

Providing Greater Flexibility Through Community-Based, Non-Regulatory and Performance-Driven Watershed Management

**A Watershed Management Working Session
For
Watershed Water Quality Task Force – Subcommittee #3**

February 22, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 12:00

Lunch Provided for RSVP's

Location: 102 Scheman Building ISU Campus - Ames, Iowa 50011

Sub-committee #3 of the Iowa Watershed Water Quality Task Force created by the Iowa General Assembly requests your participation as a person interested in advancing performing watershed management efforts. Subcommittee #3 specifically addresses the legislative charge: (e) *Providing Greater Flexibility Through Community-Based, Non-Regulatory and Performance-Driven Watershed Management*

About the meeting: Create a workshop environment fostering active engagement of subcommittee members with others interested in watershed water quality management.

Outcomes: Survey and harvest ideas from select watershed water quality management efforts currently underway in Iowa to be considered by workshop participants and the subcommittee for its Task Force work.

Process: Provide an opportunity for representatives from select watershed management efforts to give a 15 - 20 minute presentation to workshop participants. Participants, including guest speakers, break into small groups and identify key elements of the programs. The small groups report to the larger participant group for discussion. All reports are assembled and become working materials for future Subcommittee #3 Task Force work.

Schedule – 8:30 – 12:00:

8:30 – 9:00 Introductions, Welcome and Orientation for the Day

9:00 – 10:00 Guest Watershed Presentations

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:00 Break Into Small Groups for Discussion

11:00 – 12:00 Reports from Small Group and Large Group Discussion

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and Adjourn

Meeting Guidance

Charge for guest speakers: Our objective is to assess and define challenges we (Iowa) have in achieving water quality standards and to identify ways to meet those challenges more effectively and efficiently in the future. You have been identified because of your leadership and work appear to be innovative and promising for achieving performance gains. Our request is for you to tell us about your watershed management efforts. You will have 15- 20 minutes to make your presentation. Some questions for you to consider: Who is involved? What constitutes your watershed community? What is the primary goal or endgame for your watershed management effort? How is the watershed management effort working or not working? What types of assistance is provided? How do you measure performance of your efforts? What assistance did you receive from state and federal agencies and/or private groups/organizations? How does that assistance help? What are the requirements for your watershed management effort to succeed? How can we encourage faster action and flexibility to achieve performance? What roles can/should government play, either through changes in the way existing programs are operated or by creating new approaches? What recommendations do you have for fostering greater flexibility, community based, non-regulatory and performance-driven watershed management?

Ground rules and guidance for small groups:

Number off and break into smaller groups of 6-8 people in each.

- All ideas are valid
- Everything is written on flip charts
- Listen to each other
- Observe time frames
- Seek common ground and action
- Differences and problems are acknowledged/noted – not “worked through to resolution”

Each group will be responsible for managing its own discussion, data, time and reports. Flip chart, markers and tape are provided. Key roles needed include:

- **Discussion Leader/Facilitator** - selected by group – Assures that each person who wants to speak is heard within time available. Keeps group on track to finish on time.
- **Recorder/Reporter** – selected by group - Writes group’s output on flip charts using speaker’s words. Asks a person to restate long ideas briefly. Delivers reports to larger group during plenary session.

Small Group Questions to consider:

1. What do the presentations have in common that is working?
2. What is uniquely different about the presentations?
3. What are some of the barriers for providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory and performance driven watershed management work?
4. Of these barriers what appears to be priority?
5. How could these priority barriers be overcome?
6. What suggestions do you have for policy?
7. What are your top three recommended actions to move this strategy forward?