

Iowa Soil and Water Quality Funding Summit

February 6, 2015



Presenting Partners

- Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS)
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Agenda

9:00-10:30 AM	Presentation: State and Federal Programs Overview
10:30-10:45 AM	Introduction of Exhibitors /Partner Organizations
10:45-11:30 AM	Morning Breakout Sessions
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00-1:45 PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions
1:45-2:00 PM	Afternoon Break/Q &A With Presenters
2:00-3:00 PM	Presentation: Preparing a Successful Application
3:00 PM	Adjourn



Summit Objectives

- Provide current information on state and federal competitive grant programs
- Educate potential applicants on program requirements and application review criteria
- Improve quality of applications received
- Help potential applicants to identify partnership opportunities for successful project implementation
- Provide insight on how applications are reviewed and suggestions for developing successful proposals



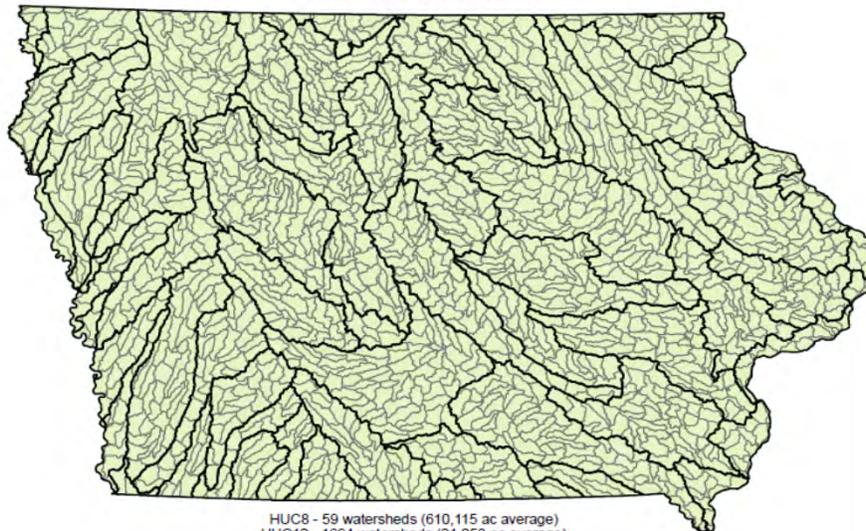
Watershed Planning & Projects

- Project Areas are based on USGS Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs)
- 8-Digit and 12-Digit HUCs are most common delineation for projects

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Iowa HUC8 & HUC12 Watersheds



HUC8 - 59 watersheds (610,115 ac average)
HUC12 - 1694 watersheds (21,258 ac average)

IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation

Competitive Grant Programs

Jake Hansen, Water Resources Bureau Chief

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Division of Soil Conservation

jake.hansen@iowaagriculture.gov; 515-725-2962



WSPF – Watershed Protection Fund

- Established in 1999.
- Supported by annual appropriation from Environment First Fund.
- Current appropriation of \$900,000
- Can be used to support watershed planning and project implementation efforts sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) only.



WSPF – Watershed Protection Fund

Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants

- Provide financial support to SWCDs for watershed based assessment and planning activities
- Grants issued through a yearly application process; generally due in the fall
- Maximum award of \$20,000; Typical award is \$8,000-\$16,000

Website:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/watershedProtection.asp>

Contact:

