

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. A sign-in sheet showing members and guests in attendance is attached to these notes.

WPAC Update

Dean Mattoon, Iowa League of Cities designee to WPAC, is the new chair of the Committee for 2018. He provided an update on the June 26 WPAC meeting and discussed plans for the WPAC for the rest of this year.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

FSA (Goettsch)- The CRP program is active again with a continuous signup, limited to water quality practices. There is also a one-year extension available for current enrollees who are not against the 15 year program limitation.

ISU (Benning)- The Iowa Nutrient Research Center met recently to review proposals for new research initiatives. 40 proposals were received and 15 were recommended for funding, relating to cover crops, water quality/soil health, farmer decision making, monitoring and evaluation. An announcement of awardees will be released in July.

The 5th Watershed Academy was held in late May at the Nashua research farm, with emphasis on edge-of-field practices. About 40 project coordinators were in attendance. The next Academy will be held in late October in southwest Iowa.

ISU also completed a series of outreach materials on practices for the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. Those materials are available on the online extension store.

IIHR (Weber)- Iowa Flood Center is very busy due to the extent of flooding in the state. 50 of the state's 400 flood gauges show some degree of flooding presently. Forecasts of more rain in the next few days could increase the number of flood incidents.

IDPH(Schmitz)- The Department is collecting information on health impacts due to water quality issues at public beaches and lakes. So far the number of reported issues is low for the year.

Iowa DNR (Schnieders)- DNR is working to coordinate with EPA in response to the train derailment in Lyon County which spilled 230,000 gallons of oil. The spread of the oil was about 5 miles and as of today (4 days out) about 100,000 gallons are contained. The cleanup is ongoing.

DNR is also working with Creston water treatment plant to rectify the issue that resulted in boil orders in parts of 9 counties in late May and early June.

DNR hosted a five-year review of the point source stakeholders involved in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Anna Wildman has been appointed by EPA as an assistant deputy administrator for water and will work with the Hypoxia Task Force.

Iowa DOT (Nicholson)- DOT is also working on the derailment of the train in Lyon County, which released oil into Little Rock Creek and eventually into the Rock River due to floodwaters that accelerated the disbursement of spilled oil.

DOT hosted the Upper Mississippi River Inland Waterways Summit in early June. The Summit looked at scenarios for a pilot program, partnerships, and funding options for improved river navigation. DOT will continue to work with USACE on this program.

DOT is constructing a bridge near Sabula near the Mississippi River backwater. Due to construction difficulties the project is delayed and the road will now be closed until at least Labor Day. In order to reduce the delay caused by the necessary detour (50 minutes) the DOT is working with a ferry company for the summer to transport cars across 12 hours a day. So far the company reports heavy usage of the ferry.

IEDA (Selinger)- Iowa Energy Center is looking at alternative methods of water/wastewater treatment that result in energy savings. The Center will have some grant and low-interest loan funding available. IEDA will also be releasing a state Biomass Conversion Plan.

IEDA has been involved in the Conservation Infrastructure working group charged with engaging key partners in scaling up water quality efforts in a coordinated manner.

USGS(Kalkhoff)- USGS echoed statements from IHR regarding flooding. There are currently 10 USGS gauges at record levels, and both border rivers are approaching flood stage.

Of the USGS nitrate sensors, all of them north of Interstate 80 are above 10mg/l and all south are below 10 mg/l. USGS is looking at nitrogen transport trends over the last decade, and will have a report in the next few weeks.

Iowa HSEMD (Turba)- HSEMD is working with other agencies on damage assessments and is currently looking at assessing 20 counties to potentially request disaster declarations.

USACE (Freyermuth)- USACE is looking at water levels and may activate Crisis management team if flooding conditions worsen. USACE also participated in the Cedar Rapids 10-year anniversary for the 2008 floods. Meetings on the Water Control plans for Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs will be held this summer as well.

NRCS (McCall)- NRCS is working to wrap up the CSP program and to finalize the current year's EQIP allocation. McCall mentioned availability of Emergency Watershed Program funding in certain situations. McCall also reported that Kurt Simon will be returning to Iowa on July 13 and will return to duty on July 30.

IDALS (Hansen)- IDALS has initiated sign-ups for the statewide cover crops and management practices program in the Water Quality Initiative a couple weeks earlier than in past years, and so far we have nearly \$2 million in interest for the program. In 2017 we obligated more than \$3.8 million for these efforts and we expect similar numbers in 2018.

