

# Public Meetings in the Time of COVID-19

with Jeff Berckes



# The Tick Tock (not Tik Tok)...



- 2012 Vision for Iowa – Develop Statewide Beach Bacteria TMDL
- 2014-2017 Develop and execute monitoring plan
- 2018 Develop document
- 2019 Work with EPA for unofficial review...



# The Tick Tock (not Tik Tok)...



- 3/5/2020 Press Release! Public Meetings Planned for:
  - March 18 in Southern Iowa
  - March 24 Central Iowa
  - April 1 Northern Iowa
- 3/16/2020 – Work from home... meetings cancelled



# The Day After Tomorrow

- Quickly extended the public notice period
- Started evaluating options...



# Eight Days a Week

## Live

1:1 Replacement

Keeps Schedule

Closest to normal

Access tricky

Difficult to control

Set time & date

## Recorded

Editing ability

More access

Total control

Reach more people?

New & scary

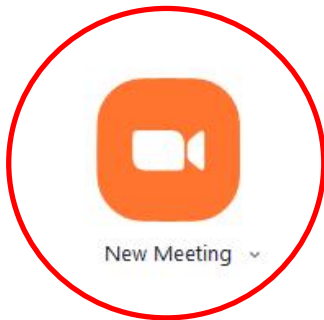
More hurdles...



