Iowa Source Water Protection Partnership Informational Workshop:
Addressing nutrient reduction strategy to improve local drinking water supplies

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration and pre-workshop networking

Morning Session: ***What can members of the agriculture sector do to manage nutrients and improve soil health to meet both production and water quality targets?***

9:00 – 9:05 am **Welcome and Logistics**

9:05 – 9:20 am **Overview of the Iowa Source Water Protection Partnership/Collaborative** –members from the Collaborative (Dave Coppess, *Heartland Co-op*; Ben Gleason, *Iowa Corn Growers Association*; Rebecca Ohrtman, *Iowa Department of Natural Resources*; and Marty Adkins, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service*)

9:20 – 9:40 am **Nitrate and vulnerable drinking water supply sources**
Chi Ho Sham, Ph.D., *The Cadmus Group, Inc.* and Rebecca Ohrtman, *Iowa Department of Natural Resource* (IDNR)

9:40 – 10:00 am **The importance of soil health**
Rick Bednarek, *USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service* (NRCS)

10:00 – 10:20 am **Nutrient reduction strategy and best management practices**
Matt Helmers, *Iowa State University (ISU) - Extension*

10:20 – 10:40 am **Conservation planning to meet production and water quality goals**
Eric Hurley, *NRCS*

10:40 – 11:40 am **Who can help with best management practices and implementation? – Panel discussion**
(Dave Coppess, *Heartland Co-op*; John Whitaker, *Farm Services Agency*; Chris Jones, *Iowa Soybean Association*; Matt Lechtenberg, *Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship*; and Marty Adkins, *NRCS*)

11:40 – 12:00 pm Wrap up on Morning Session and Evaluation

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch with Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey

Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties every year to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing science and new technologies to better care for our air, soil and water and reaching out to all Iowans to tell the story of Iowa agriculture.

Afternoon Session: ***What can members of the local communities do to protect drinking water supply sources and public health from contamination through collaboration with the agriculture sector?***

1:00 – 1:10 pm Welcome, Logistics, and Recap of Morning Session

1:10 – 1:20 pm **Iowa source water protection program elements**
Rebecca Ohrtman, *IDNR*

1:20 – 1:40 pm **Effects of nutrient reduction strategy and conservation planning on ground water quality**
Matt Helmers, *ISU-Extension* and Eric Hurley, *NRCS*

1:40 – 2:00 pm	**Case study 1 – Sioux Center Project** – a video of interview and research work conducted by Dr. Robert De Haan and Dr. Ronald Vos, Dordt College on the Sioux Center Source Water Protection Project
2:00 – 2:20 pm	**Case study 2 – Griswold/Elliot/Remsen** – Source Water Protection Projects
2:20 – 3:20 pm	**Who can help with source water protection programs? – Panel discussion** (Rebecca Ohrtman, *IDNR*; Marty Adkins, *NRCS*; Dave Coppess, *Heartland Co-op*; Matt Lechtenberg, *Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship*; Matt Helmers, *ISU-Extension*)
3:20 – 3:40 pm	**How can producers and water systems work together to solve local drinking water problems?** – Facilitated open discussion
3:40 – 4:00 pm	Wrap Up and Evaluation

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Marty Adkins, ***Assistant State Conservationist for Special Projects, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)***
Adkins develops partnerships to promote conservation and provides leadership for water resources programs. During his 33 year career with NRCS in Iowa, he has also served in a variety of capacities at the state and field level, including district conservationist, RC&D coordinator, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources and State Resource Conservationist. Mr. Adkins earned a B.S. in Agronomy from Iowa State University and grew up on a grain and livestock farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Rick Bednarek, ***State Soil Scientist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)***
Rick Bednarek has served as the State Soil Scientist in Iowa for the Natural Resources Conservation Service since 2011. Rick has statewide responsibility for the Soil Health and Technical Soil Services Programs. He also supervises the GIS section. Rick is also the State Resource Inventory Coordinator in Iowa providing leadership for the state in all Natural Resource Inventory activities. He received a Bachelor's degree in soil science from the University of Wisconsin –River Falls in 1983 and started his career with NRCS in 1987. Rick has worked in 3 states as soil scientist before becoming the State Soil Scientist in Iowa.

