

Draft Minutes
Upper Cedar Watershed Management Improvement Authority
November 25, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM
Floyd County Courthouse, Charles City, IA

Chair Mark Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Executive Committee members present included Mark Kuhn, Karen Damjanovic, Jim Erb, Charlie Newman, and Eric Butler. Others in attendance included Gerald Beaver, Susan Judkins, Dennis Sande, Jim Erb, Jim Holz, Mary Beth Stevenson, Jason Smith, Roy Schwickerath, Stacy Langsdalel, Eric Thompson, Bill Thompson, Eric Jessum, Laurel Foreman and Laurie Simpson. The organizations they represent are outlined below.

An agenda, diagram describing the Iowa-Cedar Watershed Agency Coordination Team, and diagram of subwatershed projects currently underway throughout the Iowa-Cedar Basin were distributed and are made a part of these minutes.

Introductions were made.

Jason Smith from the Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which included discussing the UCWMIA's goals for the basin; determining if a facilitated engagement process in the basin is supported by the UCWMIA board; and discussing the various agency/entity efforts underway in the basin and how to align these efforts to leverage resources, minimize duplication and use products to support an engagement process.

The Interagency Coordination Team (IACT) is a subset of the Water Resources Coordinating Council which is focused on preparation for future flooding events, not just response to those events. Participants include the Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, NRCS, University of Iowa's IIHR, NWS, IDALS, FSA, USGS, SWCD and Iowa HUD Watershed Stormwater Education Projects. IACT has a mission to support local watershed groups. They engaged with the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority last year, and want to identify if the UCWMIA wants assistance or support from the IACT moving forward.

The day's participants identified their top priorities for the UCWMIA, including:

Mark Kuhn, Floyd County Supervisor: Legislation passed in 2010 outlines the goals of water quality and quantity.

Susan Judkins, KJWW Engineering: Priorities include pilot projects being supported by the Iowa Flood Center in the Beaver Creek area, and the watershed plan being facilitated by MSA Professional Services and the Iowa Soybean Association for the Iowa portion of the Upper Cedar Watershed.

Dennis Sande, NRCS: Specific projects supported by the NRCS were reviewed.

Roy Swickerath, Floyd County Supervisor: As the former Charles City fire chief and current Floyd County Supervisor, Roy sees the need for long-range planning (especially for floods) with top goals being flood mitigation and water quality.

Charlie Newman, Floyd City Council: Flood control and water quality are top priorities. He wonders about the impact of farm tiling.

Laurie Simpson, Floyd County Zoning Administrator: Consider the impact of flooding on individuals; Laurie experienced 8 feet of water in her basement in 2008.

Karen Damjanovic, Mitchell County SWCD: Flooding affects roads; soil loss from runoff is a problem; and lack of funding causes staff reduction and lessened ability to deal with these problems.

Mary Beth Stevenson, Iowa DNR: Current initiatives in the Upper Cedar Watershed are impressive. She wonders how the DNR can assist.

Jim Erb, Floyd County Mayor: Thinks the UCWMIA needs an initiative like the Red River provisions for flood mitigation. Charles City is exploring the potential for an urban and rural swap, in which resources that might be spent in a community yet have little impact could instead be spent in the rural area with a greater impact, resulting in a win-win.

Jim Holz, MSA Professional Services: Listen to goals outlined by area residents.

Eric Thompson, MSA Professional Services: Importance of long-term planning.

Bill Thompson, Rochester, MN: Water pollution control.

Gerald Beaver, St. Ansgar City Council: Small communities were every affected by the 14" rain in 2008. Despite infrastructure improvements, problems occurred with a recent 6-8" rain. The lack of funding to address infiltration in older stormwater systems is a major problem.

Erik Butler, Worth SWCD: The UCWMIA is still in the assessment phase. The goal is always to secure funds from various sources. The people already on the ground know what is needed; we need to support local efforts to find funding and provide technical assistance to be more efficient.

