

UIRWMA | Agenda

Meeting date | time 1/11/2017 4:00 PM | Meeting location Decorah City Council Chambers

Board members Present: Jack Knight, Rick Weymiller,
Dan Byrnes, John Beard, Andy Carlson, Mark Jensen

AGENDA TOPICS

1.) Agenda topic *Call Meeting to Order* | Presenter *John Beard*

2.) Agenda topic *Approval of Minutes 9/28/16* | Presenter *John Beard*

Discussion: No changes noted.

| Action Items | Motion | Second |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Approve Minutes from 9/28/16 meeting | Rick Weymiller | Jack Knight |

3.) Agenda topic *Iowa Watershed Approach Partner Updates* | Presenter *Multiple*

Resilience aspect of watershed approach topics. Q&A following updates.

Presentation by Ashlee Johannes – Outreach Coordinator Iowa Flood Center – Flood Resiliency

- Partner with local organizations – examples Northeast Iowa Community Action, Luther College, etc.
- Upper Iowa Watershed will be on initial timeline with Flood Center efforts
- Program intended to increase resilience with action and resources
 - Focus on Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
 - Will score areas based on following resource categories: Social, human, institutional, natural, economic, and physical.
- Work to create a *Flood Resilience Action Plan* to complement hydrological assessment, watershed plans, hazard mitigation plans, and disaster recovery plans.
- Discussion was had regarding examples of current practices regarding resiliency – Iowa Flood Center recently started this pilot program, so no current implementation information was available.
- Discussion was had regarding ability to utilize resiliency information to contribute to decisions being made in selecting sub-watersheds.

| Action Items | Motion | Second |
|--------------|--------|--------|
| None | | |

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4.) Agenda topic *Board Discussion – Project Coordinator* | Presenter *Todd Duncan, NRCS*

Discussion: Todd Duncan of the NRCS presented to the board that the Winneshiek SWCD and local NRCS office is willing and able to house the Project Coordinator position and provide employer of record services. Winneshiek SWCD currently has an existing agreement with NRCS to house employees and utilize resources of the NRCS, including facilities, vehicles, and equipment. Duncan also noted that by utilizing this relationship, the project could utilize the state engineering license held by the NRCS office. Duncan also reported that UIRWMA could work cooperatively with SWCD and NRCS to maximize impact of conservation practices.

Discussion from community member John Rodecap suggested working to ensure that on farm practices be considered in work of the project coordinator and grant implementation.

| Action items | Motion | Second |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Motion was made initiate hiring phase by utilizing current job description provided and to have the employer of record be the Winneshiek County Soil and Water Conservation and the employee to be housed at the Winneshiek County NRCS office. | Dan Byrnes | Jack Knight |

5.) Agenda topic *Floor Items* | Presenter

Discussion: Discussion from group suggested that next meeting be held later in the evening to encourage participation from local farmers. Group was encouraged to work to further involve farmers in meetings.

| Action items | Motion | Second |
|--------------|--------|--------|
| None | | |

6.) Agenda topic *Set Meeting Time/Date* | Presenter *John Beard*

Discussion: Next meeting set for March 29th and 7:00 pm at Decorah City Council Chambers

| Action items | Motion | Second |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Meeting Date: 3/29/2017 Location: Decorah City Council | Mark Jensen | Jack Knight |

7.) Agenda topic *Adjourn meeting* | Presenter *John Beard*

| Action items | Motion | Second |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Adjourn Meeting | Dan Byrnes | Mark Jensen |

How Can We Become More Flood Resilient?

Many Iowans know what it means to be personally resilient. We have jumper

cables and spare blankets in our vehicles for when a winter driving mishap that leaves us, or a loved one, in a roadside ditch. We have cell phones to keep us in touch with family, friends, and neighbors in times of need. We overstock our personal food pantries, buy flashlights and weather radios, and we build shelters to prepare for tornadoes and thunderstorms. When a grain farmer is



injured, 10 combines and as many semi-trucks are known to almost magically appear and complete the harvest within hours. Family helping family; friends helping friends; neighbors helping neighbors – an Iowa tradition that improves our resilience.

