

*DRAINAGE BASINS  
OF IOWA*



Prepared By  
Office of Transportation Data  
Cartographic Section  
Phone (515)239-1282  
March 1, 2000

# We All Live in a Watershed

Jim Erb  
Kayla Bergman

Practical Farmers of Iowa  
January 19, 2019

**MISSOURI RIVER BASIN**

- Boyer River
- Chariton River
- Rathbun Lake
- Chariton River
- East Nishnabotna River
- West Nishnabotna River
- Floyd River
- Grand River
- Little Sioux River
- Missouri River
- Big Sioux River
- Mosquito Creek
- Nodaway River
- Platte River
- Rock River
- Soldier River
- Turkey River

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN**

- Cedar River
- Des Moines River, West and East Fork
- Des Moines River, Saylorsville Lake
- Des Moines River
- Red Rock Lake
- Des Moines River
- Fox River
- Iowa River
- Maquoketa River
- Mississippi River
- Raccoon River
- Skunk River
- Turkey River
- Upper Iowa River
- Wapella River

# What is a Watershed Management Authority?

A WMA is formed by two or more cities, counties, and/or soil and water conservation districts under an intergovernmental (Chapter 28E) agreement within an eight-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC-8) watershed. Activities may include:

- Assess & reduce flood risk
- Assess & improve water quality
- Monitor federal flood risk activities
- Educate residents
- Allocate funding made available to the Authority for purposes of water quality and flood mitigation

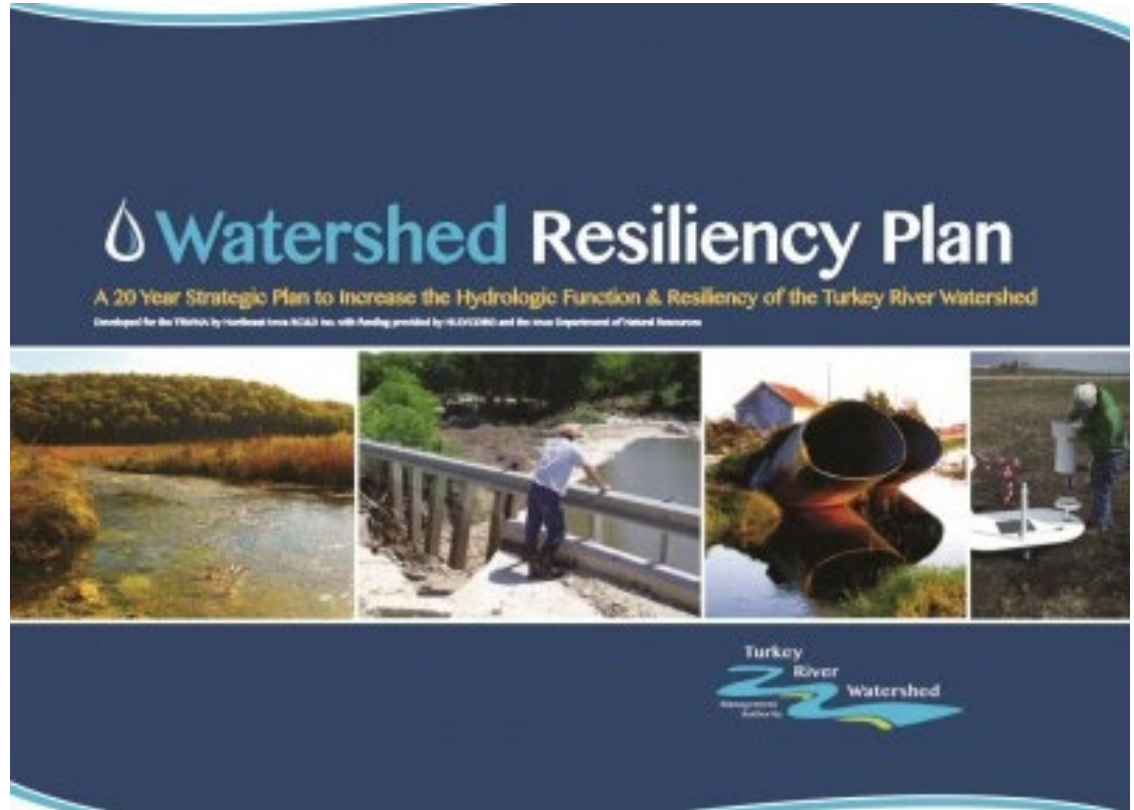


Walnut Creek Watershed

# Benefits of forming a Watershed Management Authority

Benefits may include:

- Conduct planning on a watershed scale
- Foster multi-jurisdictional partnership and cooperation
- Leverage resources such as funding and technical expertise
- Facilitate stakeholder involvement in watershed management



# 2009 Legislature Assigned Floodplain Management to WRCC

9. The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.

- » The state will provide funding and technical support to responsible regional and local entities and agencies to ensure floodplain management in Iowa is regularly inspected.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management is from the impacts of flooding.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management watersheds and other key stakeholders.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management sheds across the state, local, and regional planning decisions can be better coordinated.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management in regions in developing local land use plans.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management within the watershed regions.

- » The state will ensure floodplain management or all related program requirements and coordination within a watershed area. Once coordinated, regions should make recommendations and plan for development and implementation.

- » The state will provide incentives to property owners to encourage water retention.

- » The state will develop and promote urban practices that reduce stormwater issues.

## Floodplain Management Recommendations

- 2009 Iowa legislation, HF 756, required the state's Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) to submit policy and funding recommendations that promote
  - "a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on this state's residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality."



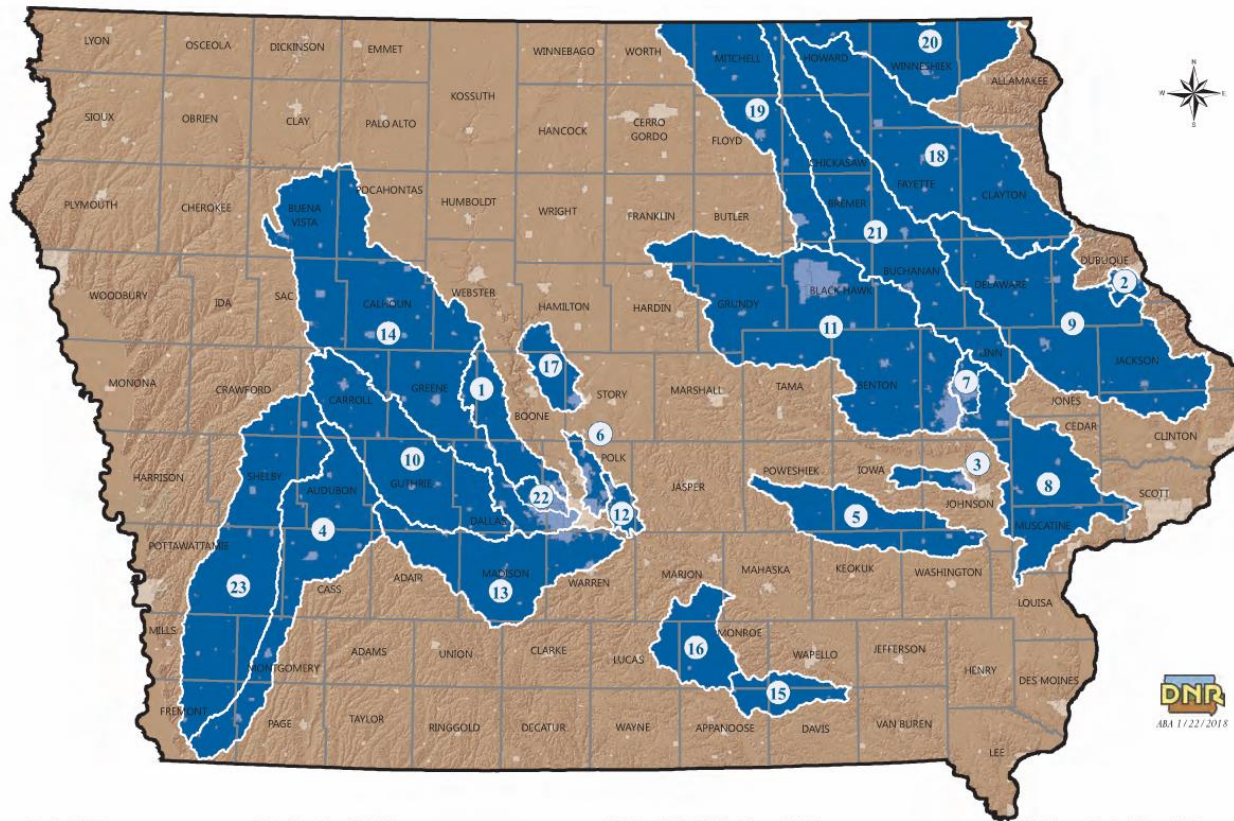
Building a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa

Five policy recommendations from the WRCC passed in 2010:

1. Establish an Iowa chapter of Association of State Flood Plain Managers
- 2-3. Support Floodplain Management Public Education and Marketing
4. Support Pilot Demonstration Projects
5. Convene a regional approach to floodplain planning and management (Watershed Management Authorities were the answer)



# STATUS OF IOWA'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES



- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Beaver Creek WMA                     | 7. Indian Creek WMA                          | 13. North & Middle Rivers WMA                          | 19. Upper Cedar River WMA                |
| 2. Catfish Creek WMA                    | 8. Lower Cedar WMA                           | 14. North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition | 20. Upper Iowa WMA                       |
| 3. Clear Creek Watershed Coalition      | 9. Maquoketa River WMA                       | 15. Soap Creek Watershed Board                         | 21. Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA         |
| 4. East Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition | 10. Middle-South Raccoon WMA                 | 16. South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA                 | 22. Walnut Creek WMA                     |
| 5. English River WMA                    | 11. Middle Cedar WMA                         | 17. Squaw Creek WMA                                    | 23. West Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition |
| 6. Fourmile Creek WMA                   | 12. Mud Creek, Spring Creek & Camp Creek WMA | 18. Turkey River WMA                                   |  |

# DRAINAGE BASINS OF IOWA



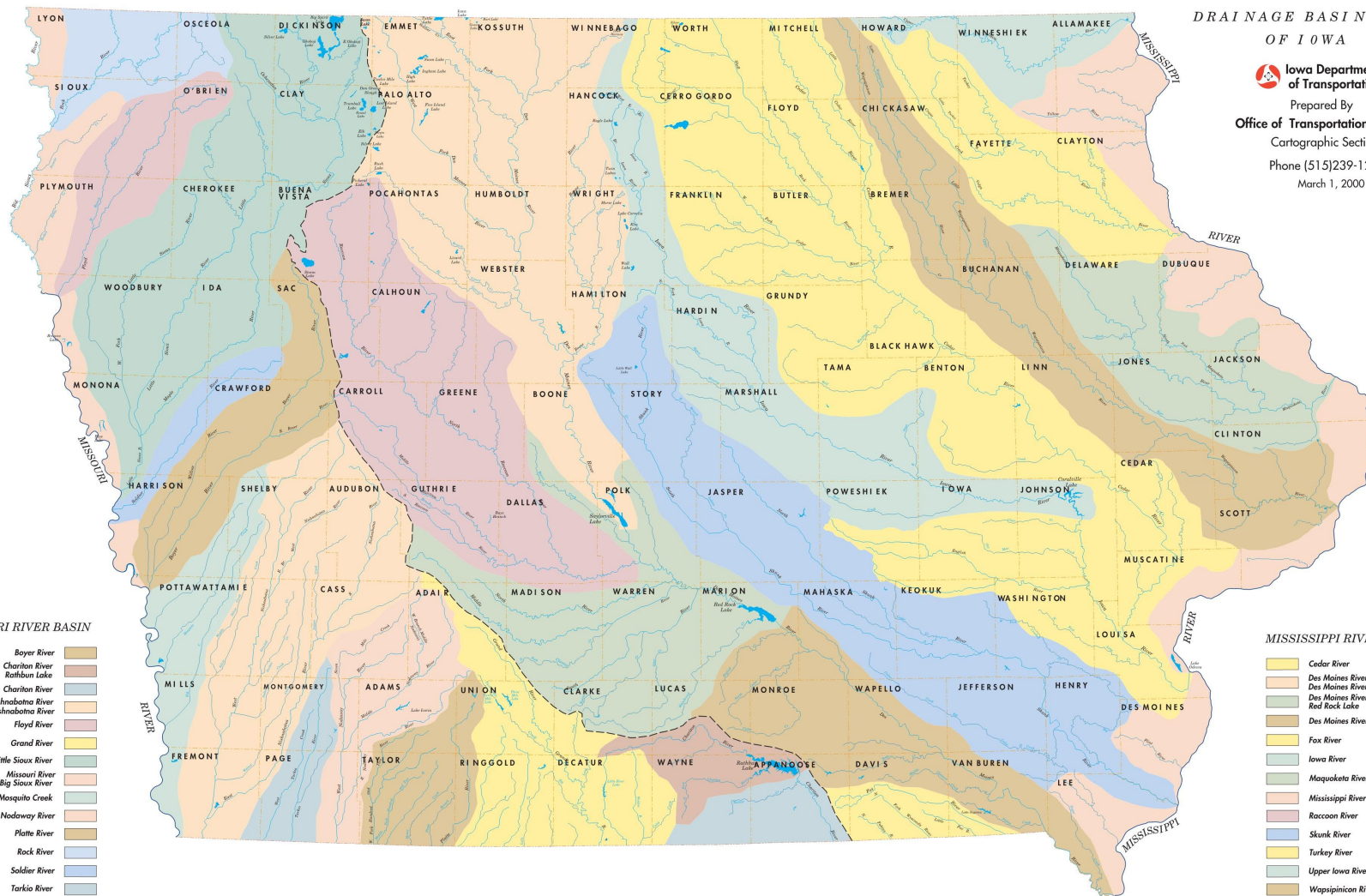
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- Platte River
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- Soldier River
- Tarkio River

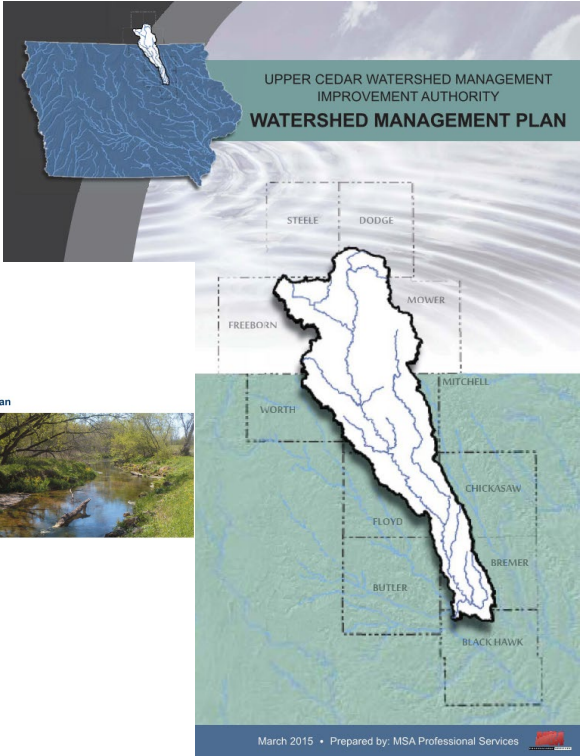
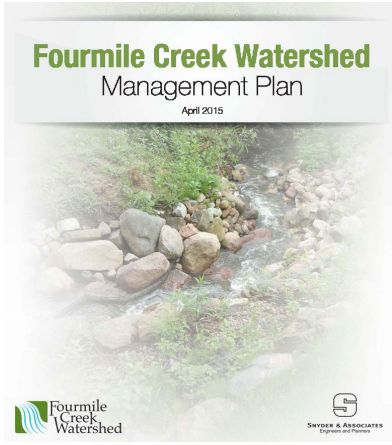
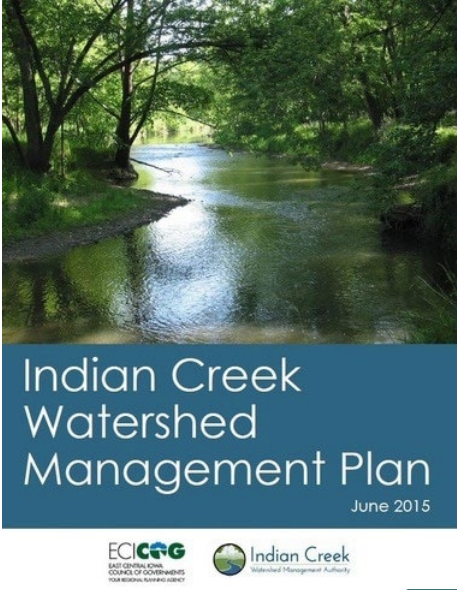
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# A Watershed Plan is Often a First Important Step for WMAs