IDALS is one of a handful of state agencies that will have a significant role in implementing SF512, which is the new long-term water quality funding bill. For FY2019, the funding received will be used to install several wetlands and edge-of-field practices, and will also be used to transition selected watershed demonstration projects to implementation projects on a larger geographic scale within their priority HUC-8 watershed. We are also working with DNR and the Iowa Finance Authority to establish rules and coordinate administration of the urban infrastructure and other water quality financial assistance programs established.

In late May, IDALS received an award of \$1 million from the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Farmer to Farmer program for a project that will be titled "Transforming Drainage". The focus of the project will be to further optimize edge-of-field practices and technologies, including bioreactors, saturated buffers, wetlands, and drainage water management/recycling systems. A portion of the funding will be utilized by Iowa State University to monitor

these practices and better assess their nutrient reduction performance, and another portion will be used by IDALS to hire and Edge-of-Field Coordinator who will work statewide to continue our advancement of these types of practices. The initial project will run for three years.

Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Report (Kirsten Wallace, UMRBA)

Kirsten Wallace, Executive Director of UMRBA gave an overview of the organization and discussed current initiatives and priorities. IDALS, DNR, IEDA, and Iowa DOT have representatives on the UMRBA board. Wallace highlighted the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program for the Upper Mississippi Basin and efforts to fund and implement the program, which is more difficult without the ability to earmark funds. The agency's five-year strategic plan was also highlighted, including key initiatives where the Association is partnering with various state agencies.

UMRBA has also submitted a proposal for Section 729 funding through USACE to evaluate ways to keep the river channel open for navigation through maintenance activities. If funded the study would provide an update of current plans that are growing obsolete.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy Annual Report

Laurie Nowatzke, Iowa State University Extension Measures Coordinator, gave a presentation on the status of the NRS Annual Report, including a discussion of gaps in reporting that will need to be filled in order to publish the final version of this year's update. [A copy of that presentation can be accessed on the WRCC website](#), and the Annual Report will be published on the ISU Nutrient Reduction Strategy website in July.

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update

Larry Weber, IIHR, gave an update on the progress of the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach project. Four of the 8 watershed projects have held landowner meetings to gauge interest and take applications for construction signups. Hydrologic assessments will be out for the watersheds in July and August and there has been outreach in advance of those releases. Environmental reviews are ongoing and contractor meetings have been held in some projects.

The partners have met and are submitting an amendment request to HUD to go from 75/25 cost share on practices to 90/10 Federal/non-federal. That amendment will go through a public comment period and should be processed this summer.

Public Comments

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM. The next meeting will be held in September unless flooding conditions and discussion with members necessitates an earlier meeting.

6/26/2018

	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 Kayla Lyon	Governor Designee	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Chuck Gipp Bruce Trautman 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 Susan Kozak Jake Hansen	Acting Director Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<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 Joyce Flinn John Benson Jessica Turba	Acting Director Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7 Joe Coletti Jamie Benning	Acting Dean Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<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 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	Director Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham Jeff Goerts Bina Schlinger	Director Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Carolann Jensen Lori Beary	Acting Executive Director Designee	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
<input checked="" 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 Jon Nania Steve Kalkho	Acting Director	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 Kurt Simon Marty Adkins Kevin McCall Curt Gaultich	State Conservationist Designee	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 Tim Helmbrecht Kate Sand	Acting State Director Designee	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Jim Gulliford Mike Tate	Regional Administrator Designee	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Steven Sattinger 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 type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Zogg	Designee	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	Heidi Wheeler	USFWS	N
2	Laurie Nowatzke	ISU	N
3	Laura Sarcone	DMWW	N
4	Tom Shipley	State Senate	X
5	Cara Longen	E+W Nish PC / Golden Hills	N
6	Allen Bonini	DNR	
7	Jessica Turle	HSSWD	
8	Curt Goettsch	ESA	
9	Tyler Bettin	IRPA	N
10	Jenny Neppel	IDALS	N
11	Robina Fortney	IKR	N
12	Jamie Bay	ISUEX	
13	Linda Finman	IAWA	No
14	Andy Lane	IEC	
15	Dean Madson	City of Dubuque / L.O.C.	N
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