

WATER AND AGRICULTURE: LESSONS FROM IOWA



Come learn from two water experts from the state of Iowa about agriculture's impact on surface waters in that state, and what some organizations are doing about it.

Sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and hosted by Wisconsin Land and Water, this two-hour session is designed and intended for soil and/or water professionals and elected officials for whom water conservation is important.

With the impending phosphorus regulations, and with nitrates and other ag pollutants in groundwater, as backdrop, this session will offer you a deeper understanding of how Iowa and Wisconsin face similar challenges, and what water conservationists need to know about this seemingly intractable problem.

OUR GUEST PRESENTERS



Craig Cox, Senior Vice President of the Environmental Working Group (EWG) (Ames, Iowa)

Over \$3 billion of federal and state conservation funds have been spent in Iowa since 2005. Despite that spending, there is no marked improvement in water quality, and threats to public health and the environment are mounting. Why? Craig will draw from several EWG Iowa investigations to offer his view on why traditional voluntary farm conservation programs fail, and he will suggest what new approaches are needed to finally get to clean water.



Jennifer Terry, Environmental Advocacy Leader, Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) (Des Moines)

The Des Moines Water Works draws drinking water for that metropolitan area of 500,000 from the surface waters of the intensively row-cropped and tile-drained Des Moines and Raccoon River watersheds. DMWW brought on-line the world's largest nitrate removal system in 1992. In recent years, the utility has spent more money, and runs the system many more days, to remove nitrates from the river water. In 2015, it sued three counties, charging that unregulated discharge from agricultural tile outlets should be regulated under the Clean Water Act as point source pollution. Jennifer will provide background and updates on the lawsuit, talk about decades of failed collaborative efforts to clean up the watershed, and where Iowa's water quality policy may be headed.

WHEN

Thursday, July 21, 2:30 – 4:30 pm
(with hospitality hour following)

WHERE

Mead Hotel, 451 East Grand Avenue,
Wisconsin Rapids

WHO

This session is part of the regular two-day summer meeting of Wisconsin Land and Water (Conservation Association), the statewide group representing county conservation staff and county land conservation committee members.

HOW MUCH

If you want to come just for this session and the hospitality hour immediately following it (cost is \$15), register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-and-agriculture-lessons-from-iowa-tickets-25936653228>.

If you want to come for lunch, the Water and Agriculture session, and the session preceding it (cost is \$41), and the hospitality hour, register for "Thursday only," via Wisconsin Land + Water's registration page, here:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oidk=a07ecquantb4a43e884&llr=7pa8l6qab>.

Questions? Contact Matt Krueger at River Alliance at mkrueger@wisconsinrivers.org