

# Agricultural Water Quality Partnership Forum

## Technical Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 1, 2022 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.



## Meeting Summary

### **Welcome** *Eliana Brown, University of Illinois Extension*

Eliana welcomed members and facilitated the meeting. Layne Knoche and Joan Cox from University of Illinois Extension assisted with technology and meeting minutes.

### **Land Measures Reporting for the 2023 Biennial Report** *Trevor Sample, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency*

Trevor showed and discussed each section of *Chapter 4 Agriculture* from the NLR 2021 Biennial Report. He requested input from FSA, NRCS, IDOA, IDNR, IEPA, NASS, and NGO partners as to the topics, data availability, data displays, narrative content for the 2023 Report.

### **Narrative Updates and data integration: deadlines and review dates** *Joan Cox, University of Illinois Extension*

Joan reviewed the Resources and Outreach spreadsheets, narratives, raw data, and data displays and maps that each partner contributes. She showed dates of data availability and due dates of data and narrative submissions unique to each partner. She requested that each partner review their respective sections for accuracy once it has been drafted by members of the production team. A full Chapter 4 review by the Policy Working Group is anticipated around June 8, 2023. All Resources and Outreach Spreadsheets and photos are due Jan. 31, 2023. The narratives and data due dates vary by agency between Jan. 31 and March 1, 2023.

## Meeting Minutes

*In attendance:* Ryan Arch, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association; Michelle Bloomquist, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Eliana Brown, University of Illinois Extension; Laura Christianson, University of Illinois Crop Sciences; Joan Cox, University of Illinois Extension; Rachel Curry, University of Illinois Extension; Chris Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Nicole Haverback, University of Illinois Extension; Layne Knoche, University of Illinois Extension; Elliot Lagacy, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Katie Mann, unknown affiliation; Wendy Mueller, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency; Raelyn Parmely, Illinois Farm Bureau; Justin Ramey, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency; Trevor Sample, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Dan Schaefer, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association; Mark Schleusener, U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service; Helen VanBeck, American Farmland Trust; Michael Woods, Illinois Department of Agriculture

### **Welcome** *Eliana Brown, U of I Extension*

Eliana welcomed members and facilitated the meeting. Layne Knoche and Joan Cox from University of Illinois Extension assisted with technology and meeting minutes.

### **Land Measures Reporting for the 2023 Biennial Report** *Trevor Sample, IEPA*

Trevor showed and discussed each section of *Chapter 4 Agriculture*. He requested input from FSA, NRCS, IDOA, IDNR, IEPA, NASS, and NGO partners as to the topics, data availability, data displays, narrative content of their respective sections of the Chapter. 2021 and 2022 data will be added on to the graphs in each section.

**FSA**

FSA will report CRP wetlands and perennials and the farmer reported cover crop information. They will submit data attributed by County and HUC12. They may have four years of data on four distinct species that farmers report. It may be possible to display cover crop data by species.

### **NRCS**

NRCS's EQIP/CSP/RCPD program data are reported nationally and can be sorted by practice specific acreages to each program. In the past Reid Christianson sifted Illinois data and the Illinois NLRs practices from that database. He also calculated the 5-year program enrollment drop-off since those practices can no longer be confirmed to be implemented. Trevor will ask Reid if he will continue to pull that data. Illinois' total acres by program (EQIP, CSP, RCPD, NWQI, MRBI, ACEP, WRE, WRP) is available through NRCS's *At A Glance* publication which comes out in November annually. This next Biennial Report will include new practices that have been approved into the Illinois NLRs-recommended agricultural conservation practice docket: Water And Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs), terraces, and saturated buffers.

### **NASS**

The NASS report for 2021 crop year has already been submitted. These data will be added on to the data displays in this section.

Mark: We need to explain that we phrased a couple of questions differently, which changed the level of what was being measured, particularly for MRTN acres. We received a better number. It would be best to use the minutes from the NLRs Partnership Workshop on Nov. 1, since I explained those changes then.

### **IDNR**

IDNR has updated CREP, but since these changes will not go into effect until 2023, the data lines will remain flat in the 2021 and 2023 years.

Michelle: Some CREP has expired. We will submit data, but the change may not be enough to be visible on the graph. There have been significant changes to the new CREP which we will highlight in our narrative. Justin Ramey is our IDNR contact who will provide this information.