Iowans also know what it means to lack resilience. The recently laid-off manufacturing worker with a family of four lacks resilience. The elderly woman, with no family, who lives in her childhood home, surrounded by neighbors she no longer knows – she lacks resilience. People in small Iowa towns with aging water and wastewater infrastructure and a shrinking tax base – they might not feel resilient. And, after a September rain of over 12 inches in Greene, after 22 feet of Cedar River elevation in Cedar Rapids in 2016 and 31 feet in 2008, and after countless other local and regional floods in Iowa - many Iowans are feeling less and less *flood resilient*.



Iowa communities help decide who is flood resilient Community flood resilience is the ability of people living in a common watershed to plan and act collectively, using local capacities, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a flood. Flood resilient communities also learn from previous floods that they, or others near them, have experienced. Flood resilient communities understand that actions can reduce flood risk through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Flood resilient communities also know how to utilize local and regional resources that make collective action successful. Because the Iowa Watershed Approach invites communities to think “flood first”, it is important to identify community resources that can be leveraged to increase flood resilience.

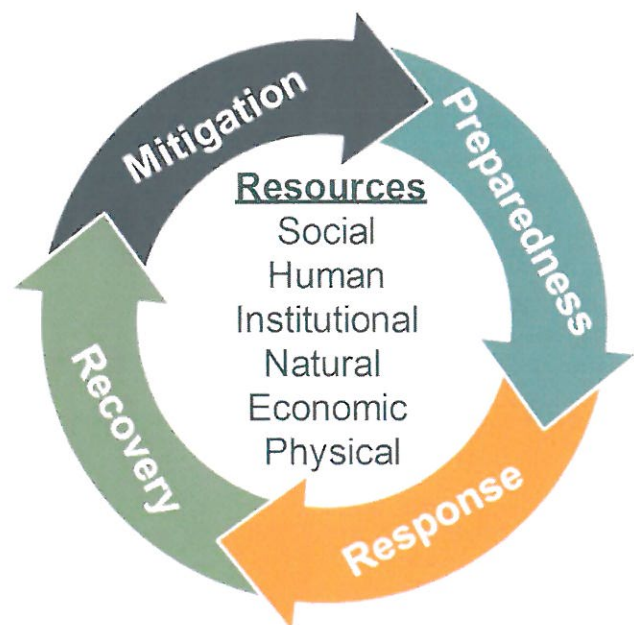
Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources

Mitigation deals with the *future and long-term* actions that increase flood resilience. Mitigation is more effective when it is incorporated into recovery plans and into the general development plans of a community. Examples of mitigation include building levees, preventing further development in floodplains, and raising the elevation of existing homes.

Preparedness deals with the pre-disaster actions that enable an effective flood response. These actions are primarily plans and resources that are prepared *in case of an emergency*. For flood preparedness, this may include having an agreement with friends or family members about where you would sleep in case of an evacuation, and having extra stored food in case of being trapped in your house.

Response deals with the *immediate and short-term* actions *in the state of emergency* prior to, during, or right after a flood. Flood response includes moving supplies from the basement to a higher level, evacuating, sandbagging, and search and rescue.

Recovery deals with *short-term and long-term* actions that help communities regain economic and social functions. An example of short-term flood recovery includes repairing damaged buildings. A long-term recovery can include regaining a similar, or even stronger, economic activity the community has prior to a flood.



Social Resources are *community* characteristics that facilitate collective action. The ability to trust, build partnerships, form social networks, and pursue collective learning are examples.

Human Resources are population characteristics of *individuals*, such as doctors, builders, trained responders, business owners, and community leaders.

Institutional Resources are provided by private, public, or government entities and include things such as insurance, health care, emergency plans, and recovery grants.

Natural Resources are natural features such as marshes, undeveloped flood plains, and protected grasslands that increase flood resilience for a watershed community.

Economic Resources are the finances needed to improve flood resilience.

Physical Resources are built resources such as housing, roads, hospitals, levees, and floodwalls.

The IWA Flood Resilience Team can help you improve hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans Many Iowa towns and counties have hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans that enable the allocation of federal disaster assistance funding when sought. No plans, no funding. We understand that many community mitigation plans are not thoughtfully prepared and are lacking in detail. A lack of planning leads to a lack of effective action – especially when it comes to flood resilience. We want to work with watershed communities to lower the barriers to effective hazard mitigation planning, particularly for floods, so your community is eligible and ready for action when funds from sources like the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are available.

