

Iowa's Watershed Management Authorities

Kate Hansen, Center for Rural Affairs





CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

Our mission

Establish strong rural communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and genuine opportunity for all while engaging people in decisions that affect the quality of their lives and the future of their communities.



WMAs at a glance

- Established by the Iowa Legislature in 2010 after historic flooding.
- Intergovernmental agreements along watershed boundaries (HUC-8 or smaller) between cities, counties, and soil and water conservation districts.
- Focused on flood mitigation, water quality, education, outreach etc.

IOWA'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES



Successful Farming

MARKETS | SUBJECTS | RESOURCES | CROPS | FARM MANAGEMENT

CROPS > CONSERVATION

Batch and Build soil conservation more in Iowa

Conservation programs can be difficult to navigate for farmers, but Iowa is a good place to get help. In a new article, Jeff Swanson, a Water Quality Supervisor from Polk County, Iowa, shares his experiences.

By Jeff Swanson | 10.18.2019 | 10:29 AM

1 2 3 4 5 6



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Beaver Creek WMA | 8. Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA | 15. Middle Cedar WMA | 22. South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA |
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| 5. East Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition | 12. Lower Cedar WMA | 19. North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition | 26. Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA |
| 6. English River WMA | 13. Maquoketa River WMA | 20. Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition | 27. Walnut Creek WMA |
| 7. Fourmile Creek WMA | 14. Middle-South Raccoon WMA | 21. Soap Creek Watershed Board | 28. West Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition |

Timeline

- 2010-2016: Iowa Watersheds Project
 - \$4.5 million from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - 5 watersheds
 - 150+ structures built!
- 2016-2022: Iowa Watershed Approach
 - \$97 million from HUD
 - 9 watersheds
 - 700+ structures built!
- 2023 - 28 Watershed Management Authorities across the state!

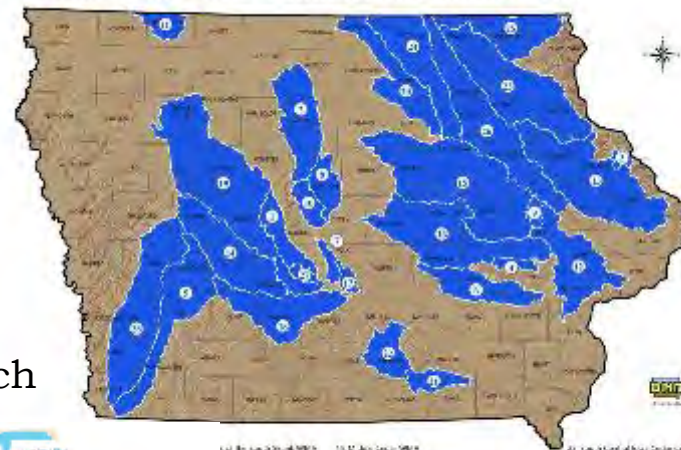


Iowa Watersheds Project

Iowa Watershed Approach



IOWA'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES



- 1. Upper Cedar River WMA
- 2. Beaver Creek WMA
- 3. Turkey River WMA
- 4. Otter Creek WMA
- 5. Middle Raccoon River WMA
- 6. Soap Creek / Chequest Creek WMA
- 7. South Chequest Creek WMA
- 8. Upper Raccoon River WMA
- 9. Upper Iowa River WMA
- 10. Upper Des Moines River WMA
- 11. Upper Missouri River WMA
- 12. Upper Mississippi River WMA
- 13. Upper Illinois River WMA
- 14. Upper Arkansas River WMA
- 15. Upper Kansas River WMA
- 16. Upper Nebraska River WMA
- 17. Upper Oklahoma River WMA
- 18. Upper Texas River WMA
- 19. Upper Louisiana River WMA
- 20. Upper Missouri River WMA

2022 and 2023 surveys

- WMAs have implemented more than 2,600 conservation practices statewide.
- More than 300 jurisdictions across the state belong to a WMA.
- 92% of WMA respondents have comprehensive watershed management plans on file or in development.
- There is a demonstrated need from farmers and landowners to install additional conservation practices.
- The number of WMAs with full-time watershed coordinators shrunk from 13 to 7
- Decision makers could help them the most with support for staffing.

From the Source: A Look at Iowa's Watershed Management Authorities



A report by Kate Hansen,
Center for Rural Affairs



Watershed management authorities need funding

There is no long-term, stable
financial support for such entities

By Brittany J. Miller, The Gazette

Iowa's watershed management authorities are making positive impacts — but they need more funding, according to a recent Center for Rural Affairs report.

The Iowa Legislature first enabled watershed management authorities in 2010 following the 2008 flood. They are agreements between cities, counties and soil and water conservation

districts that coordinate water quality improvement and flood mitigation efforts with landowners in watersheds — or areas where water drains into a common water body.

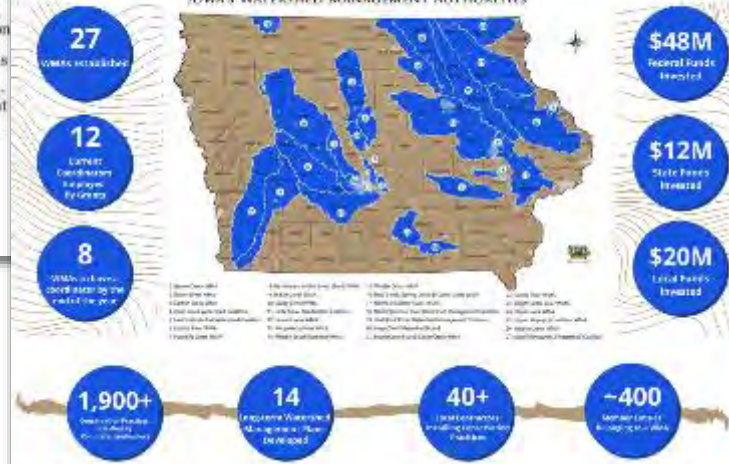
Iowa's 27 existing watershed management authorities cover 40 percent of the state. Across the board, they have received a patchwork of funding from all levels of government, along with community support.

However, there is no long-term, stable financial support for such entities. Federal and state grants

► WATERSHEDS, PAGE 8A

THE NUMBERS

IOWA'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES



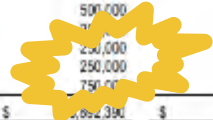
Advocacy



Advocacy

Agriculture and Natural Resources General Fund

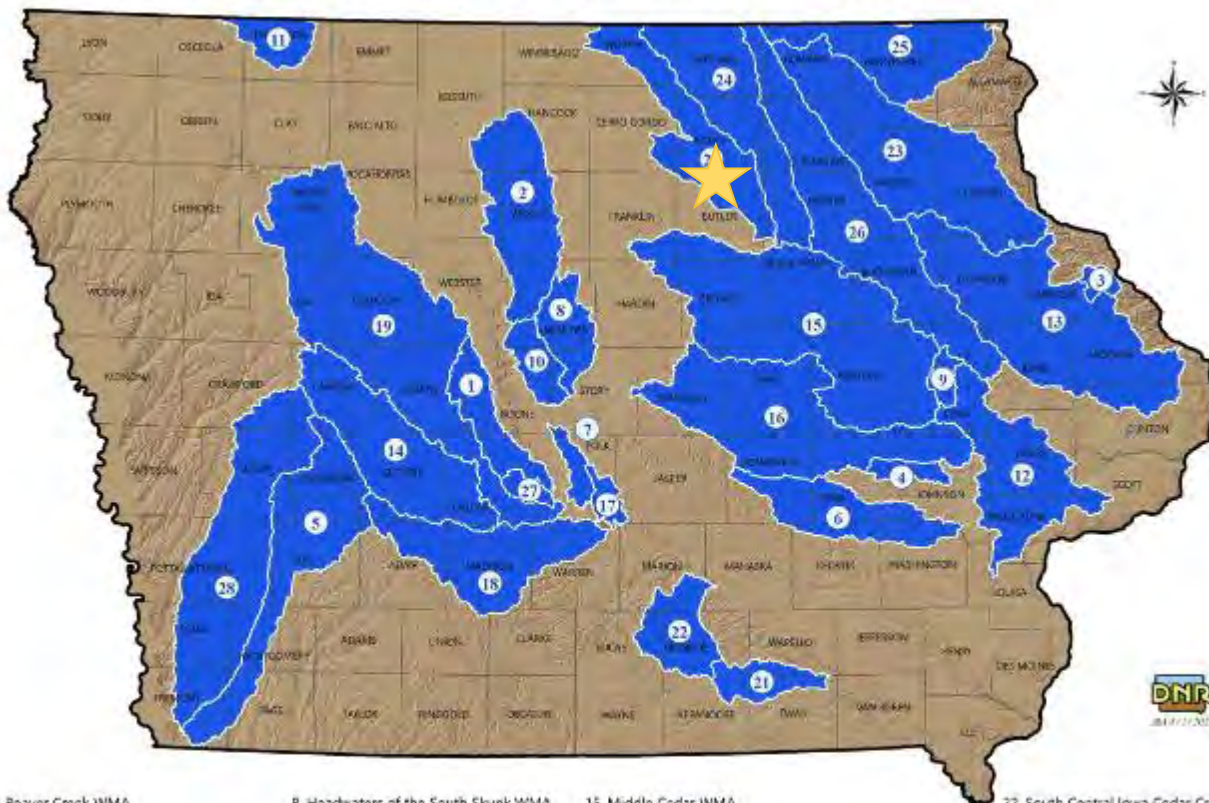
	Estimated FY 2023	Gov Rec Align FY 2024	House Subcom FY 2024	House Subcom vs Gov Align	House FY 2024 vs FY 2023
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Dept of					
Agriculture and Land Stewardship					
Administrative Division	\$ 18,960,194	\$ 18,960,194	\$ 19,210,194	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Milk Inspections	189,196	189,196	189,196	0	0
Local Food and Farm	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0
Agricultural Education	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0
Foreign Animal Disease	750,000	750,000	1,000,000	250,000	250,000
Farmers with Disabilities	180,000	180,000	180,000	0	0
Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0
Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Fund	250,000	250,000	0	-250,000	-250,000
Grain Regulation	350,000	350,000	350,000	0	0
Value Added Agriculture Grant Program	463,000	463,000	463,000	0	0
Choose Iowa Promotion Program	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0
Foreign Animal Disease Capitals	0	0	0	250,000	250,000
FAD Vaccine Development	0	0	250,000	250,000	250,000
Watershed Mgmt Authority Coordinators	0	0	250,000	250,000	250,000
Dairy Innovation Program	0	0	750,000	750,000	750,000
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Dept of	\$ 22,142,390	\$ 22,142,390	\$ 22,862,390	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,750,000
Natural Resources, Department of					
Natural Resources					
Natural Resources Operations	\$ 12,093,051	\$ 11,922,293	\$ 11,922,293	\$ 0	\$ -170,768
Floodplain Management Program	1,510,000	1,510,000	1,510,000	0	0
Forestry Health Management	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0
State Park Operations	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
Total Natural Resources, Department of	\$ 15,103,051	\$ 14,932,293	\$ 14,932,293	\$ 0	\$ -170,768
Regents, Board of					
Regents, Board of					
ISU - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
ISU - Livestock Disease Research	170,390	170,390	191,390	21,000	21,000
UI - Iowa Center for Ag Safety & Health (I-CASH)	128,154	128,154	128,154	0	0
Total Regents, Board of	\$ 4,698,544	\$ 4,698,544	\$ 4,719,544	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
Total Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$ 41,943,996	\$ 41,773,227	\$ 43,544,227	\$ 1,771,000	\$ 1,600,232



Local spotlight - Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition



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SRRWMC timeline

- Summer 2021 - outreach and formation.
- July 2021 - first meeting and election of officers.
- June 2022 - sign agreement with Iowa DNR for \$100,000.
- November 2022 - secure contractor for watershed planning.
- March 2023 - community open house.
- *December 2023 - will publish watershed management plan.*
- *Soon - formation of a sister WMA, the Winnebago River Watershed Management Authority. Includes Mason City!*

Questions?

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