Judie Krebsbach; 515-725-1298; judith.krebsbach@iowaagriculture.gov

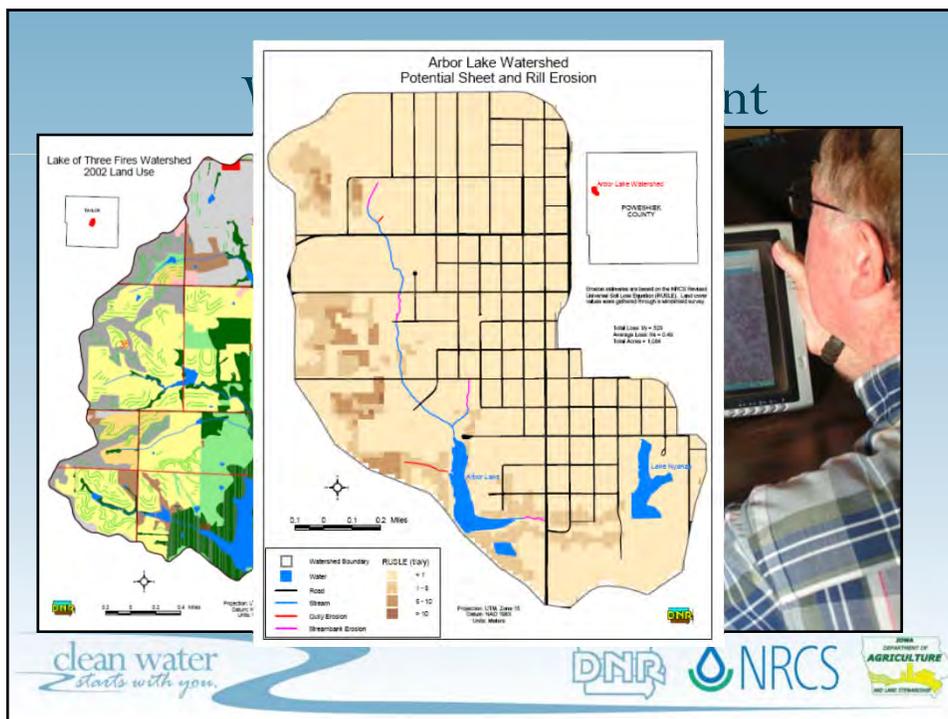


Watershed Assessments

Assess Physical, Financial and Social Conditions

- Ensure a watershed assessment is comprehensive including rural and urban land uses
- Identify major source areas of pollutants
- Identify available stakeholder and external resources (financial, program management)
- Gauge landowner commitment to implement practices to achieve watershed objectives





WSPF – Watershed Protection Fund Watershed Project Implementation Grant

- Funds provided to support projects sponsored by SWCDs which can address a wide range of locally identified natural resource concerns;
- Applications requested as funding allows- usually developed in conjunction with a WPF request with applications due by April 1st (may also be developed in conjunction with a DNR Section 319 Grant application)
- Currently provides financial support to 23 projects in 35 SWCDs around the state;
- Funding provided to producers at rates up to 75% cost share for practice installation only;
- Often used in conjunction with other state, federal, and local sources.

Website:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/watershedProtection.asp>

Contact:

Mike Franklin; 515-281-6145; mike.franklin@iowaagriculture.gov



WPF – Water Protection Fund (REAP Projects)

- Established in 1989
- Funding provided through a yearly appropriation to the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program; IDALS receives 20% of the total appropriation divided equally between REAP Projects and REAP Practices accounts
- Current appropriation of \$16,000,000 from the Environment First Fund (REAP Total)
- Can be used to support water quality protection projects sponsored by SWCDs only



WPF – Water Protection Fund (REAP Projects)

- Applications requested as funding allows- usually developed in conjunction with a WSPF request with applications due by April 1st (may also be developed in conjunction with a DNR Section 319 application)
- Currently provides financial support to 19 projects in 33 SWCDs around the state;
- Funding provided to producers at rates up to 75% cost share for practice installation; funding can also be used to support project administrative expenses such as Salary/Benefits, Information/Education, Supplies, etc.
- Often used in conjunction with other state, federal, and local sources.

Website:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/watershedProtection.asp>

Contact:

Mike Franklin; 515-281-6145; mike.franklin@iowaagriculture.gov



Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Program

- Established in 2013; 3 Requests for Applications to date
- Funding from Water Quality Initiative appropriation
- Nearly \$6 million awarded so far with more than \$10 million in grantee contributions. Average grant- \$450,000
- Future allocation depends on WQI appropriation
- 13 Active projects; Initial project length of 3 years
- Eligible activities include staffing, outreach and education, conservation practices



Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Program

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstration of practices and technologies outlined in science assessment
- Foster partnerships with wide range of project stakeholders
- Strong outreach/education components to provide information on practices detailed in the Science Assessment
- Local/regional hubs for demonstrating practices and providing practice information to farmers, landowners, farm managers, peer networks, etc.

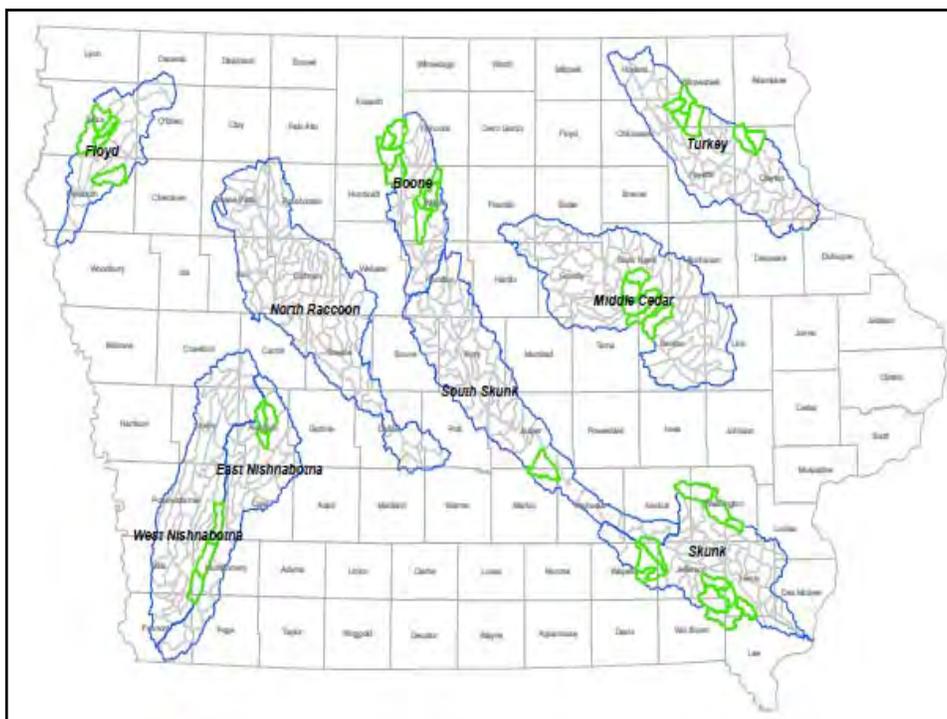
WQI Programs Website:

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/requestForApplications.asp>

Contact:

Matt Lechtenberg; 515-281-3857; matt.lechtenberg@iowaagriculture.gov





Water Quality Initiative Urban Demonstration Program

- New WQI Program; 1st Round of Applications in Progress
- \$500,000 Available Statewide; Future Funding Contingent on WQI Appropriation
- Projects eligible statewide; Projects in priority watersheds receive additional review points
- Projects are evaluated based on timeliness of implementation, demonstration potential/visibility, linkage to comprehensive water quality program on local/regional scale, and ability to leverage program funding

WQI Programs Website:

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/requestForApplications.asp>

Contact:

Matt Lechtenberg; 515-281-3857; matt.lechtenberg@iowaagriculture.gov

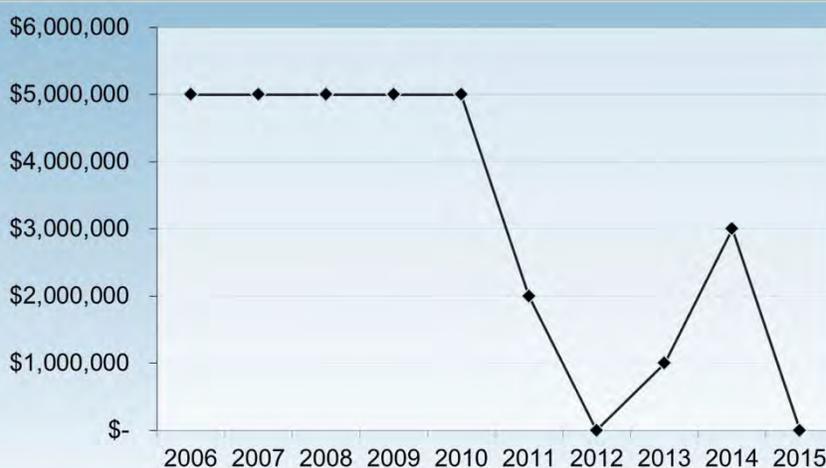


Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)

- Independent, self-governing board created in 2005
- 15-member appointed board representing
 - agricultural, commodity, environmental and water groups
 - IDALS and DNR
 - 4 state legislators
- Responsible for awarding water quality improvement grants to eligible applicants
- Approves projects that are watershed-based and have a watershed assessment already completed



WIRB Funding Level by FY



WIRB Application Process

- Requests for Applications typically issued in August; funding decisions made in late Fall
- No more than 10% of an appropriation can be awarded to a single applicant
- Eligible applicants include:
 - cities
 - counties
 - county conservation boards
 - local watershed improvement committees
 - public water supply utilities
 - soil and water conservation districts



Request For Applications

Three critical selection criteria that are addressed fully in successful applications:

- 1) Assessment—comprehensive, watershed-based, identifies impairments/concerns
- 2) Goals—clear, target source(s) of impairments/concerns
- 3) Results—appropriate, realistic, quantitative or qualitative, reduction of targeted impairments

Website:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp>

Contact:

Jerry Neppel; 515-281-3599; jerry.neppel@iowaagriculture.gov



IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation

Supplemental Funding Programs



Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)- Practices

- Established in 1989
- Funding provided through a yearly appropriation to the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program; IDALS receives 20% of the total appropriation divided equally between REAP Projects and REAP Practices accounts
- Current appropriation of \$16,000,000 from the Environment First Fund (REAP Total)



Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)- Practices

- Funds are distributed equally to each of the 100 SWCDs.
- 75% of the funds are allocated to SWCDs to provide up to 50% cost share to applicants for the installation of water protection practices in both agricultural and urban landscapes.
- 25% of the funds are allocated to SWCDs to provide up to 75% cost share to applicants for the installation forestry practices and/or the establishment of native grass and/or forbs.

