

# Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

9:30-11:30 AM

## Meeting Notes

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM. Copies of the sign-in sheets showing Council and public attendance are attached to these notes.

### **WRCC Member Agency Updates**

Geerts (IEDA)- Discussed progress on Iowa Watershed Approach. Also demonstrated Iowa Green Infrastructure mapping initiative. The web address for the site is

<http://iowa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=87894b03116f479ea0c6b178338a220f>

DNR (Schneiders)- Over 100 permits now issued with NRS provisions. Several cities are now moving to facility modifications in order to meet permits and others are completing their feasibility studies.

Iowa is working with other states in Association of Clean Water Agencies to develop standards for swimming/beach advisories. The criteria will be published in the Federal Register and DNR will coordinate an interagency review of the proposed standards.

Oswald (HSEMD)- Working in eastern Iowa on flood recovery. 16 counties received disaster declarations to varying extents. Efforts since 2008 have been successful in significantly limiting further damage. There are both a Flood Risk Management and a Housing Recovery Task Force that are meeting and will continue to do so over the next several months.

Lawrence (ISU)- Crop Advantage winter meetings underway. Soil Health Conference scheduled in February. N Week is coming up- outreach and education on nitrogen, likely in June. Edge of field design workshop was held in Ft. Dodge. The class was full at 40 attendees with 12 on a waiting list. The class will be offered again, date TBD and at different locations.

Beary (SRF)- Bond issue for SRF completed in October. Funds from EPA continue to come. Sponsored projects approved in September. 9 new projects, 55 total.

Osterberg (U of I College of Public Health)- No report. Discussed Iowa Public Policy Project report.

Hansen (IDALS)- Reported on Water Quality Urban Demonstration applications. There are 34 applicants requesting \$3.4 million and providing nearly \$10 million in leverage. We will review applications next week and invite some for full applications. We anticipate having about \$800K available and hope to start new projects on April 1.

IDALS also has a new report on the Iowa Financial Incentives Program forthcoming. That report along with the WQI Legislative Report will be shared at the next meeting.

The Fall 2016 Meeting of the Hypoxia Task Force was held December 5-7 in New Orleans. Themes of the meeting were transition, opportunities for increased leadership from the states, compiling and coordinating measurement efforts, and partnerships with the land grant universities and key private and non-profit partners. As co-chair Ellen Gilinsky is an appointed official, EPA announced that Benita Best-Wong (EPA OWOW) will serve as the new task force co-chair with Secretary Northey.

IDALS leadership is working with other members of the Council to find additional ways to scale up implementation of NRS practices. In October, EPA and USACE leaders came to Iowa and toured wetland sites in northwest Iowa. A good discussion on collaboration and regulatory issues was held and we are working with those partners to develop another regional permit for wetland development in the state.

IDALS and IDOT staff have also met to discuss opportunities around incorporating water quality improvements with DOT-identified wetland mitigation. We will continue to meet with DOT on this effort.

Gillespie reported that a full standard is now in place for bioreactors and saturated buffers.

Richards (USGS)- Richards is now the USGS director in Iowa and Illinois. Looking at things one state is doing that can be replicated in the other. This includes measuring N and P at stream gages, not just N. Opportunity to get real-time P measurements. Also monitoring urban practices in IL and could do that in Iowa. Presented information on HABs to Congressional staff. Continuing to monitor flooding and recovery in eastern Iowa. Doing a flood inundation model on the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama County.

Whitaker (FSA)- Sec. Vilsack announced the CLEAR initiative in Iowa earlier this month, which will allow for enhancements to existing practices by installing saturated buffers and/or wetlands. Qualified participants can receive up to 90% C/S on these practices. Hoping to start these projects in January or when weather will allow. Vilsack also announced more SAFE acres and wetland acres in Iowa for three separate projects.

Nicholson (IDOT)- Mentioned partnership with IDALS on wetland mitigation potential. DOT is participating in a National Landscape Design initiative with other states. The project will include a domestic scan of roadside water management and will allow staff to see what is happening in other states. Lawrence (ISU) mentioned INRC project reviewing nutrient removal capacity of road ditches.

