We All Live in a Watershed

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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
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
Five policy recommendations from the WRCC passed in 2010:

1. Establish an Iowa chapter of Association of State Flood Plain Managers


4. Support Pilot Demonstration Projects

5. Convene a regional approach to floodplain planning and management (Watershed Management Authorities were the answer)
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 Fencl – 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

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

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