# Coalition Building – Example is One Water Summit Delegation in 2018



Iowa sent the largest delegation to the 2018 One Water Summit hosted by the US Water Alliance in Minneapolis.





## Statewide Organization Being Formed

- In late 2016, WMA stakeholders articulated the need for a formal WMA network. Over the course of several meetings, a strategic framework was drafted, and in May 2017, an introductory meeting was held for the organization, now named Watershed Management Authorities of Iowa. The Iowa Water Center serves as a facilitator and fulfills administrative tasks for WMAs of Iowa in the interest of fostering a self-driven, purposeful community of practice for better water management.



# WMAs of Iowa

## Purpose and Goals of WMAs of Iowa

WMAs of Iowa was created to enable WMA-to-WMA exchanges and be an information resource for the latest news and research, funding opportunities, and curriculum in watershed restoration.

WMAs of Iowa seeks to:

- Unite WMAs for further advancement in the state
- Share resources, ideas, and best practices
- Provide support to members through technical assistance and celebrating successes
- Build and support ongoing public-private partnerships for success

As of December 2017, WMAs of Iowa had identified an inaugural board of directors, drafted by-laws and articles of a incorporation, and identified priority working areas for 2018. The annual meeting was held in February 2018 in conjunction with a professional development conference for WMA stakeholders.

## WMAs of Iowa Board Members:

Jennifer Fencil – Indian Creek WMA  
Susan Judkins (Darren Fife, alternate) – Walnut Creek WMA  
Curt Kiessling (Ryan Peterson, alternate) – Catfish Creek WMA  
Stephen Main (Jim Erb, alternate) – Upper Cedar River WMA  
Cara Morgan (John Thomas, alternate) – East (and/or West) Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition  
John Rathbun – Clear Creek Watershed Coalition  
Robert Rice (Amanda Brown, alternate) – Mud Creek, Spring Creek, & Camp Creek WMA  
Adam Rodenberg - Middle Cedar WMA  
Don Shonka – Upper Wapsipinicon WMA  
Mary Beth Stevenson - Lower Cedar WMA

## 2017- 2018 Officers:

President: Jim Erb  
President Elect: Susan Judkins  
Treasurer: Bob Rice  
Secretary: Cara Morgan