A dynamic Flood Resilience Action Plan can make hazard mitigation and watershed planning more valuable Let's face it,

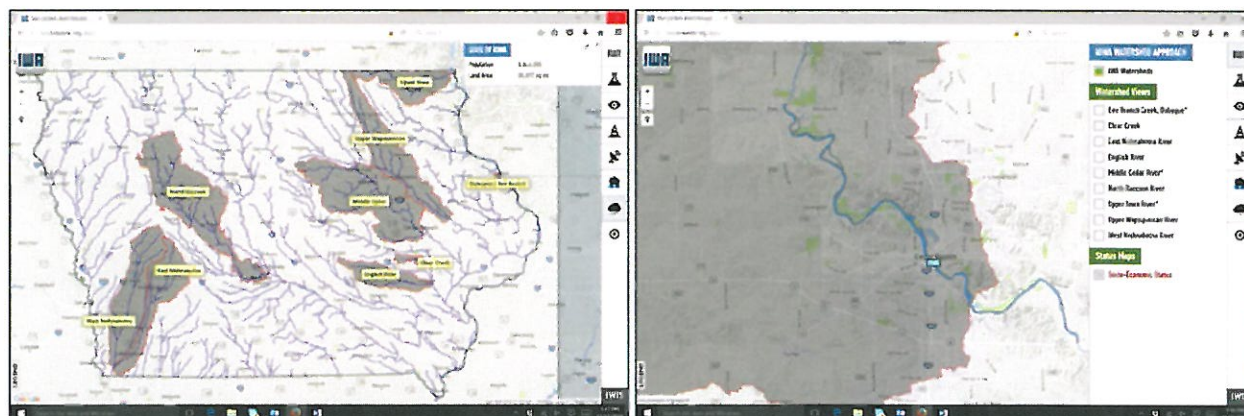
hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans are planning tools that most Iowans will not enjoy reading and discussing while sipping a good cup of coffee with friends. The format of these plans are prescriptive and not all that user friendly. Thankfully, the Flood Resilience Action Plan can take on a different form which can include plain language and helpful maps and graphics. Some watershed communities may choose to embed all or part of the Flood Resilience Action Plan into their watershed plan.

The Iowa Watershed Approach is backed by the Iowa Flood Center

Have you seen those great Iowa Flood Center flood maps online? Those maps are made possible by a powerful team of scientists and engineers that do watershed scale hydrologic assessments. The Iowa Flood Center will make similar maps available online for your Flood Resilience Action Planning needs.

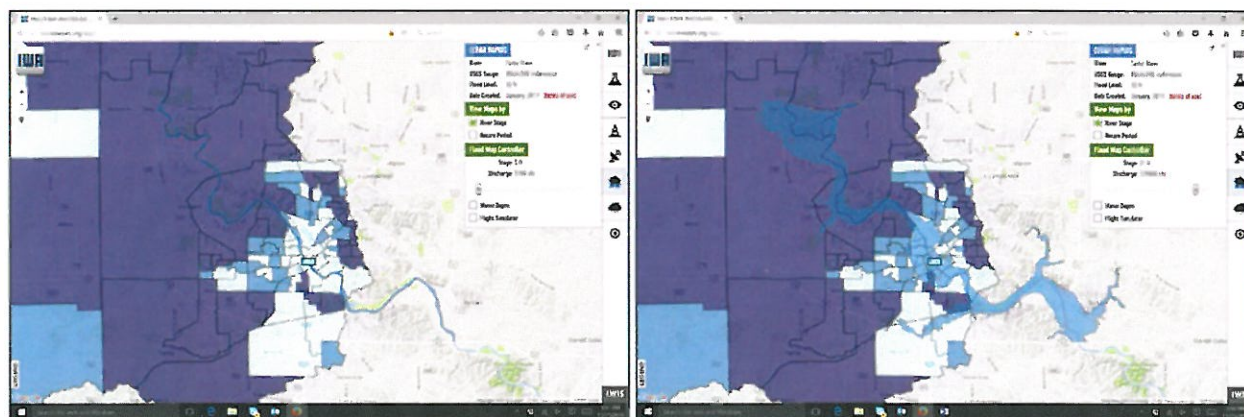


The IWA features a customizable watershed information visualization system



The map on the left shows the 9 watershed communities across the state of Iowa that are the focus of the Iowa Watershed Approach project. The map on the right zooms in on Cedar Rapids, at the southeastern border of the Middle Cedar watershed, to visualize the Cedar River during normal flow as it flows through this urban center. These maps represent the hydrologic assessment and visualization capabilities that have helped make the Iowa Flood Center well-known to, and valued by, many Iowans.