Website:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityProtectionPractices.asp>

Contact:

Mike Franklin; 515-281-6145; mike.franklin@iowaagriculture.gov



IFIP – Iowa Financial Incentives Program (commonly known as State Cost Share)

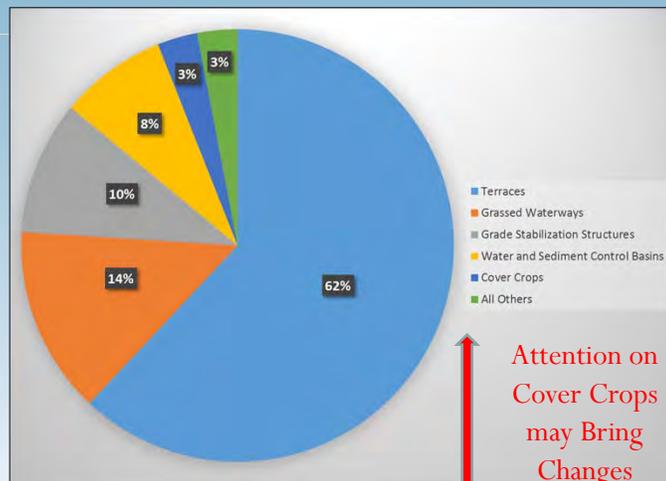
- Current appropriation of \$6,750,000 from the Environment First Fund.



- Provides funding to farmers for conservation practices – up to 50%
- 5% of funding typically used above approved publicly- owned lakes



Historical Cost Share Distribution



IFIP – Iowa Financial Incentives Program

2008-2014

- \$43.1 million state resources
- \$70.9 million in farmer contributions

7 Year Average

- \$6.1 million per year to reimburse farmers for conservation work completed
- 1,760 conservation practices per year

Website:

www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/financialAssistance.asp

Contact:

Tony Toigo; 515-281-6148; tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov



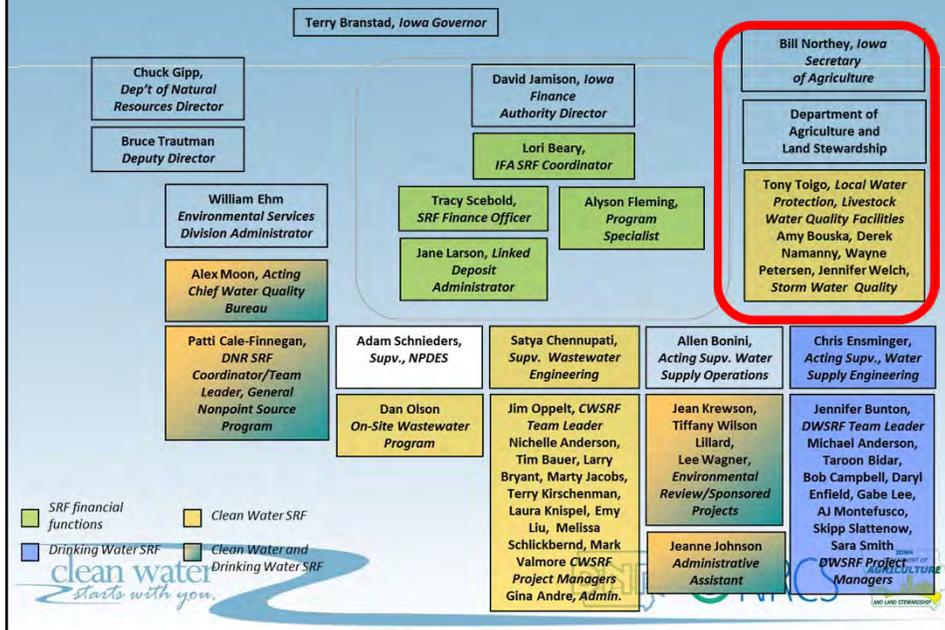
Water Quality Initiative

Statewide Incentives Program

- Offer incentives to try new practices in NRS Science Assessment (1st-Time Users)
 - Current incentives for cover crops, no-till, strip-till, nitrification inhibitor
- Follow-up efforts to offer the information necessary to improve chances of successful implementation
- Recruit the help of experienced farmers in providing assistance to new users
- \$2.8 Million obligated in FY2014; \$1.4 Million in FY2015



