

Water Resources Coordinating Council
Thursday, June 15, 2017
Iowa State Capitol

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.

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update

Jeff Geerts, IEDA, gave an update on the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. All of the WMAs are now formally organized and IEDA is working on initial environmental assessments. In a best case scenario, some flood reduction practices could be installed in late 2018.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

DNR (Schneiders)- DNR provided an update on NRS point source feasibility studies and permits. Roughly 2/3 of the potential permittees have completed or are developing studies. Additionally, there are 29 new studies anticipated for next year. Additionally some of the initial permittees are starting to implement nutrient treatment measures, including facilities in NE Iowa, Perry, and Columbus Junction. Schneiders also discussed plans to incorporate testing and findings from permittees into reporting for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

NRCS (Simon)- The first round of mitigation bank opportunities through NRCS was announced last month. The Iowa Mitigation Bank will provide an opportunity for farmers and received \$700,000 through the opportunity.

Farmers planted 350,000 acres of cover crops through NRCS programs in 2016, a significant increase over 2015. They are also promoting other management practices and edge-of-field practices.

A palmer amaranth fact sheet was distributed in April for public distribution. Talking points and technical notes have also been developed for field staff to aid in eradication and minimization of spread of the plant. NRCS continues to coordinate with ISU Extension, IDALS, and FSA to identify related issues and continue awareness and outreach.

DOT (Brink)- Mark Lowe has been named as the permanent IDOT director, a role he held in an interim capacity since November.

The Omaha USACE district no longer has funding for review of Section 408 permit applications. This will likely have significant impacts on timeliness of permit reviews, particularly on interstate projects in Sioux City and Council Bluffs.

DOT is making changes to its specification manuals that will likely result in better water quality protection and erosion control practices. Additionally, DOT is working with other agencies under DNR leadership to develop an in-lieu fee stream mitigation program in Iowa.

UNI (Clayton)- Tallgrass Prairie Center is hosting two field days in June focusing on prairie strips and water quality.

HSEMD (Turba)- State Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated and approved by FEMA in 2018, which allows for public assistance and HMGP funds to be provided in Iowa. The plan needs to be approved by September 2018. WMAs are being engaged as well. There is a potential FMA competitive round coming from FEMA focusing on green infrastructure at the national level. 2016 disaster recovery reports from flooding in NE Iowa are forthcoming. Some recommendations will go through Silver Jackets.

ISU Extension (Benning)- New CALS interim VP is John Lawrence- will likely serve for at least a year. Benning will serve in his water quality committees and duties in that interim.

Leopold Center projects that are open have been shifted into the College of Ag and Life Sciences for completion. CALS will also be involved in ramp-up of projects in Iowa Nutrient Research Center. 20 of 47 open Leopold projects will be overseen by INRC.

Partner reports for NRS Annual Report are being aggregated now. The report will be published in July and presented to the WRCC in September.

There will be a series of presentations on nitrogen and water at the 5 ISU research farms on the week of June 26th. Information on dates and locations can be found on the ISU Extension website.

The INRC RFP for new projects closes on June 22. There is \$500,000 available for new proposals.

NWS (Zogg)- NWS will host a stakeholder meeting for hydrologic services on August 10th in eastern Iowa.

Summer outlooks are out. July-September will have above normal temperatures and equal chances for precipitation.

EPA Region 7 (Tate)- EPA is pursuing contractors for support with some source water protection projects in Iowa. Partnership with Iowa DNR on point source nutrient reduction is receiving national attention as well.

FSA (Wegand)- FSA is appreciative in the approach IDALS and NRCS are taking to address palmer amaranth. National CRP acreage cap has been hit, although continuous signups are still being accepted and sensitive practices are being approved. There will be 2.5 million acres coming free in September that will help with the pressure on that cap. Finally, FSA is working to change policy that will allow for saturated buffers in existing CRP buffers.

IDPH (Schmitz)- Working with DNR on beach monitoring at state parks. No elevated microcystin levels detected yet, and no reports of exposures to HABs so far this year. IDPH participated in a water quality workshop to educate its employees as part of the Governor's Public Health conference.

