

**Iowa Food Waste Stakeholder Group**  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 27, 2017 | 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees**

- Dan Nickey, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
- Lea Hensel, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
- Jenny Trent, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
- Aubrey Alvarez, Eat Greater Des Moines
- Christine Collier, SCS Engineers
- Margo Underwood, Underwood Consulting
- Jeff Phillips, Barker Lemar
- Jennifer Zwagerman, Drake University
- Regenea Hurte, Iowa Food Bank Association
- Merry Rankin, Iowa State University

**Agenda**

- Survey
  - Thank you to those of you that completed the survey. It was attached in the email reminder that was sent out this morning.
- IWRC Update, Dan Nickey and Jennifer Trent
  - At our Advisory Committee meeting earlier this month, a discussion started between Walt Rogers and Bill Dotzler regarding animal feed in Iowa. They had questions about why it was restrictive; the white paper was provided to them and continuing discussions will be happening. Hopeful that it will become a bi-partisan legislative action, not likely in this current session but in the next legislative session.
    - IWRC looking into hiring a UNI graduate student to conduct some research into the rules and regulations in other states.
      - Jen Zwagerman – Aside from Harvard research, Drake has not looked into the specific issue of feeding food waste to animals but it could be a potential group project for the spring 2018 class.
    - Aubrey Alvarez– What concerns and/or barriers exist? Jenny Trent shared that the barriers are that feeding swine food waste in Iowa is illegal as a result of concern over disease; to feed cattle, food waste must be heat treated but many farmers do not do this; other states do allow farmers to feed food waste to swine as long as its heat treated.
    - Dan Nickey – Likely that there would be opposition to the change in the legislation but should be a good start to have bipartisan support.
      - Aubrey Alvarez- What about focusing on produce vs. other? Would the legislature be interested in a study or pilot project?
        - Jenny Trent – Can't do produce, just grains.
        - Jennifer Zwagerman – Not so much a study that needs to be done; someone needs to pull all the data to convince legislators of the benefits since so many other states do already allow food waste to be fed to animals.
  - A second Midwest Food Recovery Summit will be held in 2018 based on recommendations from those that attended and our advisory committee

- Tentatively scheduled for September 11-13, 2018, will remain at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown.
      - Aubrey Alvarez – Maybe a good time to focus a session on animal feed.
      - Jennifer Zwagerman – Works a lot with Harvard and Arkansas and more than happy to provide contacts for a potential panel.
    - Breakout session videos from 2017 are available on IWRC’s YouTube channel.
  - Jenny Trent shared that she recently had a call with Harvard Food Policy. They had interest in the white paper as they are doing research on statewide food waste bans; going to provide recommendations to each state based on composting regulations, feeding animal regulations, etc.
  - Dan Nickey shared that he attended the Iowa Hunger Summit and was able to meet the Director of ReFED who was interested in the white paper; a copy was sent.
  - IWRC started USDA project; Central Michigan University to collaborate and conduct waste audits in the same manner to compare data; Shawnee Mission School District and will also be conducting in similar manner; create an online database of the information so schools can estimate their food waste rather than conduct waste audits; students waste about 0.4/lbs of food waste each lunch so as we add more data, we can better provide calculations for schools; also shared the differences in what health inspectors are telling different schools in regards to the ability to be able to offer share tables and donating excess foods
- Iowa Food Bank Association Update, Regenea Hurte
  - Continuing on focus on legislative agenda – tax code includes all hunger fighting organizations; some charitable organizations are exempt and some are not; have Iowa code match federal code for donations
  - Jenny Trent asked about a document that summarizes the donation information as it would be very helpful to share with our ICI clients to help convince them of the benefits of food waste reduction; Hurte will work on getting a document put together
- Dan Nickey shared for the Iowa DNR – a toolkit about food waste reduction in schools has been developed.
- Stakeholder Discussions
  - Jenny Zwagerman
    - With the discussion surrounding differing information from health inspectors, shared an idea for a potential collaboration with Drake Law School to develop training surrounding the food waste regulations and rules; could alleviate much of the confusion over the policies and get a more uniform consensus statewide.
    - Dan Nickey shared interested in this and could be a possible option to conduct the training at the statewide conference for health inspectors that happens annually.
  - Aubrey Alvarez – Curious about if there is an opportunity to reach out to Department of Inspection and Appeals to talk about the inconsistency to how health inspectors apply policies;
    - Dan Nickey – Shared he will be having a discussion with Jennifer Wright from Iowa DNR to discuss how to get more uniformity about inspections; he is adding that to his to do list to set that meeting up and get the discussion started;
    - Aubrey has a connection to Sodexo who is very supportive of food rescue in the DSM area; reaching out to him to see what’s going on with the Sodexo team at Graceland University after Jenny shared the amount of food that is currently being wasted;

- Jennifer Zwagerman; Next Course is a student organization on Drake's campus; volunteers take the food from the coolers to recipient agencies;
  - Led to a discussion on food safety training options – Aubrey Alvarez - Checking in with ISU Extension; Lea Hensel mentioned local health departments offer training periodically
- Survey Results
  - Everyone agrees to have the group move forward.
  - Moving forward, the proposed goals shared by Dan Nickey is to focus on collaboration and connections between everyone in the group; continue to have conferences calls for general discussions about what is going on with everyone's organizations and ways to address food waste.
    - Group opinions on the proposed goals:
      - Jenny Trent – Probably the most productive conference call we've had; we're looking forward to a summary of the tax donations; getting a better understanding of health inspection policies; food safety training and sharing that information that will be beneficial to many of us; love the way this call has gone and would love to see more of these types of discussions.
      - Aubrey Alvarez – Continues to have ChowBank interest from other communities and Aubrey has offered to help writing the SWAP grants to get funding.
      - Jenny Trent – Wondering if we should have some sort of document detailing all the services each member provides and what we do bring to the group; could be on the website or Google Doc; Dan Nickey suggested that if anyone has questions or would like some help from someone in the group, just to send out a group email to everyone.
      - Regenea Hurte – It has been helpful to hear from other entities about what is going on and things that she may or may not have had access to prior
- Next conference call will be scheduled in February so it is still during the current legislative session
  - If anyone has something come up and would like to get the group together, let Dan know and the IWRC will get a conference call set up ASAP; especially with the legislators being in session.
- Minutes will be posted on the websites; good conversations, keep them going!