Freyermuth (USACE)- Introduced Jason Smith for update. Working on Flood Risk Management group now to assist Cedar Rapids and other communities in recovery efforts. Also working to complete several flood control structures throughout the state. Working on reservoir management plan updates for Saylorville and Coralville. Doing flood modeling in various locations in Iowa as well.

Weber (IIHR)- Held a public event on statewide floodplain mapping project recently. Components are to digitize and map 100 and 500 year flood boundaries statewide and to work with FEMA to use those maps to update FIRMs. Maps are available through Iowa Flood Center and IIHR websites. Also completing hydrologic assessments through CDBG funding.

Schmitz (IDPH)- Would like to present in February on HABs and historical/recent trends. Less health impacts reported this year but Schmitz reported that many instances are not reported when they occur.

### **Lyons Creek Watershed Social Assessment**

Mary Losch, University of Northern Iowa, gave a presentation on a subwatershed in Hamilton County where the DNR started a 319 watershed project but scrapped the effort due to lack of farmer participation. UNI was able to do focus groups and interviews with operators to figure out why they couldn't get participation. A copy of the presentation is available on the WRCC website and the report will be shared with the Council when it is completed.

### **DNR Update on River Restoration BMP Toolbox**

Tim Hall, Iowa DNR, updated the Council on three distinct efforts. First, the Iowa Stream Mitigation Method is under development which will quantify stream mitigation impacts and requirements. The proposed method is out for public comment through the USACE through the end of May 2017.

Second, a recent kickoff meeting they have recently led to develop this project. There is an interagency team (including IDALS- Wayne Petersen, NRCS, DOT, and others working with a contractor to develop a set of river restoration resources (technical and otherwise).

Finally, DNR is working to develop an in-lieu fee system as a means of compensating for stream losses/mitigation. Currently there is not a stream mitigation bank in Iowa and the purpose is to see if one is feasible.

There is a presentation on these efforts available on the WRCC website.

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

Larry Weber, IIHR reported on the progress of the Iowa Watershed Approach. All partners are now under contract, and the WMAs are in varying organizational/planning stages, with several in the process of hiring coordinators. Weber also displayed the project website which is currently on the IIHR website but should move to an independent site. There will be a WMA Advisory Board meeting in Iowa City on January 26, 2017.

### **WPAC Update**

Catherine DeLong, CDI, and Ann Robinson, IEC, gave an update on the Watershed Planning Advisory Council. The WPAC met in West Des Moines in October and held a facilitated meeting. The WPAC is also finalizing its 2016 report to the Legislature and will present it at the next WRCC meeting.

### **Public Comments**

State Senator Tom Shipley (District 11) addressed the Council. Appreciated the opportunity to hear from all of the agencies. Would like to discuss the Iowa Policy Project report with Dr. Osterberg. Mentioned farming background and interest in conservation. Also discussed concerns with federal programs and where they may be headed.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

