

Working Together



Iowa Watershed Planning for
Communities Program (I-WPCOP)



RDG Planning & Design /
MSA Professional Services

Objectives



- Benefits and challenges of working on a watershed basis
- Options available for that work
- How to connect



Benefits and Challenges



How can working together help?
When/how does it hurt?

Benefits and Challenges



Getty Images / David Greedy

Benefits

- More effective in flood mitigation and water quality improvement
- Shared resources
- Longer range thinking
- Funders want to fund partnerships

Challenges

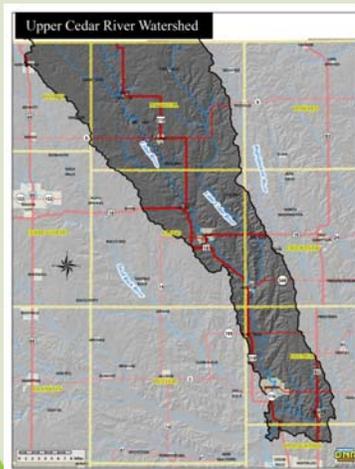
- Never enough money
- Perceived competing interests
- Priorities can get diluted
- Staffing and accountability

Options Available

- Councils of Government/MPO's
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- RC&D's still operating
- Any voluntary collaborations
- New kid on the block:
 - Watershed Management Authorities
- Shared infrastructure
- Regional Costs



Watershed Management Authorities



What they are and how they work

Current status

Challenges and opportunities



What they are/How they work . . .

Based on Hydrologic Unit Code
Within a HUC 8

Created by 28E Agreement



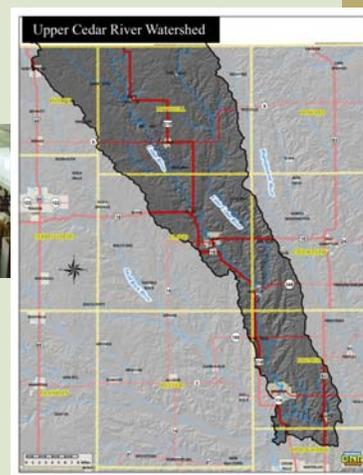
County and City Governments

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- All cities, counties and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) in the watershed must be notified at least thirty days in advance of an intent to form a WMA. Although these entities must be invited to participate, they are not required to participate.
- The WMA may coordinate its activities with the Iowa DNR, IDALS, Councils of Governments, public drinking water utilities, and soil and water conservation districts.



To address
flooding and
management of water
and soil resources



What a WMA can do . . .

Educate - Assess - Monitor

- Educate residents
- Find funding
- Assess flood risks
- Assess options for cutting flood risk
- Monitor state & federal flood risk planning and activities
- Assess water quality
- Leverage funding of multiple partners
- Allocate state and federal moneys available for water quality and flood programs to implement practices
- Help plan and implement
- Enter into contracts and agreements

Iowa Code Chapter 466B,
Subchapter III



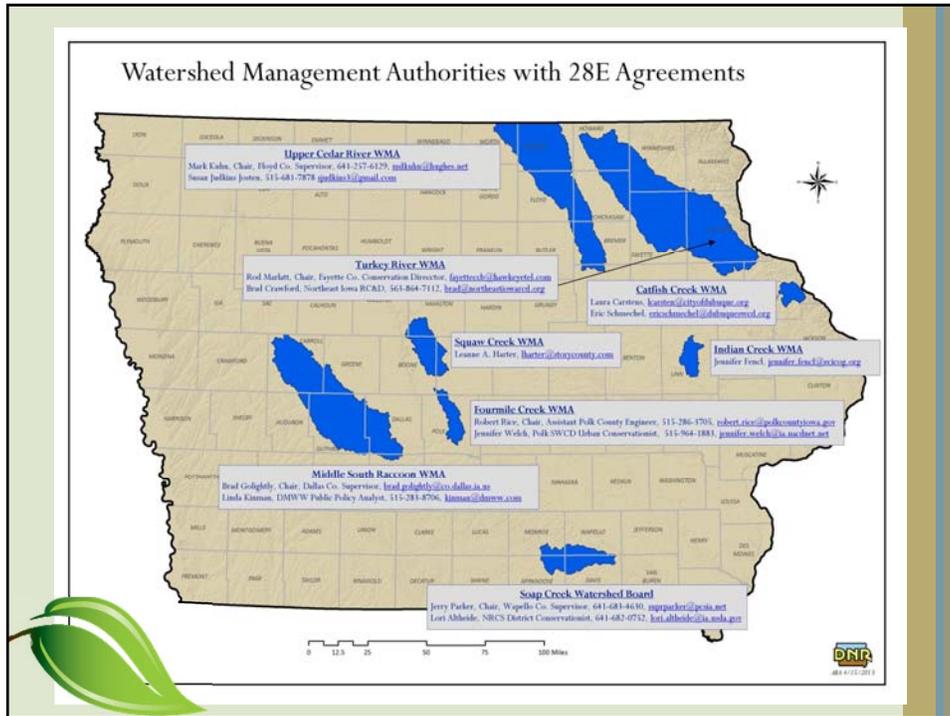
Current Status . . .