Social impacts were reviewed. Examples include the floodplain designation in St. Ansgar, which is resisted by individuals who experience increased cost associated with the designation. Charles City has had ongoing buyouts in flooded areas. In Mitchell County, flooding of roads and bridges has a severe impact.

Limitations of voluntary initiatives were noted, but Mark Kuhn reminded the group that Iowa's legislation limited the authority of a Watershed Management Authority, unlike Minnesota watershed groups. It's key to promote working together. The UCWMIA's association with the Iowa Soybean Association is a successful collaboration.

The Shared Vision Planning Approach was shared by Stacy Langsdale from the Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources/Center for Conflict Resolution. As outlined at

<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/About/TechnicalCenters/CPCXConflictResolutionPublicParticipation.aspx>:

The Corps recognizes the value and need for collaboration, partnering, and public participation in water resources decision making. To assist in implementing this collaborative approach, the Corps created the **Conflict Resolution & Public-Participation Center of EXpertise (CPCX)** which is located at the Corps Institute for Water Resources (IWR), in Alexandria, Virginia.

CPCX's mission is to help Corps staff anticipate, prevent, and manage water conflicts, ensuring that the interests of the public are addressed in Corps decision making. The CPCX achieves this mission by developing and expanding the application of collaborative tools to improve water resources decision making. Key tasks include training, research, and the application of collaborative process techniques and modeling tools.

Collaborative process techniques include:

Collaborative process design (e.g. how to engage different stakeholders during different parts of the planning and decision-making process, meeting formats and structures)

Conflict assessment and resolution techniques

Decision-making methods

Collaborative modeling tools which are developed through CPCX's **Shared Vision Planning** program include:

Methods for collaborative simulation and visualization

Lessons learned from case studies of collaborative technical analysis

Primers on use of technical tools for collaborative evaluation of results and tradeoffs

The CPCX believes that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and collaborative planning tools and techniques can and should be used proactively to prevent and minimize conflicts, rather than just employed once conflict emerges.

Jason reviewed the Indian Creek Engagement slides.

Laurel Foreman from the Iowa NRCS shared handouts with the group, and said they are available online.

Marian Muste and Sara Steussy from the Iowa Flood Center reviewed work being done in the Upper Cedar, especially in the Beaver Creek Watershed. They noted inundation maps have been completed for Charles City and Waverly.

Bill Thompson mentioned a struggle with model types and predictions in the Minnesota portion of the Upper Cedar Watershed, and their desire to try the Indian Creek engagement method in their area.

Jason suggested that the IACT could assemble studies that have already been done in the Upper Cedar Watershed to avoid duplication of planning efforts. Regarding support from the IACT, Jason assured there are no monetary strings attached. He described it as “more of a dynamic relationship. They simply ask for involvement from watershed residents and partners.

Charlie Newman said the UCWMIA board meets quarterly, and wondered how to best coordinate. Jason said someone should be identified to meet with IACT in Iowa City and Des Moines every other month.

Mark Kuhn assured the group that the UCWMIA board would consider the IACT proposal for collaboration at the upcoming board meeting on 12/14/13. Jim Erb noted that collaborating with the UCWMIA will give the IACT an opportunity to “think bigger” than the Indian Creek Watershed entails.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Judkins

Iowa – Cedar Rivers Basin Interagency Watershed Coordination Team

**AGENDA
UPPER CEDAR WMA MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE BOARD
November 25, 2013**

TIME AND PLACE: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM on Monday, November 25th at the Floyd County Courthouse, located at 101 S. Main Street, Charles City, IA.

MEETING PURPOSE: Interagency Team and partners to meet with WMA to:

1. discuss WMA goals for the basin;
2. determine if a facilitated engagement process in the basin is supported by the WMA and;
3. discuss the various agency/entity efforts underway in the basin and how to align these efforts to leverage resources, minimize the duplication of efforts and use products to support an engagement process (if applicable).