# **Water Resources Coordinating Council**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2016  
9:30-11:30 AM**

**Polk County Extension Office  
1625 Adventureland Drive, Altoona, IA 50009**

WRCC Website: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/WRCC.asp>

## **AGENDA**

**9:30 - Welcome & Call to Order**

**9:35 - WRCC Member Agency Updates (All)**

**10:20 – Lyons Creek Watershed Social Assessment (Steve Hopkins, Iowa DNR; Mary Losch, University of Northern Iowa)**

**10:45 – DNR Update on River Restoration BMP Toolbox (Tim Hall, Iowa DNR)**

**11:00 – HUD Iowa Watershed Approach Update (Larry Weber, IIHR)**

**11:10 - WPAC Update**

**11:20 - Public Comments (Please contain comment length to 3 minutes per person)**

**11:30 - Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: February 2017; Location TBD.**

12/20/2016

| 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 <i>No</i><br><i>Vacant</i>   | Governor<br><i>Designee</i>  | Governor's Office<br>Governor's Office  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Chuck Gipp<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Bruce Trautman</del> <i>Alan Schneider</i><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Bill Ehm</del> <i>Tim Hall</i>      | Director<br><i>Designee</i><br><i>Designee</i>                       | Iowa Department of Natural Resources<br>Iowa Department of Natural Resources<br>Iowa Department of Natural Resources                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Jim Gillespie<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Jake Hansen</del>   | Director<br><i>Designee</i>  | IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation<br>IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Gerd Clabaugh<br><input type="checkbox"/> <del>Kenneth Sharp</del><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Stu Schmitz</del>  | Director<br><i>Designee</i><br><i>Designee</i>                       | IA Department of Public Health<br>IA Department of Public Health<br>IA Department of Public Health  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mark Schouten<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>John Benson</del> <i>Tom Oswald</i>   | Administrator<br><i>Designee</i>                                     | Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management<br>Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Wendy Wintersteen<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>John Lawrence</del>   | Dean<br><i>Designee</i>  | College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU<br>College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Susan Curry<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>David Osterberg</del>   | Dean<br><i>Designee</i>  | College of Public Health, University of Iowa<br>College of Public Health, University of Iowa  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 John Fritsch <i>No</i><br><i>Maureen Clayton</i>  | Dean<br><i>Designee</i>  | College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI<br>College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Mark Lowe<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Tamara Nicholson</del>   | Director<br><i>Designee</i>  | Iowa Department of Transportation<br>Iowa Department of Transportation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Debi Durham<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Jeff Geerts</del>  | Director<br><i>Designee</i>  | Iowa Economic Development Authority<br>Iowa Economic Development Authority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Dave Jamison<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Lori Beary</del>  | Executive Director<br><i>Designee</i>                                | Iowa Finance Authority<br>Iowa Finance Authority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Alec Scranton<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Larry Weber</del>  | Dean<br><i>Designee</i>  | College of Engineering, University of Iowa<br>College of Engineering, University of Iowa  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 Kevin Richards  | Director   | USGS, Iowa Water Science Center   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Kurt Simon <i>No</i><br><i>Marty Adkins</i>  | State Conservationist<br><i>Designee</i>                             | USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service<br>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 <i>No</i><br><i>Kate Sand</i>  | State Director<br><i>Designee</i>                                    | USDA, Rural Development<br>USDA, Rural Development  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Mark Hague <i>No</i><br><i>Karen Flournoy</i><br><i>Damon Frizzell</i>   | Regional Administrator<br><i>Designee</i><br><i>Designee</i>         | EPA-Region 7<br>EPA-Region 7<br>EPA-Region 7  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Colonel Craig Baumgartner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Diane Karnish</del> <i>Jason Smith</i><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Angela Freyermuth</del> | Rock Island District Commander<br><i>Designee</i><br><i>Designee</i> | US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District<br>US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District<br>US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District |

12/20/2016

**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     | USFWS                    | N                                   |
| 2  | Ellen Knealmer    | USFWS                    | N                                   |
| 3  | Tim Hall          | Iowa DNR                 | N                                   |
| 4  | Tom Shipke        | Ja Luke                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5  | Jason Smith       | USACE                    | N                                   |
| 6  | Sim Gillespie     | IDAIS                    | N                                   |
| 7  | Carly RW Kalina   | Barker Lenné Engineering | N                                   |
| 8  | Sandra Korman     | IPLWA                    | N                                   |
| 9  | Jim Gledhill      | TNC                      | N                                   |
| 10 | Mike Delaney      | IWLA                     |                                     |
| 11 | Jake Swanson      | IDAIS                    | N                                   |
| 12 | Bill Robinson     | Iowa Farm Bureau         | N                                   |
| 13 | Joe Bo/Boom       | Iowa Flood Center        | N                                   |
| 14 | Allen Boomer      | OWR                      | N                                   |
| 15 | Jeff Phillips     | Barker Lenné             | N                                   |
| 16 | Steve Falck       | EWPC                     | N                                   |
| 17 | Deb Kozel         | ISA                      | N                                   |
| 18 | Jace Mikals       | Senate Dem Staff         | N                                   |
| 19 | Robin Fortney     | Iowa Rivers Revival      | N                                   |
| 20 | Mary Losch        | UNI                      | N                                   |
| 21 | M. Todd Avery     | UNI                      | N                                   |
| 22 | Andrew Stephenson | UNI                      | N                                   |
| 23 | Jennifer Terry    | DMWW                     | N                                   |
| 24 | Jeff Jensen       | Trees Forever            | N                                   |
| 25 | Steve Hopkins     | DNR                      | N                                   |
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