Dave Coppess, ***Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Heartland Co-op***
Dave has been with Heartland since 2002 and is responsible for the Agronomy, Feed, and Petroleum sales and marketing teams. Prior to joining Heartland, Dave served for 22 years in the regional cooperative system, with a variety of roles at Farmland Industries, WILFARM, and Agriliance LLC. Dave is currently serving as a Director on the Agribusiness Association of Iowa's (AAI) board. He is also Vice-President of the Agriculture Clean Water Alliance (ACWA), a group of 12 ag retailers and affiliated Associate members in the Raccoon and Des River watersheds. He represented ag retailers for 6 years on the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) board, serving as Chairman in 2006. He also participates in several other industry organizations and projects including Iowa's Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) and 4 R's Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Dave holds a bachelor's degree in Ag Education from Iowa State University (1976), and completed his MBA at Rockhurst University (1998).

Ben Gleason, ***Sustainable Program Manager, Iowa Corn Growers Association***
Gleason works on a variety of environmental projects affecting Iowa corn growers. Soil and water conservation issues are priorities, and Ben works closely with government agencies and other organizations to address these issues. Previously, Ben worked for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as a project coordinator for multiple watershed projects addressing sediment and nutrients in lakes and streams.

Matt Helmers, Ph.D., ***Dean's Professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University***
Dr. Helmers' research areas include studies on the impact of nutrient management, cropping practices, drainage design and management, and strategic placement of buffer systems on nutrient export from agricultural landscapes. He has a regional Extension program working to increase adoption of practices that have the potential to reduce downstream nutrient export. He served as the nitrogen science team lead on the recently completed Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Science Assessment.

Eric G. Hurley, ***Nutrient Management Specialist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service***
Hurley's primary duties are to develop nutrient management technical standards, tools, and procedures for crop production and water quality protection and to train NRCS personnel. Hurley grew up in Boxholm in Boone County, attended Luther College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and studied Agronomy and Soil Science at Iowa State. He worked for several years in Wisconsin as a soil conservationist, an agriculture instructor, and a nutrient management educator and planner before returning to Iowa.

Chris Jones, ***Environmental Scientist, Environmental Programs & Services, Iowa Soybean Association (ISA).***
Chris earned his B.A. from Simpson College in 1983, with majors in Chemistry and Biology, and his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Montana State University in 1989. He has extensive knowledge of analytical laboratory procedures, drinking water issues, and agriculture. He spent 10 years as a commercial laboratory manager, six years as a consultant for the municipal drinking water industry and eight years working as the supervisor of Water Quality for the Des Moines Water Works. He currently manages and operates the ISA certified laboratory for environmental and drinking water analysis.

Matt Lechtenberg, ***Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)***
Matt manages implementation activities of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). Lechtenberg has worked for IDALS since 2006, after earning his degree from Iowa State University in Ag Systems Technology with an environmental emphasis. He and his wife and two children currently reside in Des Moines.

Rebecca Ohrtman, ***Source Water Protection Program Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)***
Rebecca received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with graduate credits in Plant Breeding from Iowa State University. She worked in plant breeding research at ISU and Pioneer Hi-bred before her transition to a career in water quality. From 1996 – 2006 she worked for the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in water quality. In 2006 Rebecca took the position as Iowa DNR's Source Water Protection (SWP) Program Coordinator. She has modified the DNR's SWP Program to focus resources on susceptible "at-risk" municipal water supplies and increase SWP outreach efforts. Rebecca initiated partnerships with many local, state and federal agencies, businesses, organizations, and groups to develop several community SWP Pilot Projects across the state. The SWP Pilot Projects have led to hydro-geological assessments, practical SWP planning processes, CRP-WHP eligibility expansion, viable grants/resources for local SWP Plan implementation, and most importantly, reductions in contaminant risk to susceptible municipal water supplies.

Chi Ho Sham, Ph.D., ***The Cadmus Group, Inc.***
Chi Ho Sham has over two decades of consulting experience, mainly in the areas of drinking water protection, water quality analysis, and underground injection control. He is an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and served as the lead author of the Operational Guide to AWWA Standard G300: Source Water Protection and as a co-Principal Investigator of the "Development of a Source Water Protection Vision and Roadmap for U.S. Drinking Water Utilities" project sponsored by the Water Research Foundation. He is a Research Fellow of the George Perkins Marsh Institute and an adjunct professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

John Whitaker, ***Farm Service Agency***
John R. Whitaker is State Executive Director of the Iowa Farm Service Agency (FSA). Whitaker administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of local county offices. He served 7 years in the Iowa House of Representatives and during that time was Assistant Minority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader. He also served on several committees including Agriculture, Transportation, Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, Public Safety and Administrative Rules.

Bill Northey, ***Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship***
Secretary Northey is a fourth generation farmer from Spirit Lake, Iowa growing corn and soybeans. Now serving his third term as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties every year to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. These meetings allow him to listen to their needs and better lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as it seeks to serve the people of the state. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing science and new technologies to better care for our air, soil and water and reaching out to all Iowans to tell the story of Iowa agriculture.