READ AHEAD MATERIALS: Provided fact sheets.

DESIRED MEETING OUTCOMES:

- Decision from Upper Cedar WMA on whether they would like the interagency team conduct an engagement process in the basin.
- Partners to be more informed of the other efforts and to identify opportunities for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

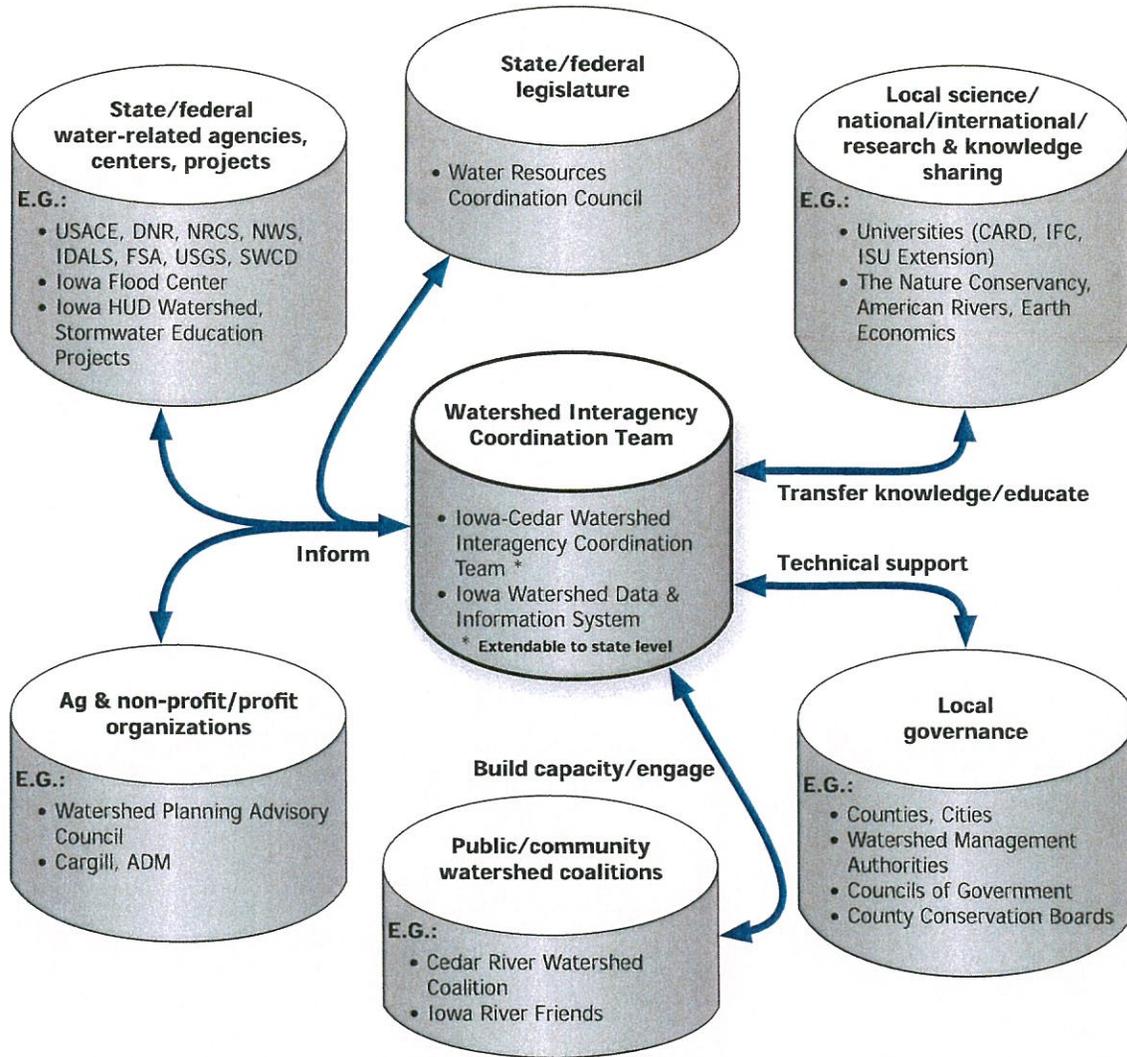
MEETING SCHEDULE AND TOPICS:

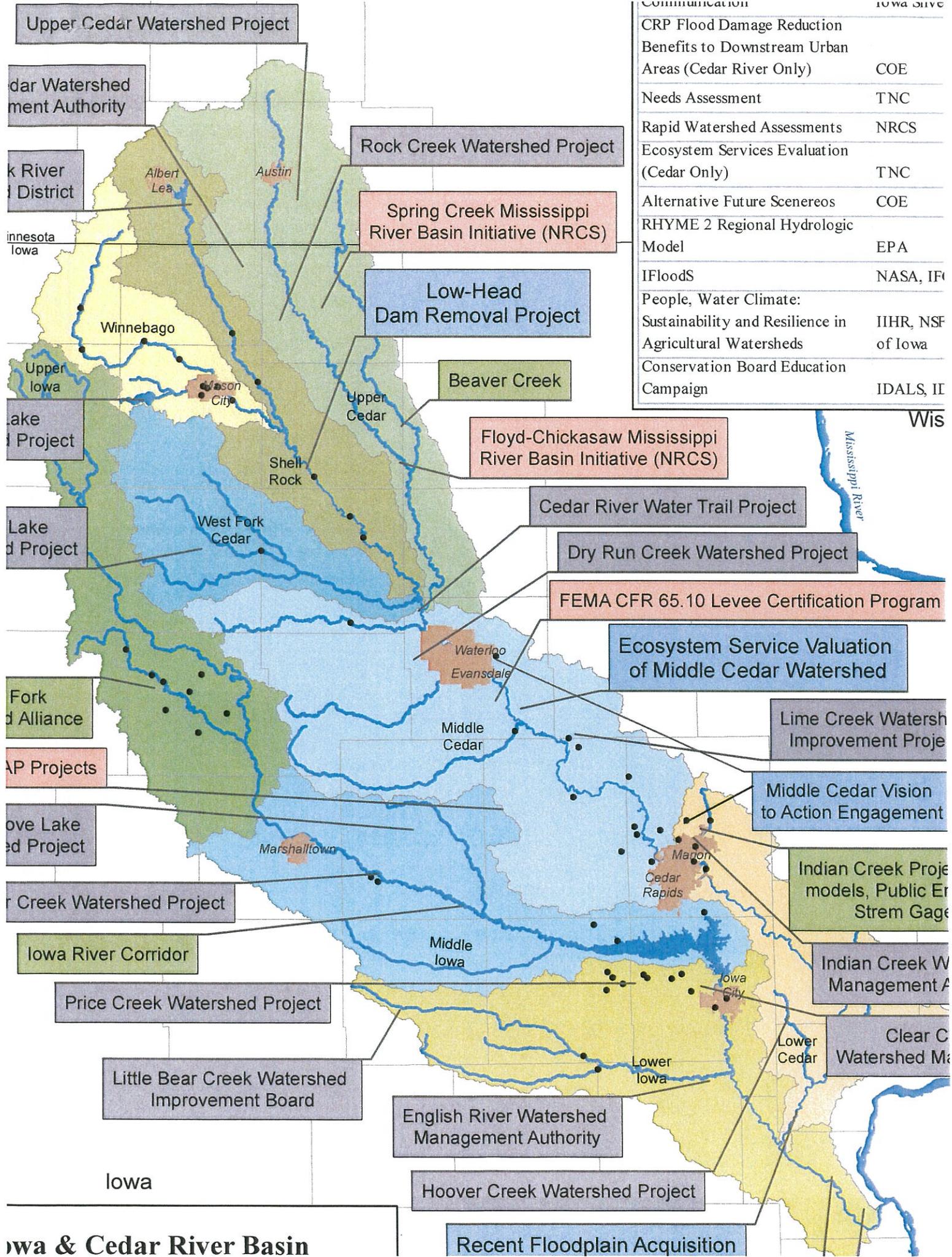
- 10:00-10:45 Interagency Representatives meet with Upper Cedar WMA Executive Board to gain an unbiased understanding of what the WMA's short and long term goals are for the basin. Provide WMA some background on the engagement process conducted in Indian Creek and that being proposed for this basin. (This portion of meeting limited to ONLY Interagency Representatives)
- 10:45-11:00 Welcome and Introductions with all of the various partner agencies/entities.
- 11:00-12:20 Working group style discussion on activities in the basin, including the who, what, where, why and how could this be used further by the WMA or other partners.
- 12:20-12:30 Next Steps and Opportunities: Discussion of the group's next milestones, including a decision by the WMA, or a timeline for when a decision will be reached on whether they would like to have the interagency coordination team involvement or not (all)

