

**WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
OCTOBER 4, 2006**

Committee Members Attendance	Representing
Rep. Donovan Olson	District 48
Sen. David Johnson	District 3
Sen. Brian Schoenjahn	District 12
Jim Boyt	Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Wayne Gieselman	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Tom Hadden	Growing Green Communities
Jared Hill	Iowa Corn Grower's Association
Linda Kinman	Iowa Environmental Council
Dean Lemke	Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Richard Meyer	Iowa Conservation Alliance
Ted Payseur	Veenstra and Kimm, Inc.
Emily Piper	Iowa Rural Water Association
Jane Riessen	Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
Rick Robinson	Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Jeremy Rosonke	Iowa Conservation Alliance
Deb Ryun	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Jeff Schnell	Iowa Pork Producers Association
Julie Smith	Iowa League of Cities
Roger Wolf	Iowa Soybean Association

Guest Attendance	Representing
David Adelman	Iowa League of Cities
Lyle Asell	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Jessie Brown	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Tara Clapp	Iowa State University, CRP
Chuck Corell	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Geri Crawford	Metro Waste Authority
Jim Friedrich	Senate Republican Caucus Staff
Bernie Hoyer	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Deb Kozel	Legislative Services Agency
Tammi Krausman	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
Jace Mikels	Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Jerry Nepple	Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Lew Olson	House Republican Caucus Staff
Tom Oswald	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jenifer Parsons	House Democratic Caucus Staff
Todd Sutphin	Iowa Soybean Association
Sharon Tahtinen	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the board room at Metro Waste Authority

Tom Hadden reviewed the goals that were adapted in legislation and established for organizing the recommendations of the Water Quality Task Force.

GOALS:

- Improving and sustaining water quality; creating economic incentives for compliance; facilitating implementation of existing programs; providing incentives for the development of pollution control quantification protocols and procedures; providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory and performance-driven watershed management

The final report is due by June 30, 2008 to the General Assembly.

Several presentations were given for task force committee to gain a better perspective of the different types of programs offered in the state of Iowa.

Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Watershed Task Force Report

Dean Lemke reviewed the Iowa Watershed Task Force Report that was commissioned as part of legislation passed in 1999. The goals and recommendations of watershed protection in the state of Iowa were reviewed as part of the Iowa 2010 strategic plan. A handout of the presentation was distributed. Committee members were provided a copy of the Watershed Task Force Report at the August 3 meeting. Task Force committee members may contact Dean for an additional copy of the report at dean.lemke@IDALS.state.ia.us.

Lyle Asell discussed the nine-step watershed project planning protocol guidelines. The information is available on the WIRB website, www.agriculture.state.ia.us.\iwirb.com (refer to hot topics - watershed project protocol).

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Governor’s Water Quality Summit Recommendations

Bernie Hoyer gave a presentation on the November 2003 Iowa Water Summit, commenting the Governor’s water quality goal was to eliminate all impaired waters in Iowa by 2010. Five work groups were established to focus on problems, solutions, education needs, financial resources, social-economic impacts and measures of success. The work groups were also required to develop draft recommendations to be brought to the Summit. The recommendations of the five Iowa water summit work groups are available at the IDNR website www.iowadnr.com/other/watersummit/index.html. A handout of the presentation was distributed.

Discussion of Recommendations in General

Lyle Asell gave an overview of the cost associated with water quality improvements. It’s been estimated that water quality problems in the state of Iowa will cost between three to six billion dollars. We have approximately one hundred twenty-five million dollars available that come from various programs in the state of Iowa, including land owner involvement contributions. This will require us to become more efficient, effective, focused and targeted, to get back to the fundamental basics of planning and identifying objectives. It also will require us to become more efficient and effective in using new technologies and communicating with those that make decisions about land conservation. The demographics of Iowa are also changing rapidly and trends are well established.

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General discussion was held about the following:

- Cost-share assistance and if dollars are being targeted toward water quality issues
- Watershed planning and assessment, and funding of programs
- State internal organizational structure
- Focusing on not only water quality but also water quantity
- Sewer and septic system issues in communities and rural areas

General questions:

- How can we optimize cost of achieving program goals?
- How can we create economic incentives?
- How can we facilitate implementation of programs already in place?
- How can we provide more flexibility to achieve program goals?
- Is watershed planning and assessment the theme that Iowa needs to enact in a more comprehensive fashion to help achieve some of these goals, and what will it cost in terms of staff and resources to do the type of planning needed?
- From a planning perspective how and where is technical data attained?

Legislative Services Agency

Deb Kozel gave an overview of the water quality appropriations to various state agencies. A handout was distributed of the breakdown of appropriations.

General discussion was held addressing the following points:

- How the money is currently being spent
- How much went to growth of government
- How much was actually spent for water quality
- Development of a comprehensive needs list

It was requested a detailed budget report be provided for the next committee meeting showing all transactions pertaining to water quality funding.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Overview

Tom Oswald gave an overview of the watershed programs and services provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and explained how the NRCS works with Iowa land owners offering specific conservation assistance programs including financial and technical assistance. A reference guide booklet referencing the various conservation assistance programs for Iowa landowners was distributed.

Key points of discussion:

- Sponsored projects/sewer bonds
- Better assessment of watersheds
- Better planning of watersheds to meet water quality standards whether point source or non-point source
- How does point source and non-point source come together?

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DNR Water Programs Overview

Chuck Corell provided an overview of the Department of Natural Resources water programs. A list of the specific point source and non-point source for watersheds was distributed along with a contact list of IDNR personnel.

DSC – IDALS Water Programs Overview

Dean Lemke reviewed the fiscal year 2006, 2007, and 2008 budget and the fiscal year 2008 budget request. The programs targeted are; conservation cost share, watershed protection fund program, Ag drainage well closure, district operations and initiatives, conservation reserve enhancement program, and integrated farm and livestock demo program. A handout was distributed.

General comments were discussed on the following issues:

- Challenge of administrative funding and five percent administrative caps
- Reorganization of state agencies

Next Steps

- Deb Ryun and Tom Hadden will meet to review all recommendations of previous work that has been completed, and will make recommendations on sub-committees to address the issues identified in SF2363. Tom and Deb will discuss how to structure the prioritization and implementation process.
- Tom Hadden will contact Brick Gentry Law Firm regarding the issues of creating water quality districts.
- Look into inviting a presenter from Ohio or Kansas to discuss their experience with water quality improvement projects, credit programs, structure and the issues they faced.
- Request that Deb Kozel provide a paper copy of more detailed budget information for the next meeting.
- Examine the possibility of a presentation on hydrological changes that have occurred in the last few years.
- Consider a presentation on urban conservation innovations.
- Look at the possibility of having a speaker present on tax policy.

Next Meeting

Date:

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Time:

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location:

Metro Waste Authority
300 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, Iowa
515-224-0021

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.