

# Water Resources Coordinating Council

## Wednesday, September 28, 2016

### Meeting Notes

#### **Welcome & Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM. Sign-in sheets showing members and public in attendance are attached.

#### **WRCC Member Agency Updates**

Iowa DNR (Schneiders): 92 of 150 point source NRS permits have been issued. Additional update forthcoming.

ISU Extension (Lawrence): Discussing options for advice to farmers on placement of manure on saturated ground. Matt Helmers has been appointed to the SAB.

Governor's Office (Vande Hoef): The Governor and the Lt. Governor have attended 41 water quality-related events in the last two months. Lots of conversations about long-term water quality funding in advance of the 2017 legislative session. Also closely engaged in eastern Iowa with ongoing flooding.

Iowa DOT (Nicholson): Introduced herself as the director of the Office of Location and Environment and new designee to the WRCC. Working on stormwater construction software to aid in stormwater construction projects. Also transitioning from floating silt curtains to temporary rock berms during construction. Hope to have the policy in place by early 2017.

U of I College of Public Health (Osterberg): No update.

IEDA (Geerts): CDBG application workshop yesterday. Funding for water/wastewater programs, now being accepted quarterly. Also taking green infrastructure applications on an open cycle, starting in 2017. Took some city of Des Moines staff to look at IEDA-funded projects in other communities. HUD staff visited last week and toured disaster recovery projects in Davis County. Working with IDALS and Iowa DNR to map green infrastructure on a public website.

NWS (Fowle): Dealing with flood event. Most rivers have crested upstream of Cedar Rapids. Crests were second highest in history, only behind 2008. NWS is working with the River Forecast Center on the Nutrient Runoff project. Climate outlook for fall/winter.

IDALS (Hansen): WQI Watershed Demonstration projects- finalizing extensions with first 8 projects. Also anticipate an Urban Demonstration Request for Applications in the coming weeks. Flooding and rainfall are starting to impact harvest, fall conservation construction, and application of cover crops in state and federal programs.

Hansen also pointed out that the next WRCC meeting will likely be heavily focused on outcomes of fall flooding and recovery efforts that may be underway.

FSA (Whitaker): Did a soft suspension of new CRP contracts on September 16. Must be down to 24 million acres nationally on October 1. Waiting for final approval from National office to approve installation of bioreactors and saturated buffers in CRP ground.

NRCS (Adkins): Looking at flood impacts to see if Emergency Watershed Protection funding may be necessary. Updates have been made to the Conservation Stewardship Program to increase transparency on selection methodology. EQIP obligations are wrapping up for FFY2016; next batching date will be October 22. NRCS was able to fund some Conservation Collaboration Grants to increase technical assistance in the state.

UNI (Clayton): Received money from Carver Charitable Trust for Science in Action. Doing some work with students beyond just science majors. Hoping to expand knowledge to more students/citizens.

EPA (Fluornoy): On September 22 John Beauvais issued a memo reaffirming the Stoner memo from 2011, also releasing money to states to further nutrient reduction efforts through a national selection process.

Also, the Fall 2016 Hypoxia Task Force meeting will be held on December 5-7 in New Orleans and will be hosted by EPA.

### **Environmental Working Group Buffer Report**

David Osterberg introduced Brett Lorenzen with the Environmental Working Group to present their findings from recent studies on buffer programs and conservation initiatives. The focus of the report was on landscape analysis of conservation work in order to account for losses in addition to gains. A copy of the presentation is included on the WRCC website.

Question on efforts to compile a conservation database. A database will be released in two weeks by EWG that shows EQIP, CSP, and CRP contracts. Question on the scale of the data in the database. The data will be available at the county scale.

Question on how flow lines for grassed waterways were determined. DNR LiDAR imagery with allowance for headwaters was used.

### **Stream Water-Quality Monitoring Conducted in Support of the Iowa NRS**

Adam Schneiders, Iowa DNR, updated the council on work being done by the WRCC Measures Subcommittee to inventory stream water quality monitoring in Iowa. This presentation is located on the Iowa NRS website hosted by Iowa State University.

Question on how the 20% projection of progress was calculated- modeling or monitoring? Answer is that it is a model based on in-stream monitoring, so both. Concerns from citizen about using sediment as a phosphorus surrogate since it doesn't account for dissolved P.

Comment that IDPH is working on a parallel study and should be included in ongoing work.

### **USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Update**

Marty Adkins, NRCS, gave a presentation on the status of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program in Iowa over the 2+ years since it was started, including the overall program and funded projects in Iowa.

### **HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update**

Allen Bonini, Iowa DNR, provided an update on the HUD Iowa Watershed project. Word was received from IEDA that they are targeting October 7 as the date to get contracts in place for the project.

So far, Iowa DNR staff and other partners have met with local groups who have formed or are forming Watershed Management Authorities. Of the eight watershed project areas, five have WMAs in place and three others are being formed.

Finally, the project will be featured in a plenary session in the 2017 Iowa Water Conference.

### **WPAC Update**

Ann Robinson, WPAC Vice-Chair, gave an update on WPAC activities. The WPAC is scheduled to meet on October 24<sup>th</sup> in West Des Moines.

### **Public Comments**

There were no requests from the public for general comment.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM. The next meeting will be held in late November unless flood recovery issues merit an earlier meeting.

September 28, 2016 ~~September 28, 2016~~

WRCC Representative	Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Bill Northey	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Terry Branstad <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Vande Hoef	Governor Designee	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Chuck Gipp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Trautman & Allen Bonin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Henn Adam Schneiders	Director Designee Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Jim Gillespie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jake Hansen	Director Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Gerd Clabaugh <input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Sharp <input type="checkbox"/> Stu Schmitz	Director Designee Designee	IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mark Schouten <input type="checkbox"/> John Benson	Administrator Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Wendy Wintersteen <input type="checkbox"/> John Lawrence	Dean Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Susan Curry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Osterberg	Dean Designee	College of Public Health, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 John Fritsch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maureen Clayton	Dean Designee	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Paul Trombino III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tamara Nicholson	Director Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Debi Durham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Geerts	Director Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Dave Jamison <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Beary	Executive Director Designee	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 Alec Scranton <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Weber	Dean Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Kevin Richards Steve Kelkhoff	Director	USGS, Iowa Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Kurt Simon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marty Adkins	State Conservationist Designee	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 John Whitaker	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Services Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Bill Menner <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Sand	State Director Designee	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 Mark Hague <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Flournoy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damon Frizzell M. Lee Tate	Regional Administrator Designee Designee	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Craig Baumgartner <input type="checkbox"/> Diane Karnish <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Mike Powell

NWS

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

	Name	Affiliation	Have Comments (Y/N)
1	Heidi Woerber	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv	N
2	Alfred Bonini	IA ONR	N
3	Steve Kalkhoff	USGS	
4	Ben Gleason	Iowa Corn	N
5	J Phillips	Barbra Lewis	N
6	Ann Y Robinson	Iowa Environmental Council	N
7	Julio VandetHoef	IGOV	No formal
8	Robin Fortney	IRR	N
9	Jenida Speman	AWA	N
10	<del>Steve</del>	ELPC	N
11	Don Kozel	LSP	N
12			
13	SARA Coward	IOWA POLICE PROJECT	
14	Carlyle Kalina	Brock Lemar Eng.	N
15	BILL FREELAND	HOUSE D CAUCUS STAFF	N
16	John Jarhead	IODA	N
17	Laurie <del>Nowatzke</del> NOWATZKE	ISU	N
18	Mike Delano	IWLTA	N
19	JENNIFER TERRY	DMUW	N
20	Faren Floumey	EPA	N.
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			