Funding – federal, state, local, private

Routed through IEDA and DNR with a grants process

- Catfish Creek
- Indian Creek
- Turkey River
- Upper Cedar River
- Squaw Creek
- Soap and Chequest
- Middle-South Raccoon
- Four Mile Creek

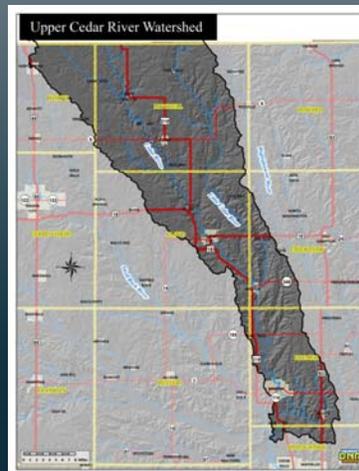




Challenges and Opportunities: A Brief Case Study



Upper Cedar



Creating a Watershed Management Authority

Challenges and Opportunities: A Brief Case Study



Raccoon River

Creating a Watershed Management Authority



Lessons Learned

- This takes time
- Assurances it's voluntary – over and over
- The more grassroots, the better
- Need robust public engagement at all levels
- Be FOR something
- Partnerships! Landowner engagement *critical*
- Group Discussion:
 - HOW DO WE MAINTAIN MOMENTUM?



How to Connect

Who should be your partners?



- County and City Governments
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Landowners
- Commodity Groups
- Drinking/ Water Commissions
- Council of Governments
- Watershed and Citizen Groups
- Businesses – Rural and Main St.
- The list goes on . . . Who else?**

The screenshot shows the Iowa Stormwater website with the following elements:

- Navigation Bar:** About Us, CALENDAR OF EVENTS, CONTACT US, Join Us, Links, Member Login, Search, Facebook, Twitter.
- ISWEP Logo:** IOWA STORM WATER ISWEP WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
- Category Menu:** EVERYONE, **COMMUNITIES** (highlighted with a red circle), CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPERS, INDUSTRY.
- Sub-menu for Communities:** Home + COMMUNITIES + View, **Watershed Planning** (highlighted with a red circle), Ordinances, Resources, Stormwater Utilities, Legislation.
- Tool Box:** A red toolbox icon with the text "Open the Tool Box" (highlighted with a red circle).
- Workshop Title:** **A BIG Picture Workshop** - Integrating Watershed Management Into Land Use Planning & Redevelopment.
- Workshop Description:** "Our goal is to build local capacity to develop safe and resilient communities in a manner consistent with the principles of watershed planning. We'll do so by discussing how to integrate watershed management concepts into existing urban, regional, and land use planning activities. Plenty of real-world experiences and discussions focused on how watershed planning should be considered a critical component of urban and regional planning insofar as it can enhance communities by improving water quality, increasing recreation opportunities, and reducing flood risk."
- Workshop Schedule:**
 - One Workshop - Three locations to choose from - ALL 8:00 am - 4:30 pm**
 - May 1 Public Library Washington Iowa
 - May 7 MacNider Museum Mason City Iowa
 - May 8 City Hall Hiawatha Iowa
- Registration:** Registration Form
- Partners:** Watershed Planning for Communities Workshop Training Partners. Logos for DNR, IAAC, MSA, and RDG are shown.

Key Points

Partners Needed



Benefits typically will outweigh challenges

Planning required

Many options for partnering available

Patience and tenacity count – particularly with new ways to partner

Don't forget to use the toolbox!