

Water Resources Coordinating Council

March 10, 2022

Meeting Notes

Call to Order and Virtual Meeting Logistics

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. There were a total of 23 participants on the call. Virtual meeting logistics were reviewed.

WRCC Member Agency Updates (All)

IEDA (Geerts)- New round of Water/Sewer applications are due in April through CDBG. Iowa Watershed Approach projects are wrapping up with 750-800 practices due to be completed by June 30. Housing projects funded through disaster recovery projects are wrapping up and new housing projects will have infiltration practices included.

DOT- (Beavers)- Still working on mussel relocation associated with I-74 bridge replacement project on Mississippi River. Looking at old mitigation sites to evaluate performance and permit compliance. Some remediation needed but overall sites are performing well.

ISU Extension (Helmert)- Actively planning for spring and summer field days. High demand for Conservation Station fleet, also continuing virtual field days. Conservation Best Practices manual is being revised and will be released this month. Rob Davis was introduced as the new NRS Measures Coordinator, who started at the beginning of March.

USGS (Nania)- Lots of ice cover still in place which will delay implementation of monitoring resumption for the time being. Streamflows are normal to slightly below normal statewide, particularly in western and SW Iowa. Most water quality sensors are back in place and the few that are removed in the winter will be re-installed. Iowa USGS participated in a global publication on presence of pharmaceuticals in streams. Also continuing research on PFAS in streams and near industrial sites in Iowa. An update on the Illinois River NWGOS was also provided.

NRCS (Cagle)- Iowa has 10 open RCPP projects open with more than \$65 million in federal funds underway, only Oregon has more open projects. Also accepting applications for new projects through alternative funding arrangements. Applicants are encouraged to work with NRCS field staff with requests. WFPO (formerly PL-566) has three projects underway in plan development stages. Lots of interest coming in for rehabilitation of watershed structures. Funding limits mean only high hazard structures are able to receive financial assistance.

NWS (Zogg)- Provided current weather outlook, including discussion of recent temperature and precipitation trends and near term/seasonal outlooks. Key takeaways include some extent of drought in eastern, northern, and western Iowa. Outlook is for no worsening of current drought conditions through spring.

HSEMD (Marwedel/Giofreddi)- Conducting a statewide study to identify areas where the governance and funding of levee districts could be improved at the state and local level. The intent of the study is to build on existing information and studies to develop a more complete picture of levees and levee

management in Iowa. Communicating with levee sponsors to identify their financial and operational challenges as well as get their inputs on how to best address these challenges. Report due to General Assembly by 12/31/22.

DNR (Schnieders)- Updated version of Iowa's impaired waters list is out and available for public comment through March 19th. DNR has worked with DOT and IDALS to provide some comments on proposed revision to definition of Waters of the United States. DNR is working with IFA to determine how to best deploy federal infrastructure funding. Also working on implementation of American Rescue Plan funding, including some funds for septic tank replacements throughout the state. More than 600 tanks could be replaced through the program, and nearly 1/3 of counties have already participated.

IDALS (Kozak)- Released annual reports for cost share program and Water Quality Initiative. IDALS has also participated with Polk SWCD to share in the purchase of a cover crop seeder. Also partnering with the City of Cedar Rapids for an edge of field batch and build effort to accelerate saturated buffer and bioreactor adoption in the Middle Cedar river watershed. Also starting an effort to partner with the City of Ames on a similar effort. IDALS has spent several months working on ways to accelerate wetland development with new funding sources and programs available. Staffing and progress changes are being implemented to achieve this growth.

PFAS Action Plan and Dashboard Update

Following up on an update from the December 2021 meeting, Adam Schnieders and Roger Bruner with the Iowa DNR gave a presentation on the state's PFAS Action Plan and gave a demonstration on the PFAS dashboard.

Spring Weather and Climatology Review (Justin Glisan, IDALS)

Justin Glisan, State Climatologist with IDALS, gave a presentation featuring an overview of his duties for the state, including a history of the climatology bureau, and also presented this year's spring weather outlook.

Public Comments

There were no requests from the public to provide public comment. Secretary Naig asked WRCC members to contact IDALS if they have suggestions for future meeting presentation topics.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 PM. The next meeting will be held in June using the Wallace Building as an in-person location with a virtual meeting option.

	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 <i>Nate Ristow</i>	Governor <i>Designee</i>	Governor's Office Governor's Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 Kayla Lyon <i>Adam Schneiders</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Susan Kozak <i>Jake Hansen</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Kelly Garcia <i>Kenneth Sharp</i> <i>Vacant</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health IA Department of Public Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 John Benson <i>Larry Giofreddi (Jim Marwedel)</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7 Dan Robison <i>Jamie Benning (Matt Helmers)</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Edith Parker <i>Tom Peters</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Public Health, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 John Fritsch <i>Maureen Clayton</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10 Scott Marler <i>Brandy Beavers</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Department of Transportation Iowa Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham <i>Jeff Geerts</i>	Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Debi Durham <i>Tony Toigo</i>	Executive Director <i>Designee</i>	Iowa Finance Authority Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Alec Scranton <i>Larry Weber</i>	Dean <i>Designee</i>	College of Engineering, University of Iowa College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 Jon Nania <i>Paul Rydlund</i>	Acting Director <i>Designee</i>	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 Jon Hubbert <i>Scott Cagle</i>	State Conservationist <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Matt Russell	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Theresa Greenfield <i>Kate Sand</i>	State Director <i>Designee</i>	USDA, Rural Development USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Meg McCollister <i>Edward Chu</i>	Regional Administrator <i>Designee</i>	EPA-Region 7 EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Jesse Curry <i>Jason Smith</i> <i>Philip Brown</i>	Rock Island District Commander <i>Designee</i> <i>Designee</i>	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District US Army Corps of Engineers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeff Zogg</i>	<i>Designee</i>	National Weather Service