State Revolving Fund Organizational Structure -- Iowa



Nonpoint Source Linked Deposits

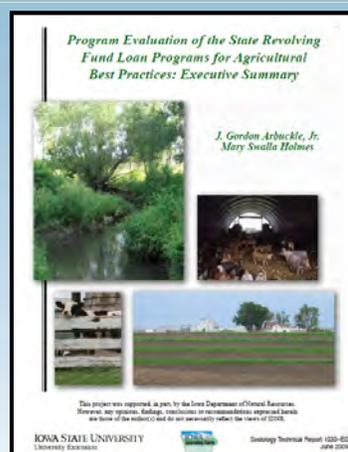
- Project approval by local SWCD office
- Financing approval by participating lender – 400 statewide
- Work complete and SRF deposits funds at 0%, bank cannot charge more than 3% interest
- Can be used with Cost-Share, EQIP, other grants
- Loans for up to 100% of actual costs
- Over \$100 million loaned since 2005
- Loans from \$5,000 - \$500,000
- 0-3% interest rate with terms up to 15 years

Contact: Tony Toigo; 515-281-6148; tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov



Benefits of Loan Programs

- LWPP participants had smaller operations but invested more in conservation than farmers that used cost-share only.
- LWQ participants spent an average of \$80,000 or 50% more than livestock producers that used EQIP only.
- “Overall the study results indicate that the loan programs are leading to significant benefits for Iowa’s lands and waters. The loans appear to be complementing traditional conservation programs and helping landowners to get more practices on the landscape more quickly than they would have otherwise.”



DNR Resources

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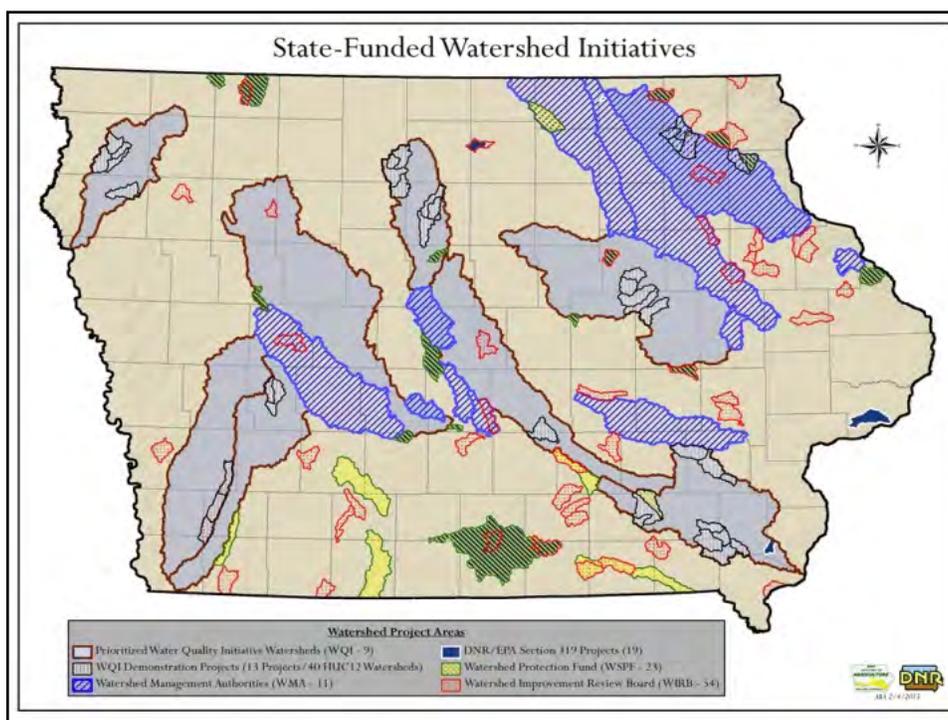
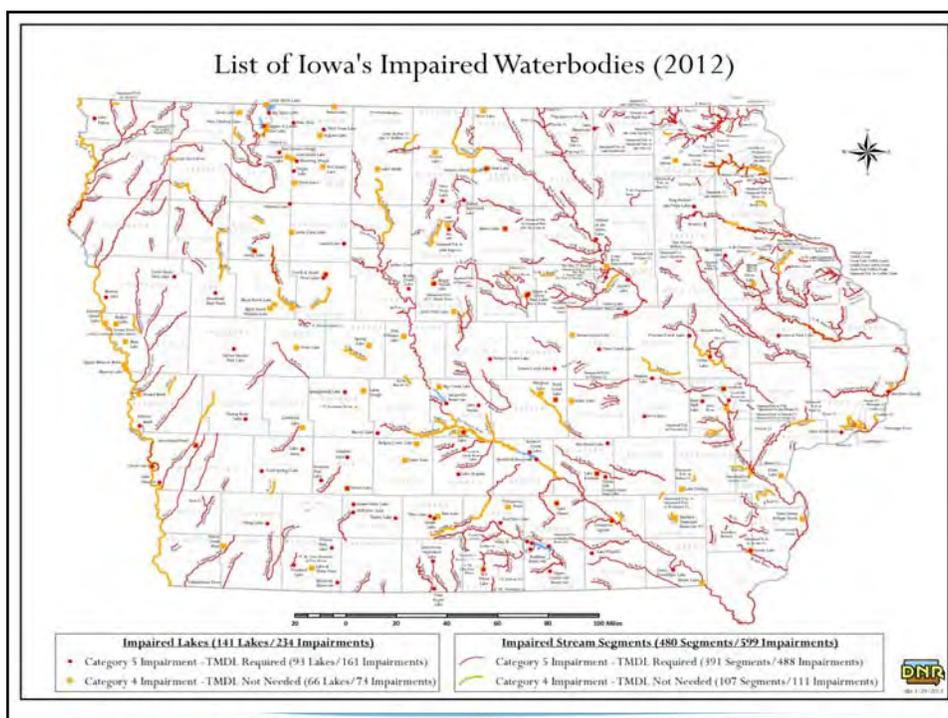
Presented by: Allen Bonini, Supervisor
DNR Watershed Improvement Section