# A Very Particular Set of Skills...

- Record in Zoom, Google hangouts, etc. with present feature





New Meeting ▾



Join



Schedule



Share screen ▾

08:06 AM  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

No upcoming meetings today





Enter Full Screen



Jeff Berckes



Mute



Stop Video



Security



Participants 1



Chat



Share Screen



Record

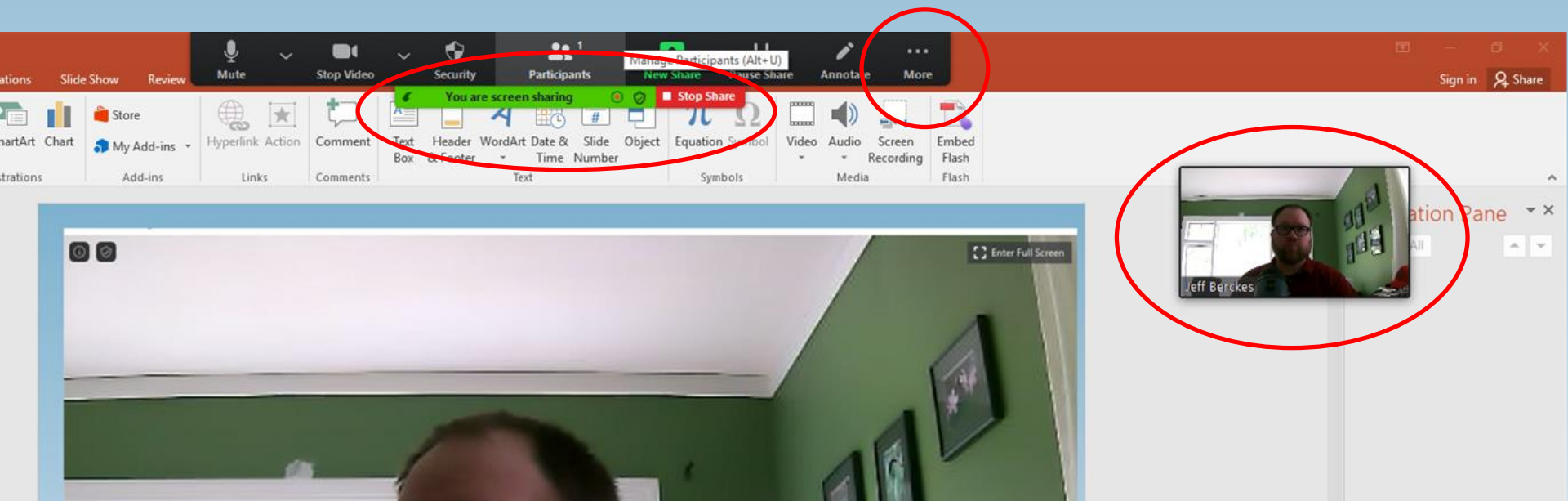


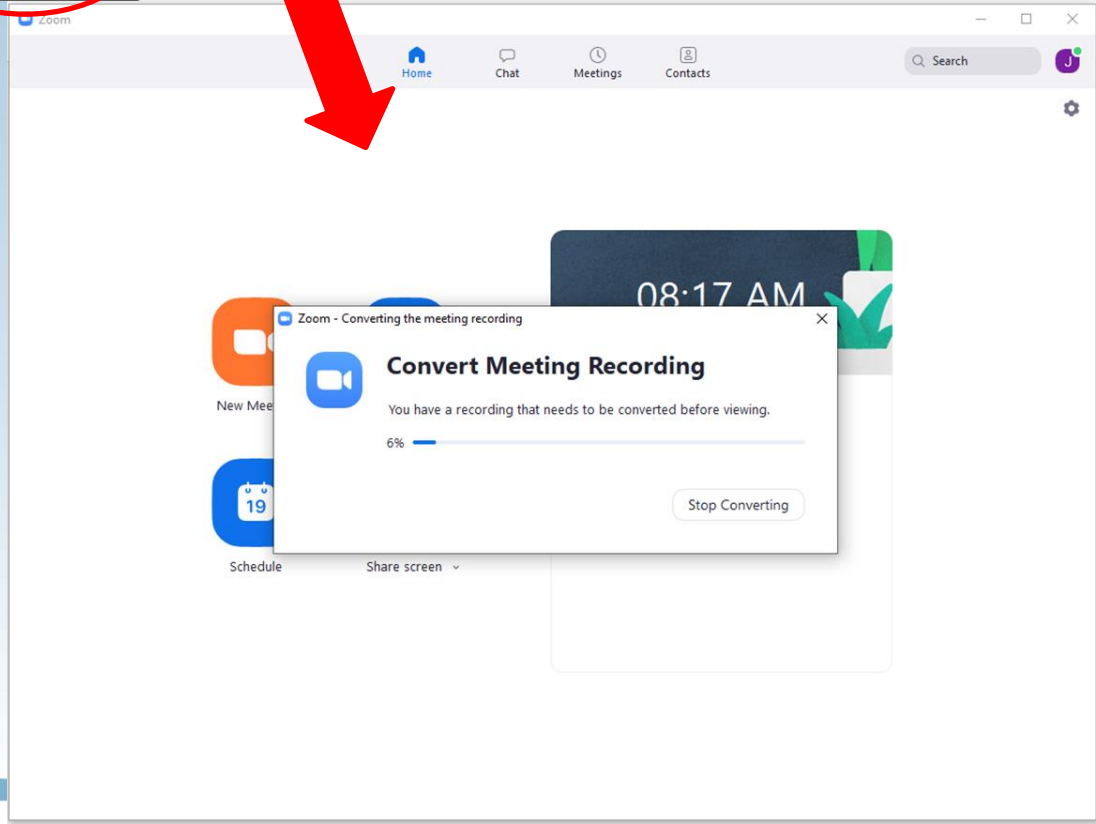
Reactions

End









2020-05-27 08.14.25 jeff berckes' zoom meeting 93615511861

File Home Share View Music Tools

This PC > Documents > zoom > 2020-05-27 08.14.25 jeff berckes' zoom meeting 93615511861

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
audio_only	5/27/2020 8:18 AM	M4A File	14 KB
playback	5/27/2020 8:19 AM	M3U File	1 KB
zoom_0	5/27/2020 8:18 AM	MP4 File	655 KB

Quick access  
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TMDL  
OneDrive  
This PC



# A Very Particular Set of Skills

- Record in Zoom, Google hangouts, etc. with present feature
- Native software or open source program like Blender to combine multiple presentations
  - Important for balancing sound levels
- Upload to YouTube
- Note: YouTube auto-created transcript but need to edit



**Statewide Beach Bacteria TMDL**

Public notice through May 18, 2020

Jeff Berckes, TMDL Program Lead (send official public comments to [jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov) by 5/18/20)

Jason Palmer, Biologist (send technical questions regarding monitoring to [Jason.palmer@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jason.palmer@dnr.iowa.gov))

James Hallmark, TMDL Project Lead (send technical questions regarding modeling to [james.hallmark@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:james.hallmark@dnr.iowa.gov))

**Beach Bacteria Public Meeting, Iowa DNR**

177 views • Apr 29, 2020

3 likes • 0 dislikes

SHARE SAVE

**iowadnr**  
1K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

For a downloadable copy of the draft TMDL, visit: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental...>

This video will act as an alternative to the public meetings typical of the TMDL process

SHOW MORE

0 Comments SORT BY

**Up next**

**Fish Iowa! Fishing Lures - Iowa DNR**  
iowadnr  
937 views • 6 years ago

**January 13, 2020 - CFP National...**  
Boys From The Boot  
Recommended for you

**MLB 2017 August September...**  
MLB Ejection Tracker  
Recommended for you

**The Wrecking Crew**  
YouTube Movies  
2015 · Documentary  
Free with Ads

**1984 Reds-Cubs Home Run-Foul...**  
ncopie2006  
Recommended for you

**How to Trade Options on...**  
InTheMoney  
Recommended for you

**MLB | 2016 June**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjdzYIH5i6Q&feature=youtu.be>



# Silver Linings Playbook...

- TMDL meeting attendance range 0-120+
- Typical meeting size 5-10
- YouTube views within Public Notice period >150
- Compliments from...
  - DNR Leadership
  - Natural Resource Commissioner
  - Interest groups



# Silver Linings Playbook...

- We made a change due to a global pandemic situation
- We found a better way to reach more people
- We changed a process for the better





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Grounded in sound science, integrating music and the arts throughout, Water Rocks! challenges and inspires the next generation towards a greater appreciation of our state's water, soil, and other natural resources.

\*Winner of 2016 Iowa Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for Environmental Education

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**7,800** people reached at  
**77** county fairs, festivals, and other community events  
(many including Conservation Station trailers)

**11** Water Rocks! Summit Workshops (since 2014), reaching **199** K-12 classroom teachers  
 -AND-  
**62** extension/environmental educators

Rock Your Watershed!  
 online computer game  
**55,000+** lifetime game plays  
\*2-time winner of Blue Ribbon Award for Outstanding Educational Aids from American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

**1** common GOAL:  
 Inspire the next generation to care for and act to protect our natural resources!

[www.waterrocks.org](http://www.waterrocks.org)

clean water  
*starts with you.*  
 IOWA DNR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT