

## **APPENDIX B: GRANT FUNDING ROADMAP**

**SUMMARY OF FUNDING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES (PREPARED BY JEO)**

**WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES (PROVIDED BY IDNR)**

**FACT SHEET: LEVERAGING LOCAL FUNDS FOR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT (PROVIDED BY CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS)**

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## Funding and Technical Resources Summary

Agency or Program	Type of Activity Addressed					Type of Assistance	
	Projects & Studies or BMP Practices		Education	Monitoring & Plan Evaluation	Partnerships & Policy		
	Flooding	Water Quality				Financial	Technical
United States Geological Survey (USGS) – Central Midwest Science Center							
Monitoring Data and Project/Study Partnership Opportunities	X	X		X		X	
Cooperative Water Program	X	X		X		X	
Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT)							
Project partnership and/or technical support	X	X				X	
Recreational Trails Program			X		X	X	
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)							
Partners for Fish and Wildlife (private lands assistance)	X	X				X	X
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program	X	X	X			X	
Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin	X	X	X		X	X	X
Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program						X	X
Iowa Wetland Management District (WMD)	X	X	X			X	
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)							
Section 14 - Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection	X					X	X
Section 206 - Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration		X				X	X
Section 22 - Planning Assistance to States	X	X				X	X
US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development							
Water Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program	X	X				X	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)		X				X	X
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)							
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	X	X				X	X
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)		X				X	X
National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)	X	X				X	X
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	X	X				X	X
Conservation Innovation Grants	X	X				X	X

## Funding and Technical Resources Summary

Agency or Program	Type of Activity Addressed					Type of Assistance	
	Projects & Studies or BMP Practices		Education	Monitoring & Plan Evaluation	Partnerships & Policy		
	Flooding	Water Quality				Financial	Technical
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	X	X				X	X
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	X	X				X	X
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (Recovery and Floodplain Easements)	X					X	X
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program (PL-566 program)	X	X				X	X
Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)							
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)		X				X	
Conservation Education Program (Part of REAP)			X			X	
Forestry Landowner Assistance		X				X	
Private Lands Program		X					X
Animal Feeding Operations Program		X			X		X
Flood Plain Management Program	X						X
Dam Safety Program	X	X		X	X		X
Lake Restoration Program		X				X	X
River Restoration Program	X	X		X	X		X
Stream and Watershed Integrated Management Workshop		X	X				X
Source Water Protection Program		X	X		X		X
Watershed Program (319 Program)		X	X	X		X	X
Underground Storage Tank Program		X		X			X
State Revolving Fund (SRF) Sponsored Projects	X	X				X	
Water Quality Financing Program		X				X	
State Wildlife Grants		X				X	
Fish Habitat Program	X	X				X	
Land and Water Conservation Fund		X				X	

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Agency or Program	Type of Activity Addressed					Type of Assistance	
	Projects & Studies or BMP Practices		Education	Monitoring & Plan Evaluation	Partnerships & Policy		
	Flooding	Water Quality				Financial	Technical
Water Trails Program			X		X	X	X
Wildlife Habitat Grant	X	X				X	
Grants to Counties Water Well Program		X	X	X		X	
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)							
Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Program		X				X	X
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	X	X				X	X
Financial Incentives Program		X				X	
Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP)		X				X	
No-Interest Loans	X	X				X	
Urban Conservation Program	X	X	X			X	X
State Revolving Loan Fund	X	X				X	
Watershed Protection Program (Water Quality Initiative [WQI])	X	X	X	X		X	X
Water Protection Fund (WPF) and Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF)		X	X	X		X	X
County Emergency Management							
Assistance or Lead on various hazard mitigation projects	X				X	X	X
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD)							
Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding programs via FEMA							
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	X					X	
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	X					X	
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	X					X	
Public Assistance Section 406 Hazard Mitigation Funding	X					X	
Iowa Flood Center (IFC)							
Various technical support capabilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Funding and Technical Resources Summary

Agency or Program	Type of Activity Addressed					Type of Assistance	
	Projects & Studies or BMP Practices		Education	Monitoring & Plan Evaluation	Partnerships & Policy		
	Flooding	Water Quality				Financial	Technical
Prairie STRIPS Team (Iowa State University)							
Various technical support capabilities		X	X				X
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (Iowa State University)							
Various technical support capabilities		X	X		X		X
Iowa State University (ISU) Extension							
Information and various outreach programs by specialty type	X	X	X				X
Iowa Learning Farms (Iowa State University)							
Various technical and educational support capabilities		X	X		X		X
County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)							
Each county's SWCD may have technical or financial assistance available							
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation							
Preserve America matching grant program	X					X	
National Endowment for the Humanities							
Various financial support capabilities	X	X	X			X	
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)							
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) - Varies by grant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
US Department of Interior							
National Parks Service - various partnership opportunities	X	X				X	X
Nonprofit Organizations - various and diverse programs and specialty areas							
Groundwater Foundation - Education and Community-based action programs		X	X		X		X
Pheasants Forever (PF) (State and local chapters) - Various conservation programs		X	X		X	X	X
Ducks Unlimited (DU) - Various conservation programs	X	X	X		X	X	X
National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) - various conservation programs		X	X		X	X	X

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Agency or Program	Type of Activity Addressed					Type of Assistance	
	Projects & Studies or BMP Practices		Education	Monitoring & Plan Evaluation	Partnerships & Policy		
	Flooding	Water Quality				Financial	Technical
Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) - Various environmental programs	X	X	X	X	X		X
Iowa Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) Education and BMP demonstration site opportunities	X	X	X				X
Golden Hills RC&D - Program support and grant assistance	X	X	X		X	X	X
Hungry Canyons Alliance - Technical Assistance	X	X	X		X		X
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - Various conservation programs	X	X	X		X	X	X
Iowa Corn Growers Association - Various research and technical resources		X	X		X		X
Iowa Cattlemen's Association - Various technical resources		X	X		X		X
Iowa Pork Producers Association - Various technical resources		X	X		X		X
Izaak Walton League - Various conservation programs or funding	X					X	X
Soil Health Partnership (A National Corn Growers Association Initiative)		X	X				X
Women, Land, and Legacy Program - Networking and technical support			X		X		X
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Assistance towards public lands or conservation easements	X	X			X	X	X
Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership - Technical and educational resources	X	X	X		X		X





# Watershed Improvement Funding Sources

## Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation

Programs	Web address (some may break on to two lines)	Program Description	Application Due*
Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	50 percent cost-share available to landowners through 100 SWCDs for permanent soil conservation practices	continuous
No-Interest Loans	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	State administered loans to landowners for permanent soil conservation practices	Feb. 1
District Buffer Initiatives	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Funds for SWCDs to initiate, stimulate and incentivise signup of USDA programs, specifically buffers	continuous
Mining Reclamation	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	\$2 million state and federal program (16:1 match) to reclaim abandoned surface coal mines at no cost to landowner	varies
Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Assistance Fund	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Provides 75 percent cost-share to landowners for alternative drainage in order to close ag drainage wells and protect groundwater quality	varies
Iowa Watershed Protection Program (WSPF)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Funds for SWCDs to provide water quality protection, flood control, and soil erosion protection in priority watersheds; 50-75 percent cost-share; Used as state match for EPA 319 funding	April 15
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Levering USDA funds (4:1) to establish nitrate removal wetlands in north central Iowa with no cost to landowner	continuous
Soil and Water Enhancement Account – REAP Water Quality Improvement Projects	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionProjects.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionProjects.asp</a>	REAP funds for water quality improvement projects (sediment, nutrient and livestock waste) and wildlife habitat and forestry practices; 50-75 percent cost-share; Used as state match for EPA 319 funding	April 15
Soil and Water Enhancement Account – REAP Water Quality Improvement Practices	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Tree planting, native grasses, forestry, buffers, streambank stabilization, traditional erosion control practices, livestock waste management, ag drainage well closure, urban stormwater	continuous
Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Demonstration Program (IFLM)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Statewide farm demonstrations of BMPs for nutrient and pesticide management, air quality, and soil and water conservation	
State Revolving Loans (SRF)	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Low interest loans provided by SWCDs to landowners for permanent water quality improvement practices; subset of DNR program	continuous

\* Dates are approximate. Check with funding agency to determine exact due date.

## Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Watershed Improvement Fund	<a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp</a>	Local watershed improvement grants to enhance water quality for beneficial uses, including economic development	August 2

## U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Services Agency

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
General Signup Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a> Click on "Conservation Programs."	Encourages farmers to convert highly erodible land or other environmentally sensitive land to vegetative cover; Farmers receive annual rental payments	determined from time-to-time
Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a> Click on "Conservation Programs."	Encourages farmers to convert highly erodible land or other environmentally sensitive land to vegetative cover, filter strips, or riparian buffers; Farmers receive annual rental payments	continuous
Farmable Wetland Program (FWP)	<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/farmwetland04.htm">www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/farmwetland04.htm</a>	Voluntary program to restore farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving hydrology, vegetation	continuous

## U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/</a>	Provides funds to grassland owners to maintain, improve, establish grass. Contracts of easements up to 30 years	No additional signup at this time

## U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/</a>	Provides technical and financial assistance for natural resource conservation in environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner; program is generally 50 percent cost-share	continuous
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/</a>	Provides restoration of wetlands through permanent and 30 year easements and 10 year restoration agreements	continuous
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/</a>	Flood plain easements acquired via USDA designated disasters due to flooding	determined by need
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/</a>	Cost-share contracts to develop wildlife habitat	continuous
Farm & Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/</a>	Purchase of easements to limit conversion of ag land to no-ag uses. Requires 50 percent match	

\* Dates are approximate. Check with funding agency to determine exact due date.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cpi/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cpi/</a>	Conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds and airsheds of special significance	April 15
Iowa Conservation and Partnerships: "Supersheds" Program		Cooperative effort among conservation agencies and organizations to combine resources to implement resource improvement projects	
Conservation Security Program (CSP)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/</a>	Green payment approach for maintaining and increasing conservation practices	variable
Public Law 83-566	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html</a>	Contains authority to improve water quality as well as control flooding, reduce soil erosion, provide recreation, and provide a water supply	
Public Law 78-534	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/pl534.html">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/pl534.html</a>	Permanent practices built for the purpose of erosion and flood control in Little Sioux River basin.	
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/</a>	National and state grants for innovative solutions to a variety of environmental challenges	variable

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration - Section 206	<a href="http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/environment/">www.mvp.usace.army.mil/environment/</a> Click on "Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration - Section 206."	Restoration projects in aquatic ecosystems such as rivers, lakes and wetlands	
Habitat Restoration of Fish and Wildlife Resources - Section 1135	<a href="http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/environment/">www.mvp.usace.army.mil/environment/</a> Click on "Habitat Restoration - Section 1135."	Must involve modification of the structures or operations of a project constructed by the Corps of Engineers	April 15

## U.S. Forest Service

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml">www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml</a>	Encourages the long-term sustainability of non-industrial private forest lands by establishing, restoring, protecting, managing, maintaining and enhancing	

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## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Targeted Watershed Grants	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/watershed.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/watershed.html</a>	Nationwide grants for implementation of activities and BMPs specifically designed to improve water quality	
Water Quality Cooperative Agreements [Section 104(b)(3)]	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/waterquality.htm">www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/waterquality.htm</a>	Developing, implement, and demonstrate innovative approaches relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution	varies

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Section 319 Clean Water Act	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/index.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/index.html</a>	Grants to implement NPS pollution control programs and projects; requires 40 percent state match	April 15
Iowa Water Quality Loan Fund (SRF)	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/index2.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/index2.html</a>	Source of low-cost financing for farmers and landowners, livestock producers, community groups, developers, watershed organizations, and others	continuous

## Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Water Monitoring and Assessment Program	<a href="http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/">http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/</a>	Provides funding for restoration of Iowa's publicly owned lakes, in combination with watershed improvement to improve water quality. New in 2006.	
IOWATER	<a href="http://www.iowater.net/">www.iowater.net/</a>	Training, supplies, and technical support for citizen water quality monitoring network; subset of ambient program	
Lake Restoration Fund	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/lakerestoration/index.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/lakerestoration/index.html</a>	Flood plain easements acquired via USDA designated disasters due to flooding	
Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/reap/index.html">www.iowadnr.gov/reap/index.html</a>	Provides funding for enhancement and protection of State's natural and cultural resources	varies
GIS mapping data for watershed managers	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/mapping.html">www.iowadnr.gov/other/mapping.html</a>	Watershed Atlas provides a variety of interactive GIS data layers for watershed planning on all watersheds in Iowa	

\* Dates are approximate. Check with funding agency to determine exact due date.

## Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Network	<a href="http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/">http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/</a>	Delivers consistent, unbiased information about the condition of Iowa's surface and groundwater resources	
Other Water Programs	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/index.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/index.html</a>		

## Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Soil Conservation

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Stream bank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement		Penalties from fish kills used for environmental improvement on streams impacted by the kill	

## Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Finance Authority

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
State Revolving Fund (SRF)	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/index.html">www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/index.html</a>	Provides low interest loans to municipalities for waste water and water supply; expanding to private septics, livestock, stormwater, and NPS pollutants	continuous

## Federal Agencies

Programs	Web address	Program Description	Application Due*
Other grant and loan programs	<a href="http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/">http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/</a>	Searchable database for federal funding programs	varies

\* Dates are approximate. Check with funding agency to determine exact due date.



# FACT SHEET:

## LEVERAGING LOCAL FUNDS FOR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT

As stakeholders in Iowa's 56 hydrologic unit code 8 (HUC-8) watersheds look to improve resiliency through conservation practice adoption, education and outreach, and long-term planning, securing funds for these activities is often a challenge. Below is a list of local strategies Watershed Management Authorities (WMA) members can leverage to attain funding.

Local funding strategies	
Funding option name	Explanation
Capital improvement fund <sup>1</sup>	A city may establish a reserve fund for capital improvement projects. This fund is built using tax revenue on a yearly basis, which is levied for the fund to accumulate money for the financing of specified capital improvements or to carry out a specific capital improvement plan.
Community foundation grants <sup>2</sup>	Many communities have local foundations that offer grants for a variety of projects. WMA members may apply for community foundation grants for projects such as education and outreach campaigns.
General obligation bonds <sup>3</sup>	General obligation bonds are backed by property taxes and are issued by a city or county for a wide array of community betterment projects. Typically, these are best suited for infrastructure projects.
Hotel/motel tax <sup>4</sup>	Local communities can assess a hotel/motel tax rate on room rentals. The state tax is set at 5 percent, but communities can assess an additional rate (up to 7 percent) to assist in the funding of local recreation projects and more. WMA members with this authority may utilize this strategy to contribute to watershed projects, especially those which facilitate outdoor recreation.
Land and Lake Legacy Bonding <sup>5</sup>	Officials at the county level have found success in issuing "Land and Legacy Bonds" to finance water quality and other conservation projects. Polk County, Iowa, voters passed a Land & Legacy Bond which raised millions for projects. <sup>6</sup>
Local Option Sales Tax	Counties are authorized, under Iowa Code, <sup>7</sup> to adopt a Local Option Sales Tax on transactions that occur within defined jurisdictions. Counties that are members of WMAs can use the funds to finance watershed projects. In 2013, voters in Marion, Iowa, approved an extension of the Local Option Sales Tax to fund park developments and other projects in their community. <sup>8</sup>
Per capita funding formula for WMA members	Many WMAs have dozens of member jurisdictions which benefit from the activities of the WMA. <sup>9</sup> A WMA board may ask for voluntary member contributions on a per capita basis, established upon factors such as population size, acres within the watershed area, and total available budget.
Permits, fees, and developer contributions <sup>10</sup>	Communities can establish new fees, earmark a portion of existing permit and fee structures, and/or establish requirements for developer contributions for new development in flood prone areas or areas that may contribute to water quality problems. The proceeds can be accumulated into a separate fund that is tied to specific project types.
Self-supported municipal improvement district <sup>11</sup>	This is a mechanism for property owners and businesses in a defined area to fund district-specific improvements. Commercial and industrial property owners in a district formally organize and pay a fee in addition to property taxes for services, projects, and district operations to improve a defined area. The City of Cedar Falls, Iowa, in the Middle Cedar WMA, used this to invest in streetscaping and other downtown improvements near the riverfront. <sup>12</sup>
Stormwater utility fee <sup>13</sup>	This type of utility, operating like a water or wastewater, electric, or other system, collects fees to cover the cost of implementing a municipal stormwater management program. This can include constructing and maintaining storm sewers and flood control systems. In 2019, the City of Algona, Iowa, assessed a fee of \$5 per residential unit; \$15 for commercial, educational, governmental, and religious units; and \$25 on every industrial unit to fund stormwater management structures such as stormwater retention basins. <sup>14</sup>

