INRC Advisory Council Teleconference Summary – October 15, 2020

Attendees:
• Dan Robison, CALS Dean, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
• Joe Colletti, CALS Senior Associate Dean, Associate Director, Experiment Station
• Kapil Arora, ISU Extension & Outreach Field Agricultural Engineer
• Maureen Clayton, University of Northern Iowa, Associate Dean
• Chris Jones, Research Engineer, IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering, University of Iowa
• Susan Kozak, IDALS, Director Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality
• Adam Schnieders, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
• Keith Summerville, Drake University Deputy Provost, Associate Dean College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Environmental Science
• INRC Staff/Iowa State University: Matt Helmers, INRC Director, Professor Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Dean Professorship, Associate Chair for Research & Extension, Iowa State University; Kay Stefanik, INRC Assistant Director; Malcolm Robertson, INRC Program Coordinator; Wendy Borja-Diaz, INRC-CALS Accountant; Ann Y. Robinson, INRC-CALS Communications Specialist;

Welcome and Introductions –Dean Dan Robison

Welcomed the group and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

I've been here for about 20 months, and everywhere I go, people talk about water quality. Thank you for your work and the progress you're contributing to. Hope your families are well and staying well. I'm pleased Matt and the staff at the Center are doing such a good job working remotely to keep activities going on and to deliver information and engage with stakeholders in the midst of the pandemic. Recently Joe Colletti and I have asked Matt to take on additional role to help us convene # of people intersection of land use, climate, nutrient use, etc., to bring additional voices to bring to bear on this important work.

Review and Approval of Minutes from March 2020 teleconference. Approval moved by Chris Jones. Maureen Clayton seconded. All approved.

Review of 2020 (March-October) Center Activities –Matt Helmers

Matt H. - Has been an interesting year. Tried to stay active despite the challenges. Since March, joined social media world with Twitter account now that we have more content to share. Have slowly gained followers. Also now have centralized listserve to facilitate communication with stakeholders.

Been involved with a number of Iowa Learning Farm webinars and virtual field days. Exciting to see reach some of these are virtual events are getting, even bringing in viewers even from other states. Spreads work being done in Iowa.

Discussion: Thrilled with engagement, including out-of-state attendees. Suggests the value of considering topics of interest beyond Iowa.

One of things Kay S. is working on is a wetland trailer/traveling exhibit, in coordination with the Conservation Learning Group, Iowa Learning Farms and ISU Extension & Outreach Wildlife Program Specialist Adam Janke. It is being modeled after the Conservation Station on the Edge trailer.

Kay has also been working on a couple of other projects. Nutrient reduction exchange is using a nutrient tracking tool (NTT). She has been comparing results to some long-term drainage data in the same

regions. Early results were not matching up as well as they should. Have been in contact with the model developer, who is doing some adjustments to make sure tools are valid for Iowa. Also compiling data on commercial fertilizer and manure to estimate overall nutrient inputs, potentially to add data to INRS.

Continue to lead INRS Science Team meetings. Could be future interest in adding urban BMPs, so Malcolm has been looking at into online databases and tools to see what we might draw on.

INRC started a seminar series last spring. Held two events, and then we were shut down due to COVID. Started again this fall with a virtual series. Held one last month with Grace Wilkinson on lakes and harmful algal blooms (recording online). Presentation from UNI later in Oct., UI in November. Planning for spring 2021 - may bring some expertise from outside of Iowa. Welcome input on topics.

INRC articles have addressed a variety of research areas. Also highlighted partnerships with farmers/landowners and long-term partnerships on water quality between ISU and USDA ARS.

Budget Update –Matt Helmers

Allocations to projects through end of FY2020 were $1.9 million, which included Year 2 allocations for 2019-2020 awards for $624,978 and Year 1 allocation for FY2020 awards in the amount of $1,296,593. In FY20, allocations received by INRC from the IDNR Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) funds were $1.8 million which included 5 payments. Funds are sent to INRC in a quarterly basis and a quarter behind each fiscal year. The amount is estimated not fixed, thus making projection a bit difficult. Expect about $1.2 million this year, so INRC cut back the number of proposals funded this year. Awards funded for 2020-2021 total $1.3 million (Year 1 $945,444 and Year 2 $369,120).

2020-2021 RFP Process and Review –Matt Helmers

Received 42 proposals, representing funding requests of over $4.5 million. Had 13 reviewers, including six external to Iowa. Selected 11 projects, for a little over $1.3 million in funding. Think have a good group of research projects, rated highly by review panel. Matt reviewed list of 2020 INRC projects.

Applying a new ACPF-compatible tool – Presentation

Dr. Emily Zimmerman, Assistant Professor, ISU Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM) , discussed her recently funded INRC project aimed at adding value to Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF). Reviewed ACPF and its tools. Discussed project and its primary goal to investigate opportunities and outcomes associated with various policy approaches to conservation implementation. Excited to get going. Contact: emilyz@iastate.edu

Center Director Update and Future Meetings –Matt Helmers

Number of things working on going forward: Continue monthly seminar series: continue getting communications pieces out to highlight INRC-funded work and findings; initiate a field tour again when it's safe. Also starting work on strategic planning -- will be reaching out to advisory council for input.

Welcome ideas for speakers, seminar topics. Hope we can meet in person sometime in 2021: 6-month cycle would take us to March. Welcome input on topics, format. Appreciate past support.

Public Discussion: No public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20.