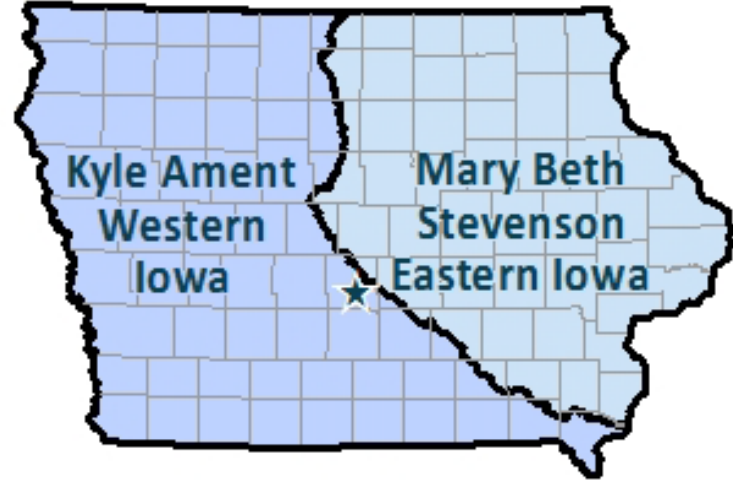
# Resources for WMA Information



IOWA WATER CENTER

## WMAs of Iowa Members

- Beaver Creek Watershed Management Authority
- Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority
- Clear Creek Watershed Coalition
- East Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition
- English River Watershed Management Authority
- Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority
- Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority
- Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority
- Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority
- Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
- Mud Creek, Spring Creek, & Camp Creek Watershed Management Authority
- North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition
- Turkey River Watershed Management Authority
- Upper Cedar River Watershed Management Authority
- Upper Iowa Watershed Management Authority
- Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
- Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority
- West Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition



## Iowa DNR WMA technical assistance:

### Western Iowa River Basins

Kyle Ament

[kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Eastern Iowa River Basins

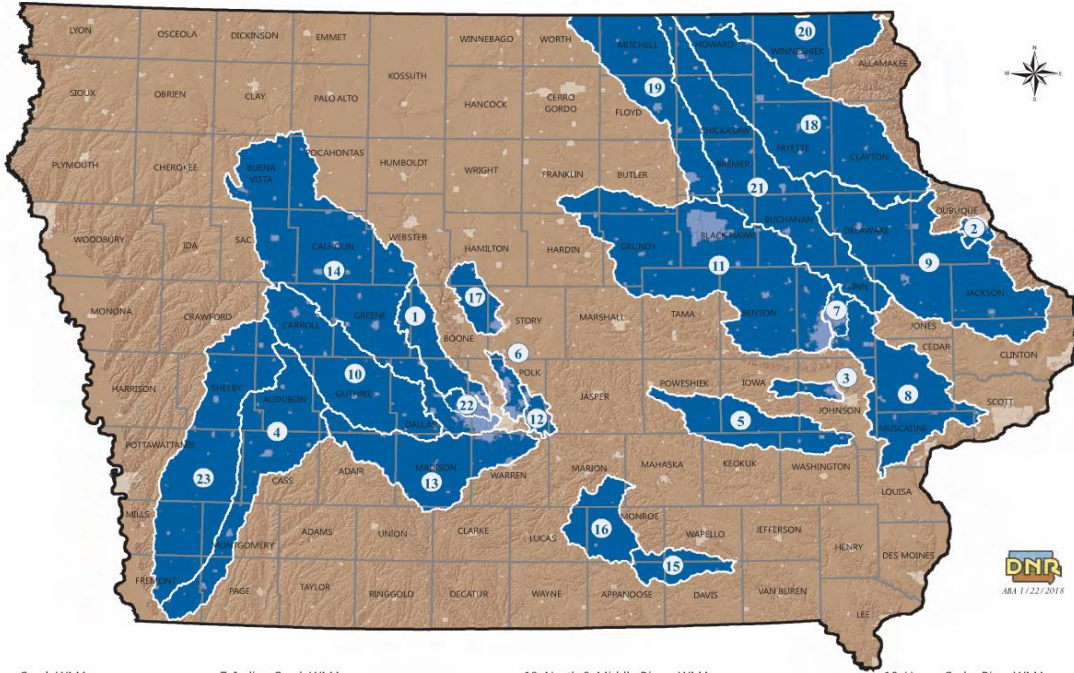
Mary Beth Stevenson

[marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov)



# Questions?

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[JimErb2018@gmail.com](mailto:JimErb2018@gmail.com)

<http://www.water.iastate.edu/WMAiowa>