Overview

- Big picture
- Highlight – 3 Programs
 - Section 319
 - Lake Restoration
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund





Qualities of a Successful Project

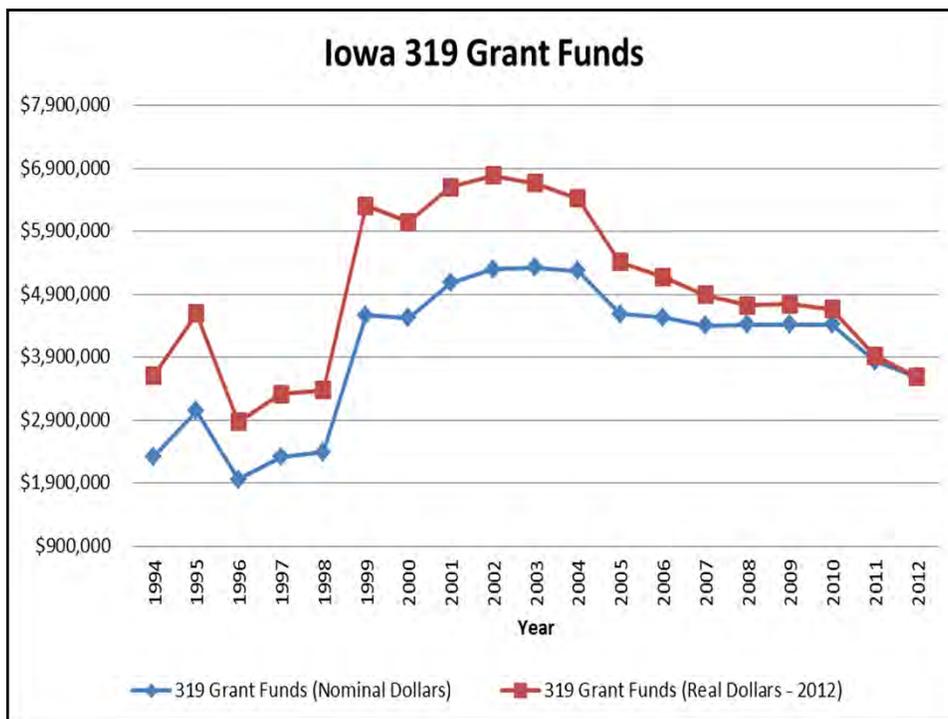
- Knowledgeable, experienced staff
- Strong local support/landowner commitment
- Strong partnerships – team effort
- Locally valued water resource
- Long-term commitment
- Workable watershed size



Section 319

- Federally funded program
- Since 1994
- ~\$1.7 M/year available for WS projects
- Targeted to impaired waters
- Must implement an approved WMP
- Currently closed to new WS Plans/projects
- <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement.aspx>