Iowa-Cedar Watershed Interagency Coordination Team

Vision: The team will provide inter-organizational, interdisciplinary technical support needed by the local groups to develop and understand management actions.

Mission: The team envisions an Iowa-Cedar Basin with engaged local stakeholders in local watershed groups working cooperatively throughout the larger basin to improve watershed services like water quality and flood damage reduction to support working landscapes.





Communication	Iowa State
CRP Flood Damage Reduction Benefits to Downstream Urban Areas (Cedar River Only)	COE
Needs Assessment	TNC
Rapid Watershed Assessments	NRCS
Ecosystem Services Evaluation (Cedar Only)	TNC
Alternative Future Scenereeos	COE
RHYME 2 Regional Hydrologic Model	EPA
IFloodS	NASA, IFO
People, Water Climate: Sustainability and Resilience in Agricultural Watersheds	IIHR, NSF of Iowa
Conservation Board Education Campaign	IDALS, II

Upper Cedar Watershed Project

Cedar Watershed Management Authority

Rock River District

Minnesota Iowa

Upper Iowa

Lake Project

Lake Project

Fork Alliance

AP Projects

ove Lake ed Project

r Creek Watershed Project

Iowa River Corridor

Price Creek Watershed Project

Little Bear Creek Watershed Improvement Board

Iowa

Iowa & Cedar River Basin

Rock Creek Watershed Project

Spring Creek Mississippi River Basin Initiative (NRCS)

Low-Head Dam Removal Project

Beaver Creek

Floyd-Chickasaw Mississippi River Basin Initiative (NRCS)

Cedar River Water Trail Project

Dry Run Creek Watershed Project

FEMA CFR 65.10 Levee Certification Program

Ecosystem Service Valuation of Middle Cedar Watershed

Lime Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Middle Cedar Vision to Action Engagement

Indian Creek Project models, Public Engagement, Stream Gages

Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority

Clear Creek Watershed Management

English River Watershed Management Authority

Hoover Creek Watershed Project

Recent Floodplain Acquisition

Albert Lea

Austin

Winnebago

Mason City

Upper Cedar

Shell Rock

West Fork Cedar

Waterloo

Evansdale

Middle Cedar

Marshalltown

Mason

Cedar Rapids

Middle Iowa

Iowa City

Lower Iowa

Lower Cedar

Wisconsin

Mississippi River

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Erik Butler	Worth SWCD	641-390-0717
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Gerard Beaver	St. Ansgar a. council	641-420-5957
Karen Demjanovic	Mitchell SWCD	641-982-4939
Susan Judkins	KSWW	515-681-7878 judkisse@kjjw.com
Dennis Sande	NRCS	641-228-2725 Ext 3
Jim Eob	Mayor, Charles City	641-228-3727 (mayor@cityofcharlescity.org)
Jim Holz	MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	563-590-6357
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