### Sources

- 1 "East Nishnabotna River Watershed Management and Flood Resiliency Plan." East Nishnabotna Watershed Management Coalition, Iowa Watershed Approach, June 2019, [dropbox.com/sh/x7adpq85ed3a1t0/AAD\\_ewAWSOVnrbHWBL2tsgta/East%20%26%20West%20HUC%208%20Plans?dl=0&preview=East+Nishnabotna+Plan.pdf&subfolder\\_nav\\_tracking=](https://dropbox.com/sh/x7adpq85ed3a1t0/AAD_ewAWSOVnrbHWBL2tsgta/East%20%26%20West%20HUC%208%20Plans?dl=0&preview=East+Nishnabotna+Plan.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=). Accessed January 2020.
- 2 Personal communication, Lori Scovel, Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation & Development, Nov. 13, 2019.
- 3 "East Nishnabotna River Watershed Management and Flood Resiliency Plan." East Nishnabotna Watershed Management Coalition, Iowa Watershed Approach, June 2019, [dropbox.com/sh/x7adpq85ed3a1t0/AAD\\_ewAWSOVnrbHWBL2tsgta/East%20%26%20West%20HUC%208%20Plans?dl=0&preview=East+Nishnabotna+Plan.pdf&subfolder\\_nav\\_tracking=](https://dropbox.com/sh/x7adpq85ed3a1t0/AAD_ewAWSOVnrbHWBL2tsgta/East%20%26%20West%20HUC%208%20Plans?dl=0&preview=East+Nishnabotna+Plan.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=). Accessed January 2020.
- 4 "Summary of Taxation of Hotel Rooms." Iowa Department of Revenue, [tax.iowa.gov/summary-taxation-hotel-rooms](https://tax.iowa.gov/summary-taxation-hotel-rooms). Accessed December 2019.
- 5 "Watershed Policies and Funding." Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership, [iowastormwater.org/stormwater-runoff/watersheds/watershed-policies-funding/](https://iowastormwater.org/stormwater-runoff/watersheds/watershed-policies-funding/). Accessed January 2020.



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## LOCAL FUNDING SPOTLIGHT: MAQUOKETA RIVER WMA VOLUNTARY PER CAPITA FUNDING FORMULA

For fiscal year 2020, members of the Maquoketa River WMA were asked to consider making a voluntary financial commitment equal to \$1 per person residing in the watershed.

Members utilized the most recent population data available—in this case the 2010 census—to determine their proposed financial contribution. For example, the City of Manchester, with an estimated population of 5,179 in 2010, was asked to contribute \$5,179 to the WMA. Counties were asked to contribute for the population living in the unincorporated areas of their county located within the watershed area. This was determined by reviewing census tract data and estimating how much land in each census tract was located within the watershed. Many member counties also chose to fund smaller member municipalities within their jurisdiction for which the voluntary financial commitment might have been a burden.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (which are not allowed to fund memberships) were asked to support the WMA by reimbursing the group for water monitoring fees, which were conducted by Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The WMA requested each member Soil and Water Conservation District fund lab fees only for collection sites located within their county. The WMA started its water monitoring program in 2019 with 34 identified collection sites utilizing a snapshot approach of collecting water samples on three dates in May, June, and August.

In its first year, the funding formula raised more than \$50,000 with 14 members contributing funds. The money raised was more than 80 percent of the total ask.



But, there are challenges with a per capita funding model, including sustainability. Among the questions are: Will members be able to continue this support on an annual basis? Can they afford not to invest \$1 per person for improved water and soil quality within their watershed? This will be a topic of discussion for WMA board members moving forward.

The WMA also lost three members from this process, even though commitments were strictly voluntary and were not required—going from 38 to 35 members. However, as a result of these funds, the WMA was able to support the work of Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development, which invested resources that helped the WMA form and sustained it for several years by providing administration and management services. This group now employs its coordinator.

In addition to providing required matching funds for grant opportunities, the money generated from the per capita formula also supports public education efforts through the WMA's new website, development of a survey for watershed residents in support of the WMA's watershed management plan, and the creation of a voluntary water monitoring program that will help further engage community members throughout the watershed.

### Sources, continued

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- 7 Iowa Code 2020, Chapter 423B (24, 2), 2019, Iowa Legislature. [legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/423B.pdf](http://legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/423B.pdf). Accessed January 2020.
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- 14 "Chapter 13.20 - Stormwater Drainage System District Utility." Title 13 - Public Services, Algona, Iowa, Code of Ordinances, [library.municode.com/ia/algona/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT13PUSE\\_CH13.20STDRSYDIUT](http://library.municode.com/ia/algona/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT13PUSE_CH13.20STDRSYDIUT). Accessed December 2019.

Photo provided by Lori Scovel of Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation & Development. Manchester White Water Park within the Maquoketa River WMA. Obtained Nov. 13, 2019.



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