Advantage workshop series in January with 13 field-based meetings. New Dean of CALS (Roberson) will start in January. Working through Iowa Nutrient Research Center to communicate impacts of finished projects. Laurie Nowatzke shared that the 2018 Iowa NRS annual report has been finalized and will be published on the NRS website upon final packaging. Comments were received and responses given during the Fall.

USGS (Kalkhoff) - USGS is doing some exploratory work on cover crops using satellite imagery and some ground truthing of selected fields. If the effort is successful it will be scaled up in future years.

HSEMD (Benson)- Two new Presidential Disasters were declared that included Iowa. June flooding declaration included 30 counties and will bring in about \$32 million. HSEMD estimates \$73 million in avoided losses through prior mitigation projects in these areas.

IDALS (Hansen)- 2018 has been another record year for the statewide management practices program in the Water Quality Initiative. More than \$5 million has been obligated, and there are more than 1,000 first-time users in the program. We have paid about half of the original applicants and have had slippage of about 10% due to weather-related issues delaying harvest or preventing timely planting of cover crops. We are also going to replicate last year's Cover crop-crop insurance program, working with RMA to offer a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount on acres treated with cover crops and receiving no public cost-share incentives.

The application deadline for the WQI Urban Demonstration Grant program was December 7. We received 27 pre-proposals requesting just under \$2.2 million in funding to be leveraged with more

than \$11 million in local and state funding. Staff will review applications this month and invite selected applicants to submit full proposals in January. We anticipate awarding around \$750,000 to selected projects, with an April 1, 2019 start date.

Applications are now being accepted for planning, development, and design of potential watershed and practice-based Water Quality Initiative projects. SWCDs, counties, county conservation boards, cities or other units of government, not-for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGO's) authorized by the secretary of state, public water supply utilities or watershed management authorities are eligible. The deadline to submit proposals is February 15, 2019.

LiDAR Acquisition Working Group

Patrick Wilke-Brown, Iowa Office of Chief Information Officer, gave a presentation to discuss a statewide coordinated effort to update LiDAR coverage for the state. A copy of his presentation is posted on the WRCC website.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy- Updated Baseline Load Assessment

Matt Helmers, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, and Adam Schneiders, Iowa DNR, gave a presentation on the updated Baseline Load Assessment that has now been incorporated into the NRS. A copy of that presentation is posted on the WRCC website.

WPAC Update and Annual Report

Dean Mattoon, WPAC Chair and Iowa League of Cities representative, presented the WPAC Annual Report to the Legislature. That report can be accessed on the WPAC website.

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update

See University of Iowa report above.

Public Comments

Jim Jordahl, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, addressed the Council to mention that the IAWA is seeking nominations for outstanding watershed coordinators and watershed projects. Nominations are due January 9th (extended from December 21st). The awards will be presented at the 2019 Iowa Water Conference.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM. The next two meetings of the WRCC will be held at ISU Extension on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 and Thursday, May 30, 2019 starting at 1:30 PM.

December 20, 2018

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 checked="" 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>	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 checked="" 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>Matt Helmers</i> <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 Kalkhoff</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 Jim Gulliford <i>Doug Jones</i> <i>Mike Tate</i>	Regional Administrator <i>Designee</i>	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Steven Sattinger <i>Diane Karnish</i> <i>Angela Freyer</i> <i>Hugh Howler</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

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

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Deb Kozel	LSA	No
2	Cara Morgan	PH Reed - Wash. WMA	NO
3	Laurie Nowatke	ISU - CALS	No
4	Linda Kinnian	IAWA	No
5	Matt J. Helms	ISU	NO
6	Ben O'Leason	Iowa Corn Growers Assn	No
7	Jim Jordahl	IAWA	Y
8	Allen Burns	IDWR	N
9	Mike Delaney	IWLA	N
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