Trevor: Do you want to continue the Incorporating Soil Health into Ag Leases and Contaminant Assessment sections?

Michelle: I will send the last report narratives to those groups and have them review to see if there are updates.

### **IDOA**

IDOA data will continue to display N and P reduction cumulatively by the PFC program and by practices within the program. The Soil Transect Survey has not been completed since 2018 and may not return due a few reasons.

Elliot Lagacy: There are 52,000 data points and the ideal time for the survey is right after planting. This has been harder to do in the past few wet springs, and new safety concerns have arisen due to its effect on slowing traffic on transect routes.

Trevor explained that IDOA has been evaluating the [OpTIS: Operational Tillage Information System \(nature.org\)](https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/our-impact/operational-tillage-information-system) program with free information on tillage practices and cover crops. He believes it would allow reporting at the

HUC 8 level. These data may be enough to cover the 4-year data gap to show level of tillage practices. The next Report could have a short explanation of this and perhaps provide a graph of these data from the missing years.

Elliot: I'll provide an update in the future about how IDOA plans to maintain the Soil Transect Survey's the long-term data set, possibly using OpTIS.

Michael Woods The Cover Crop Prevent Plant program was one time only and is not continuing in this next Report.

Trevor: While SSRP is not an official NLRs-recommended practice, there is current research that indicates it may be included in the Strategy in the future. It remains important to track this IDOA program. Fall Covers will continue as well.

### **IEPA**

IEPA's 319 program reports the number of practices funded each year along with their N and P load reductions.

### **Bioreactors**

University of Illinois has provided locations of Woodchip Bioreactors in the past. The policy now is to only report at County level. We will stop providing the map. For any new Woodchip Bioreactors in 2021 or 2022, please send the NLRs Steering Committee the following data: county, number, acres treated. We also discussed the 10-year drop off for this practice. Probably those installed 2010 or before should drop off unless there is evidence that they have been recharged. Are there thoughts on this? None were mentioned. EQIP bioreactors are also an available data source, but if any are implemented outside of cost-share, please let the Steering Committee know.

### **NGO - IFCA**

IFCA produced a retailer survey in the past. They are now also working with Iowa NREC to conduct an additional study. Will they provide a write up for that this Report?

Dan: Yes, IFCA is ready to send that out. Starting in late February, we will conduct in person interviews and we have found liaisons to gather information in various areas of Illinois. We will have more information to provide next spring.

Trevor: Since this is research, it will be in the main body of the report in Chapter 4. Another new data write-up included in the Chapter 4 main body is the CropGrower buffer analysis. These data will show buffers in a more complete way than cost-share programs can provide. And those data will be displayed at the HUC 8 scale.

## **Narrative Updates and data integration: deadlines and review dates** *Joan Cox, University of Illinois Extension*

Joan reviewed each partner's contribution to the report as Resources and Outreach spreadsheets, narratives, raw data, and data displays and maps. She reviewed anticipated dates of data availability and due dates of data and narrative submissions unique to each partner. She requested that each partner review their respective sections for accuracy following the production team's integration of the data into the report, indicating anticipated dates for when those reviews may take place. A full Chapter 4 review by the Policy Working Group is anticipated around June 8, 2023. All Resources and Outreach Spreadsheets and photos are due Jan. 31, 2023. The Narratives and data due dates vary by agency and take place between Jan. 31 and March 1, 2023. She

confirmed the contact person for each agency's data and narrative submissions. A list of each agency's program(s) data and due dates are provided in the accompanying presentation slides.

Contacts for each agency present today were confirmed as follows:

FSA – Wendy Mueller

IDNR – Justin Ramey

IEPA – Trevor Sample and Christine Davis

NASS – Mark Schleusener

LICA – Ryan Arch

IFB – Raelynn Parmely and Lauren Lurkins

IFCA – Kevin Johnson and Jason Solberg

AFT- Kris Reynolds (confirmed by his representative, Helen VanBeck)

Question (Wendy): FSA cover crop data is reported up through mid-December. The data is available to send to NLRs in January. Do you want it closer to March 10, which you listed for FSA? Or could I send it in January?

Joan: Please send data when it is available. That applies to all partners. If your data is available ahead of the deadlines we listed, please send it once it is available.