



Science & Policy Committee

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Call to Order at 3:00 CST. There were 9 committee members on the call along with invited guest, Tom Buman with Agren, Carroll, IA.

1. Tom Buman, Agren, Carroll, IA

- Tom described the involvement of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in funding a watershed approach to reduce runoff and erosion in target watersheds. Working through the Iowa Flood Center on the campus of Iowa University in Iowa City (see <http://iowafloodcenter.org/>).
- The new five-year project is focused on addressing factors associated with flood disasters in IA.
- The [Iowa Watershed Approach](#) received \$97 million and will focus on flood mitigation through soil health activities and pond and wetland construction in upland watersheds.
- It was suggested that this uniquely focused project might be the topic of a session at the Annual SWCS meeting, if not this year, next year.
- Questions were asked but it is not sure yet what metric of success the project will use. As the project is still in its infancy, these and other questions will be answered in due course.

2. Flood Control and Management White Paper

- Clark Gantzer mentioned that he would try to put together a first draft of a white paper on flood control and management for the S&PC to review and contribute. Suggestions for new contacts at the IA Flood Center were provided to Clark for help on this.

3. Future S&PC Call Topics

- Members suggested Jeff Strock be invited to be on the next call to discuss development of the joint SWCS-SSSA Joint Symposium.
- Karma Anderson, newly appointed NRCS Water Quality and Quantity Team Leader will be on the next call on March 7 to discuss her new vision and activities.
- Suggestions for future calls include Doug Karlen to discuss his work with Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research's "Soil Health Advisory Council" (see <http://foundationfar.org/challenge/healthy-soils-thriving-farms/>).
- One other topic that raised was edge-of-field monitoring, what programs are in place, what has been learnt to date across the U.S., and where the gaps are.

4. The next S&PC conference call will be 3:00 pm CST Tuesday, March 7th. Reminders will be sent nearer the date.