Section 319

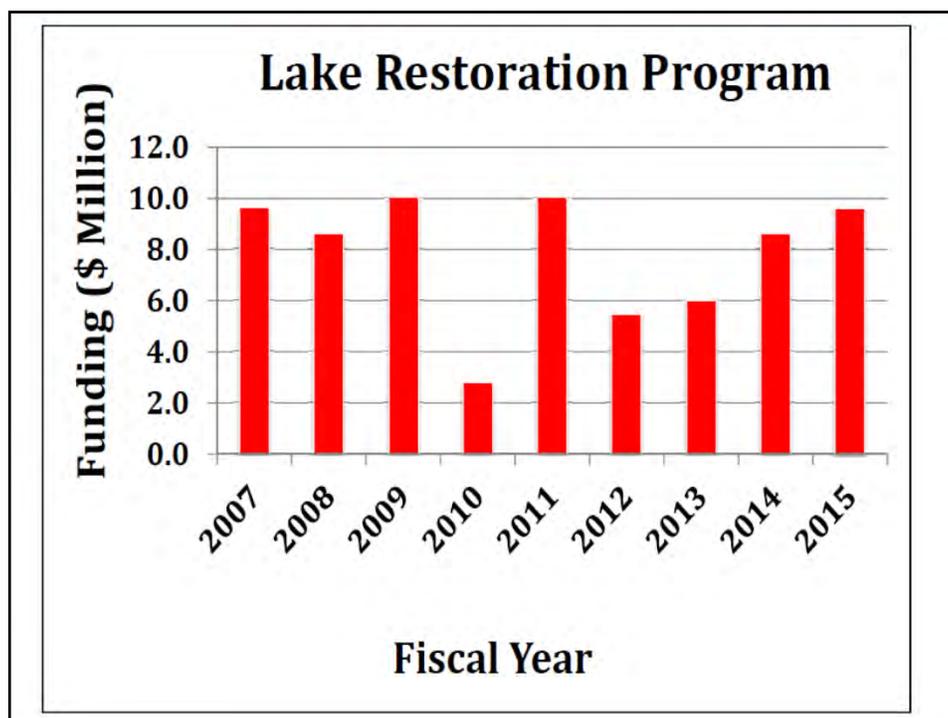
- Approximate Timelines:
 - July 1 – Project Implementation Plans due
 - October – projects selected
 - Dec 31 – grant submitted to EPA
 - July 1 (of 2nd year) – Grant awarded to IA
 - Fall (of 2nd year) – projects receive funds
 - Up to 3 to 4 year project awards



Lake Restoration

- State Initiative
- Created in 2006
- SFY15 funding level - \$9.6 M
- Target: 35 significant publicly owned lakes
- Goals include:
 - Cost-effective; local commitment to WS & lake protection; significant improvement; sustainable system; remove impairment.





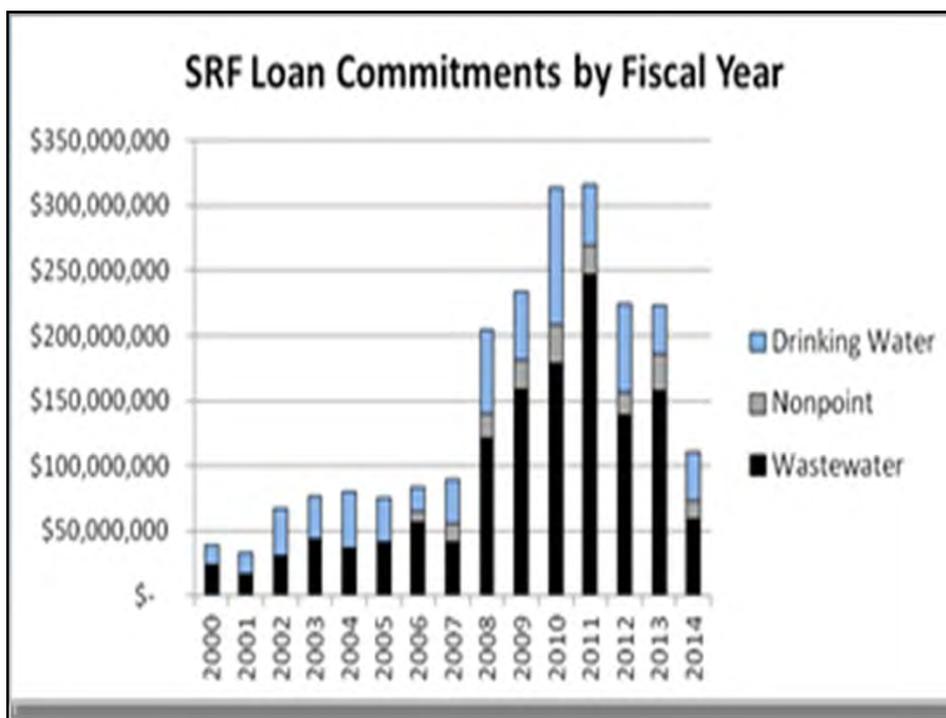
CWSRF – NPS Program

- Since 2003
- ~4,200 Loans; \$178M
 - Farmers; Livestock producers
 - WS organizations
 - Cities; Rural landowners
 - Others
- \$14 million in 2014 for NPS projects
- www.iowasrf.com

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DNR NRCS

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AGRICULTURE
AND LAND STRATEGIES



CWSRF – NPS Program

- Multiple Partnerships
 - EPA – initial funding
 - IFA – joint administrative partner
 - IDALS – ag/urban WQ practices
 - SWCD – deliver loan program at local level
 - Co. environmental health boards – onsite septic systems
 - >400 lending institutions – loans via linked deposits

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CWSRF – NPS Program

Goals/Objectives – see Intended Use Plan

Eligibility:

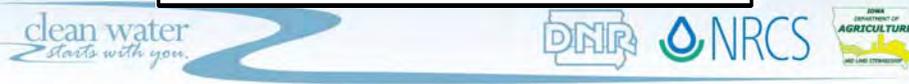
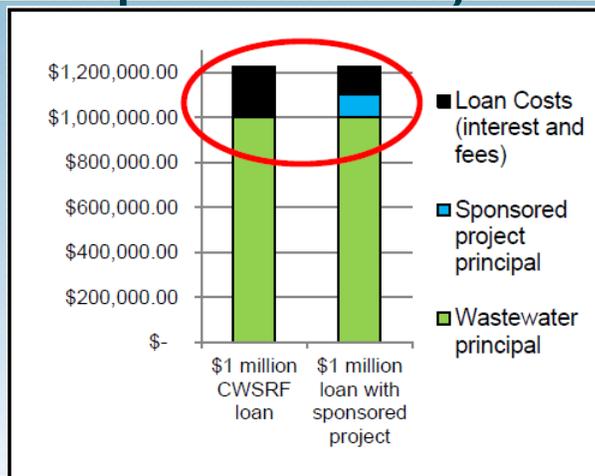
Practice Type	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply	Loan Information
Runoff control on agricultural land (e.g. terraces, buffer strips, manure management)	Farmers, livestock producers, and landowners	Soil and Water Conservation District	Work with participating local lender; interest rate 3% max
Green infrastructure – publicly owned	Cities, counties, other public entities	Soil and Water Conservation District	Regular SRF financing; interest rate 1.75%
Green infrastructure – privately owned	Landowners, developers, homeowners, businesses, others	Soil and Water Conservation District	Work with participating local lender; interest rate 3% max
Protection or restoration of lakes, streams, and wetlands	Communities, individuals, watershed organizations, others	Department of Natural Resources	Varies depending on borrower
Replace inadequate onsite septic system	Homeowners	County Public Health/County Sanitarian	Work with participating local lender; interest rate 3% max

Water Resources Restoration Sponsored Projects

- CWSRF Program
- Began in 2010
- Funds NPS BMPs in same WS in conjunction with WW loans
- ~\$100K per \$1M loan (~10% of loan)
- \$32.2M in approved projects in SFY15



Water Resources Restoration Sponsored Projects



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Marty Adkins
 Assistant State Conservationist-
 Special Projects

**USDA-Natural Resources
 Conservation Service**

Martin.Adkins@ia.usda.gov



RCPP

- Authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill
- Establishes a single partnership program by combining authorities of 4 existing programs. i.e. Ag Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), Chesapeake Bay WS Program (CBWI), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (GRBP)



Contributing Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)



RCPP Annual Funding

- \$100 million per year 2014 – 2018
- Plus 7% of covered programs funding or acres (EQIP, ACEP, CSP, HRFP).

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RCPP Features

- Coordination between NRCS and partners
- RCPP requires a minimum of a 1:1 match of funds from partners.
- Assistance to producers and landowners

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RCPP Benefits

- Increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources
- Regional or watershed scales
- Help producers install and maintain conservation activities
- Leverage USDA funding

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RCPP Projects may focus on:

- Water Quality and Quantity
- Erosion
- Wildlife Habitat
- Drought and Flood Control
- Other Regional Priorities

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RCPP Project Selections are:

- Competitive
- Merit based
- Leverage partner funding
- Address regionally important resources

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Eligible RCPP Partners

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations
- Farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers
- State or local governments
- American Indian tribes
- Municipal water treatment entities
- Water and irrigation districts
- Conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations
- Institutions of higher education

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RCPP Administration

- Conservation program contracts or easement agreements
- Under the framework of a partnership agreement.



Eligible RCPP Participants

- Eligible producers and landowners
- Agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland



RCPP Funding

- Funding is allocated to projects in three categories
- CCA – Critical Conservation Areas – the Sec of Ag has selected 8 geographic areas. These receive 35% of the funding.



RCPP Funding Continued

- National - For nationwide and multistate projects. These receive 40 percent of funding
- State - For projects in a single state. These receive 25 percent of funding.



RCPP 2014-2015

- \$370 million available funding
- 115 agreements
- 600 pre-proposals were submitted for funding. 200 were asked to submit full proposals.



For more information:
<http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov>

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QUESTIONS



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Exhibitors

- IDALS- Division of Soil Conservation
- IDALS Urban Conservation
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa DNR State Revolving Fund
- USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Exhibitors

- Iowa State University Extension/Iowa Learning Farms
- University of Iowa-IIHR
- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation



Exhibitors

- Iowa Environmental Council
- Iowa Rural Water Association
- Iowa Association of Regional Councils
- Practical Farmers of Iowa
- Trout Unlimited