IEDA (Geerts)- Water/sewer CDBG applications are now being accepted on a quarterly cycle. In April seven projects were funded.

USGS (Nania)- USGS continues to operate 18 real-time nitrate sensors. Also, there is a researcher looking for presence of nitropryrin, a nitrification inhibitor, in Iowa waters.

IDALS (Gillespie)- IDALS provided an update on the progress of open Water Quality Initiative projects and signups for statewide management practices.

IDALS has also worked with the Governor's office and DNR to provide comments on a proposed revision to the Waters of the United States rule proposed initially in 2015 by EPA.

IDALS has worked with DNR and the USACE on a new regional permit that will streamline implementation of wetlands without NRCS or FSA as a lead federal agency. The permit should be finalized this summer pending DNR certification.

IDALS staff has attended meetings of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association and the State Interagency Missouri River Authority. UMRBA is in the process of finding a new executive director and is planning a sedimentation study that will kick off this summer with a summit in Dubuque in July. At the SIMRA meeting, it was reported that Missouri River conditions are slightly above normal in the reservoirs but due to below average spring rainfall, flooding downstream is not anticipated.

The next meeting of the Hypoxia Task Force is tentatively set for the week of September 25 in Washington, DC.

Today is the deadline for the IFELA nominations to be submitted. As of noon we had 75 nominations in hand.

2016 Report on Iowa Nonpoint Source Management Plan

Allen Bonini, DNR, gave a progress report presentation on the Iowa nonpoint source management plan. **A copy of that presentation can be found on the WRCC website.**

One Water Roadmap (Roger Wolf, Iowa Soybean Association)

Roger Wolf, Iowa Soybean Association, gave a presentation on the One Water Roadmap initiative and the US Water Alliance, comprised on non-governmental organizations with an interest in water policy issues. The One Water Roadmap plan can be found at www.uswateralliance.org.

WPAC Update

Ann Robinson, WPAC Vice Chair, reported that the WPAC met on April 4. The Chair and Vice-Chair were retained for 2017 and the committee will meet again later in the year.

Public Comments

There were no requests for public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 PM. The next meeting will be held on September 21st in the afternoon, location to be determined.

6/15/2017

	WRCC Representative	Position	Organization
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Bill Northey	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kim Reynolds Kayla Lyon	Governor Designee	Governor's Office Governor's Office
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Chuck Gipp Bruce Trautman Bill Emm Adam Schneiders	Director Designee Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Jim Gillespie Jake Hansen Matt Leckebusch	Director Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Gerd Clabaugh Kenneth Sharp Stu Schmitz	Director Designee Designee	IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Mark Schouten Jessica Terba John Benson	Administrator Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 Wendy Wintersteen John Lawrence Jan R Benning	Dean Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Susan Curry David Osterberg	Dean Designee	College of Public Health, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Iowa
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 John Fritsch Maureen Clayton	Dean Designee	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Mark Lowe Tamara Nicholson Ken Brink	Director Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 Debi Durham Jeff Geerts	Director Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Dave Jamison Lori Beary	Executive Director Designee	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Alec Scranton Larry Weber	Dean Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Kelly Warner Jan Nunn	Acting Director	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 Kurt Simon Marty Adkins	State Conservationist Designee	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 Bob Wegand (Acting)	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Vacant Kate Sand	State Director Designee	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 Vacant Mike Tate Damon Frizzell	Regional Administrator Designee	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Craig Baumgartner Diane Karnish Angela Freyermuth	Rock Island District Commander Designee Designee	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"/> Jeff Zoegg		NWS

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

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Bob Wegand	Farm Service Agency - USAID	
2	Deb Riel	LCA	
3	Allen Boring	ONR	
4	Steve Feldt	ELPC	
5	Jeff Geerts	IEDA	
6	Sam Schmitt	IDRI	
7	Jess Turk	HSSMD	
8	Mike Delaney	IWLA	
9	Kristin Aschenbrenner	TNC	
10	Dave DeGoes	TNC	
11	Molly Hanson	IRR	
12	Jeff Zogg	NAA/MWS	
13	Ann Robinson	IEC	
14	Robert Wolf	FA Soybean Association	
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