

Iowa Food Waste Stakeholder Group
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2017 | Des Moines, IA

In Attendance

1. Dan Nickey, [Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa](#)
2. Jenny Trent, [Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa](#)
3. Christine Collier, [SCS Engineers](#)
4. Jen Jordan, [Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center](#)
5. Tom Anderson, [Iowa Department of Natural Resources](#)
6. Gayle Hubert, [U.S. EPA Region 7](#)
7. Penny Harrell, [U.S. EPA Region 7](#)
8. Lea Hensel, [Iowa Waste Reduction Center, University of Northern Iowa](#)
9. Regenea Hurte, [Iowa Food Bank Association](#)
10. John Bruce, [Iowa Waste Exchange](#)
11. Aubrey Alvarez, [Eat Greater Des Moines](#)

Agenda Notes

- I. Mission
 - a. 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 supporting program development, education and advocacy.
- II. White Paper
 - a. Dan Nickey shared that last year the focus was on developing the "Food Waste in Iowa" White Paper. Hard copies are still available, just let Dan know how many you would like to have on hand.
 - b. The white paper is also available to view and download on the stakeholder group webpage at <https://iwrc.uni.edu/iowa-food-waste-group>.
- III. Moving Forward
 - a. Dan Nickey shared that the IWRC's advocacy efforts will be limited for the foreseeable future. If the group would like to focus on advocacy or lobbying, the IWRC will step down as the leading organization for the stakeholder group. The IWRC will continue to be involved but will require another organization to take over the leadership role for the group.
 - b. However, not enough organizations were represented at the meeting to make any formal decisions about moving forward. A tentative plan was discussed to have another meeting at the Iowa Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference held in Coralville the first week of October.
- IV. Updates
 - a. Dan Nickey, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
 - i. The [Midwest Food Recovery Summit](#) is now complete and the IWRC will be focusing on getting survey results from attendees to determine future plans for events of this magnitude and focus.
 - ii. The [Green Brewery Certification](#) project is going well and the IWRC is continuing to add new breweries to the certification on a regular basis. They will be at i-BEST event in November to showcase the project.
 - b. Jen Jordan, Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center
 - i. In March, the [curbside compost pick-up program](#) began.

- ii. Jen is now the Resource Management Superintendent, her old position is still open but during the time of the meeting but will be filled soon.
 - iii. There are also some potential opportunities to partner with Cedar Rapids in the future in the works.
- c. Tom Anderson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 - i. The hub & spoke study is wrapping up and presentations are being put together of the results.
 - ii. The Waste Characterization Study is also at the stage of putting together presentations, one that will be presented at the Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Conference in October. In total, the study analyzed 11 facilities – eight landfills, three transfer stations.
 - 1. During one waste sort at the Newton Sanitary Landfill, a Facebook Live event took place – you can check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr/videos/10154635332107111/>.
 - iii. SWAP funding has been cut to twice a year.
- d. Gayle Hubert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - i. EPA is involved with the development of [Further With Food](#), which was initiated and is supported by a public-private partnership.
 - ii. The EPA's new wasted mapping tool will be launched by the end of the year to connect donors and recipients.
 - iii. Regionally, they are working closely with the Shawnee Mission School District.
 - iv. Penny Harrell is now handling the [EPA's Food Recovery Challenge](#) and currently making calls to the participants to ensure continued participation in the program.
- e. Lea Hensel, Iowa Waste Reduction Center / Food Rescue Partnership
 - i. The [Food Rescue Partnership](#) in the Quad Cities completed a strategic planning process earlier this year and is focused on education and awareness throughout the QC area.
- f. Regenea Hurte, Iowa Food Bank Association
 - i. Regenea is the new director of the Iowa Food Bank Association and is currently learning the role and looking forward to being involved with the stakeholder group.
- g. John Bruce, Iowa Waste Exchange
 - i. Working on completing a school waste assessment project and working with Shelly on the toolkit to be developed for schools.
 - ii. He did note that the vast majority of diversion numbers in the last quarter was organic waste.
- h. Aubrey Alvarez, Eat Greater Des Moines
 - i. As of this week, the [ChowBank app](#) is now updated and available on the web. In 2016, 2 million pounds of food was rescued via the app and they are already at 3 million for 2017. In total, 80 recipient partners.
 - ii. Aubrey is also interested in developing toolkits for specific industries.
- i. Jenny Trent
 - i. Currently completing the [Iowa Rural Communities Food Waste Reduction Project](#) which worked with four communities (Lamoni, Bloomfield, Chariton, Postville) with the option to implement [Food: Too Good to Waste program](#) or have toolkits handed out at community events. Lamoni implemented FTGTW and Jenny handed out toolkits throughout the other communities. Additionally, two ICI audits were conducted in each community.

- ii. On October 1, the fifth consecutive USDA project will begin which involves working with 15 schools in rural Iowa communities on food waste reduction.

V. Next Meeting

- a. A tentative plan was discussed to have another meeting at the Iowa Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference held in Coralville the first week of October. Dan will send out details when available.