

**Iowa Food Waste Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2016**  
**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

- **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

- Dan Nickey (Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa)
  - Associate Director at the IWRC; manages food waste reduction efforts
- Barb Prather (Northeast Iowa Food Bank)
  - NIFB started because of food waste; significant sources include grocery stores and Target Distribution Center – 2 million pounds of food picked up; NIFB's role is to get and distribute food as well as to help facilities and guide relationships/partnerships
- Lea Hensel (Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa; QC Food Rescue Partnership)
  - Marketing Coordinator at IWRC; works to promote IWRC's food waste efforts; also involved in Quad Cities Food Rescue Partnership, an organization working to decrease food waste by diverting it from the landfill to food banks, pantries, etc.
- Jennifer Trent (Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa)
  - Has focused on food waste reduction throughout Iowa for past 4 years and has really seen change from then and now; current project involves working with industrial, commercial and institutional entities to reduce food waste; lots of K-12 interest
- Bob Andrlik (Table to Table)
  - Food rescue organization in Johnson county; primary focus is food that is still edible; picks the food up and transports it to recipient agencies; not a warehouse; 1.5 million pounds of food in 2015; hopes to further the networking and see all the different parts of food waste reduction
- Aubrey Alvarez (Eat Greater Des Moines)
  - Non-profit focusing on building relationships; covers Polk, Dallas, Marion and Warren counties; creation of ChowBank, getting recipient partners currently; looking for ideas and opportunities
- Chris Draper (Emerge/ChowBank)
  - Focused on developing ChowBank to make it easier to provide and make the connections between the donors and recipients
- Cory Berkenes (Iowa Food Bank Assication)
  - Works with the eight food banks in Iowa; diverting food waste from landfills to the homes of the people that need it;
- Scott Koepke (Soilmates)
  - Presents at approximately 40 schools a year regarding compost; has noticed a significant increase in child-driven initiatives that are reaching out to city officials for help; acknowledging that we're getting the foundation established for awareness but we need to get it into policy
- Liz Christiansen (University of Iowa)

- Capturing post-consumer food waste in major dining areas; on a trajectory of growth with 2020 goal of 60% waste diversion; stay current with issues and find out if opportunities exist the university can utilize
  - Eric Holthaus (City of Cedar Rapids)
    - At some point, Cedar Rapids will be targeting food waste reduction and landfill diversion; networking and looking at big picture issues with legislation moving forward
  - Jeff Phillips (Barker Lemar)
    - Works with solid waste agencies and composters across Iowa; see where discussion is going and what resources are available
  - Tom Anderson (Iowa DNR)
    - Oversees SWAP program among other projects at DNR; networking and hearing what organizations are doing throughout Iowa; this type of dialogue will provide the information needed to provide direction for the Iowa DNR
  - Demetrios Hadjis (GreenRU)
    - Hauler and recycler of organics and food scraps; growing footprint into Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota and Illinois
  - Dave Jackson (University of Iowa)
    - Seeks to continue the discussion with those connected with food waste through Iowa and make sure if there are other/better options available
  - Jen Jordan (City of Iowa City)
    - Has developed food waste composting program at IC Landfill; in 2014 implemented EPA's Food Too Good to Waste program, in the next 3-4 months will be doing full-scale curbside food waste collection; connections to see what others are doing
  - On the phone
    - Margo Underwood (Underwood Consulting)
    - Lisa and Kim, (U.S. EPA)
    - Pete Vogel (Food Rescue Partnership)
    - Mary (Iowa State University)
- **Operating Principles**
  - Informal
  - Open and candid
  - Silence means affirmation
  - By consensus
- **Overview of Available Data**
  - [Iowa DNR Waste Characterization Study](#)
    - Most recent study in 2011 to obtain data regarding Iowa landfills waste streams
    - Next study anticipated for FY17
    - Food waste #1 in 1998, 2005, 2011 for municipal solid waste (residential and ICI sectors combined)
  - Iowa Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Food Waste Study
    - IWRC received contract from Iowa DNR in 2014; worked with UNI's Strategic Marketing Services for research

- Identified entities within 10 ICI generators (total of 12,367) in Iowa - college & universities; convention center & casinos; correctional facilities; food distributors & wholesalers; food manufacturers & processors; hospitals; K-12 school districts; nursing homes; restaurants; supermarkets
    - Compiled information using existing generation rates into a searchable and functional database
    - Additionally incorporated data into GIS map
    - Data serves as a snapshot of where food waste is generated and at what amounts by ICI entities
    - [Iowa DNR's FABA page](#) will have link soon
  - [Eat Greater Des Moines Mobile App \(ChowBank\)](#)
    - Currently in beta testing phase
    - Connects donors and recipients to solve excess food issue
    - Aubrey serves as gatekeeper for recipients by monitoring recipients and donors registered; ensures legitimate sources
      - Something to consider when expanding – having a dedicated individual serve as gatekeeper that is familiar with regional area
    - Push notification is currently set by type of food (i.e. prepared vs. packaged)
  - [MEANS Database](#)
    - Online database attempting to connect donors and recipients
  - [BioCycle's FindAComposter.com](#)
  - [Iowa Waste Exchange](#)
    - Iowa DNR materials exchange program
    - There are numerous entries in the database for organic waste
- **Group Exercise**
  - Identify hurdles to reducing food waste and utilizing excess food as a resource
    - Meat and dairy (cannot be included in composter)
    - Information / state case studies
    - Political will (priority within legislators)
    - Education
    - Cost
    - Business case (defining value, money, PR)
    - Infrastructure (trucks, coolers)
    - Food safety
    - Food storage (on a household level)
    - Knowledge of regulations
    - Leachate in compost / space issues for landfills
    - Lack of compost markets
  - Additional notes that were discussed
    - Need to develop different messages for targeted audiences
    - Need to define food waste vs. food scraps

### **Proposed Group Details**

- Name
  - Iowa Food Waste Stakeholder Group
  - Iowa Food Waste Coalition

- Short-Term Mission
  - The Iowa Food Waste Stakeholder Group is dedicated to advancing Iowa's efforts in reducing food waste generation and utilizing excess food as a valuable resource through education, program implementation, policy and advocacy.
- Purpose
  - Fully understand the issues from each standpoint
- Role
  - IWRC will serve as organizer and secretary of group by planning meeting, organizing meeting minutes, creating a webpage to house general information
- **Next Step: Where do we go from here?**
  - Seek Western Iowa contact to join the group
    - *Task to be completed by:* All – reach out to those that may be interested or forward contact information to Dan Nickey
  - Write a one page full description for group review (name / mission statement / goals)
    - *Task to be completed by:* Dan Nickey
  - Develop a white paper / formal proposal for food waste reduction and landfill diversion
    - Preliminary ideas for inclusion: current state of affairs, where we're going, understanding the context better; understanding what peer states have done; existing frameworks (STAR communities)
    - Possibility for completion by next fall (beginning of legislation session)
    - *Task to be completed by:* Many individuals; will be further discussed at next minute once one page full description is complete and edited by group
  - Next Meeting
    - Des Moines
    - Next meeting will be in late March