

# Water Resources Coordinating Council

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

## Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### Meeting Notes

#### **Call to Order and Virtual Meeting Logistics**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM. Virtual meeting logistics were discussed. A total of 19 members and guests were in attendance.

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

**FSA (Goettsch)**- FSA provided a written update, which is attached to the meeting notes.

**UNI (Clayton)**- Busy with field days and outreach. Tallgrass Prairie Center is doing Botany for Beginners this summer. 2020 and 2021 sessions are available online and 2022 will be conducted online as well with a field day that will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup> in Benton County.  
<https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org/about-botany-beginners>

**USGS (Nania)**- Recent rains have improved streamflow conditions which are helping with drought conditions, although we are still a bit dry. Current and forthcoming projects and publications include project with Johnson County and some PFAS-related studies.

**DNR (Schnieders)**- Roger Bruner, WRCC contributor and water monitoring section leader, passed away on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee acknowledged his contributions over the years including at the most recent meeting. DNR is working with IFA to implement BIL funding through State Revolving Fund program. Possible presentation for September.

**ISU/INRC (Helmers)**- ISU and INRC have flow at drainage sites and are busy collecting research samples and have deployed outreach trailers for the season. Iowa Learning Farms and ISU research farms have a full slate of summer field days as well. INRC is in the process of reviewing proposals- there are 28 to review with nearly \$4 million in requests. Funding decisions will be made in early July. ISU is also a host for the International Drainage Symposium in Des Moines at the end of July.

**IDALS (Kozak)**- See attachment to meeting notes.

**HSEMD (Marwedel)**- Working to finalize Iowa Watershed Approach. Draft flood reduction report is being prepared now. More information will be presented at September meeting. Working to index ability for communities to use watershed approach for flood reductions. State Hazard Mitigation plan expires in September 2023, a plan update is underway and member agencies will be engaged for assistance over the next several months.

#### **Nonpoint Source Management Plan Annual Progress Report (Steve Hopkins, Iowa DNR)**

Steve Hopkins, Iowa DNR, gave a presentation on the Iowa Nonpoint Source Management Plan Annual report.

**HUD Iowa Watershed Approach**

A project representative was unable to attend the meeting. Hansen reported that there will be a final report at the next meeting. Project tours in three watersheds are scheduled for mid-June.

**Public Comments**

There were no requests by the public for comment.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM. The next meeting will be held in early September in a hybrid format with an in-person option at the Wallace Building.

## [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Report \(Iowa\) June 7, 2022](#)

### Program Year 2022

Iowa has the Nation's largest CRP program in terms of contracts with 104,421 contracts, with the fifth largest number of acres under contract at 1,693,861. CRP contracts in Iowa are relatively small with an average of just 16.2 acres per contract.

In 2021 Iowa FSA assisted Iowans in enrolling 123,827 acres into CRP on 9,092 contracts. (a 13.6 acre per contract average). Iowa NRCS and partners assisted with the technical planning and wrote conservation plans for all 9092 contracts. On September 30, 2021, 89,465 acres expired from CRP on Iowa farms. Meaning Iowa saw a net gain of 34,362 acres in 2021.

So far in 2022, FSA has accepted 548 offers on 12669 acres under its [General CRP sign-up 58](#). We are awaiting results from our [Grassland CRP](#) sign up that closed May 13, 2022. Continuous CRP sign-up 57 is ongoing and we will have more info on that at the December meeting. Under [continuous CRP signup](#), environmentally sensitive land devoted to conservation practices, that treat a specific resource concern, can be enrolled in CRP. Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.

[CLEAR30](#) is a 30-year initiative of CRP that prioritizes eligible water quality practices such as riparian buffers, grass filter strips, contour strips, grass waterways or wetland restoration may be eligible if their contracts are expiring by September 30, 2022.

CLEAR30 contracts will be effective beginning Oct. 1, 2022. These long-term contracts ensure that conservation practices remain in place for 30 years, which improves water quality through reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and helping prevent algal blooms. CLEAR30 was established in the 2018 Farm Bill to better address water quality concerns. Originally, CLEAR30 was only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds; in 2021, FSA made CLEAR30 available to agricultural producers and landowners nationwide.

*Public Source:* <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/reports-and-statistics/conservation-reserve-program-statistics/index>

# IDALS WRCC Update

## ❖ Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

## ❖ Water Quality Initiative

- ❖ Cover Crop Programs: 2022 Statewide Cover Crop Signups Start July 1
- ❖ Crop Insurance Discount Program Also Available

## ❖ Urban Conservation

- ❖ 17 New Projects Awarded in April; 94 total projects in program
- ❖ \$2 million in WQI funds leveraging nearly \$3 million in other funds



# IDALS WRCC Update

## ❖ Edge of Field Batch and Build Projects

- ❖ 80 practices planned in Central Iowa Phase II
  - ❖ Expansion to Boone and Dallas counties
- ❖ Cedar River Clean Water Partnership: >150 outlets evaluated
- ❖ North Raccoon; >90 outlets evaluated
- ❖ City of Ames: 25 outlets evaluated



# IDALS WRCC Update

## ❖ Wetland Projects

- ❖ 6 Projects Completed in FY2022; 9 More Sites Under Construction
- ❖ 44 Sites Under Design/Permitting
- ❖ 19 Sites Ready for Engineering
- ❖ 27 Technically Viable Sites for Landowner Outreach
  - ❖ 12 Site Inquiries Pending Suitability Assessment



# QUESTIONS?

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