Flood resilience can be visualized at the intersections of various resource indicators and flood risk



The map on the left overlays a relatively simple representation of social resource indicators, such as education level, median income, and unemployment rate, onto the Iowa Flood Center community flood inundation map (during normal river flow) for Cedar Rapids. The lightest blue color might represent “low” social resource availability and the purple color might represent “high” social resource availability for individuals in the census block groups that are shown. The map on the right shows the same data and the massive flood inundation during the historic 2008 event in Cedar Rapids. This map represents how flood resilience could be visualized to potentially inform active flood mitigation planning

The IWA Flood Resilience Team is ready to work with YOU to create value for your watershed community The IWA Flood Resilience Team seeks to provide value to Iowa’s watershed communities through partnerships to develop the tools to measure and visualize flood resilience in ways that make future mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning actions more meaningful and useful. We can make our watershed communities more flood resilient, together.

**Position Opening Announcement
Watershed Management Authority Project Coordinator**

Insert Name of WMA Here

Announcement Date:

Application Closing Date:

Anticipated Date of Hire:

Background

Through the National Disaster Resilience Competition, the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the State of Iowa \$96.9 million to conduct a program to help Iowa communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to recover more quickly from future disasters. The award is the result of collaboration among several state and local agencies to create a program called the Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA). The IWA will seek to accomplish six goals, including reducing flood risk, improving water quality, increasing resilience, engaging stakeholders, improving quality of life and health, and developing a program that can be replicated throughout the Midwest and the nation.

The lead state-level agencies involved in implementing the program are the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Iowa Flood Center (IFC) at the University of Iowa, Iowa State Extension and the Iowa Water Center at Iowa State University, and the Prairie Learning Center at the University of Northern Iowa.

Eight distinct watersheds across Iowa will serve as project sites for the IWA. These are: Upper Iowa River, Upper Wapsipinicon River, Middle Cedar River, Clear Creek, English River, North Raccoon River, West Nishnabotna River, and East Nishnabotna River. Each project will work through a watershed management authority to develop a hydrologic assessment and watershed plan, and implement targeted projects to reduce the magnitude of downstream flooding and to improve water quality during and after flood events. These projects will range from construction of farm ponds, wetlands, and storm water detention basins; restoration of floodplains and oxbows; and implementation of perennial cover and buffer strips.

INSERT NAME County seeks a self-motivated, experienced Watershed Project Coordinator to implement the Iowa Watershed Approach project for the INSERT NAME watershed. The project will address areas of environmental concern that may include but are not limited to flood reduction, nutrient loading, sedimentation, and other hydrologic, soil conservation and water quality issues for the INSERT NAME Watershed Management Authority (WMA). The ideal candidate will have experience in watershed planning and/or project management, an ability to interpret scientific concepts clearly and proficiently, and a demonstrated capacity to work with diverse stakeholder groups, including local public officials, NGOs, landowners, farmers, businesses, and the general public.

Position Summary:

The project coordinator will serve as the primary point of contact for the Iowa Watershed Approach program in INSERT NAME County. The multi-faceted nature of this program will require that the successful candidate have a diverse skill set and the ability to coordinate multiple activities with overlapping deadlines. The successful candidate should be well-versed in watershed planning and management concepts, have the technical capacity to interpret water resource data and information, and strong communication skills.

The employee will manage and coordinate, as needed, the formation of a WMA, the development of a watershed management plan for the WMA, the implementation of flood resiliency conservation projects and associated conservation planning, information and education outreach programs, and other related activities essential to the IWA, the WMA and its membership. The project coordinator will be closely involved with overseeing a variety of activities. Specific tasks may include:

- **Stakeholder engagement:** The project coordinator will in many respects be the face of the IWA program in the INSERT NAME watershed. In order for the program to be successful, there must be support from all levels of watershed stakeholders including city and county government, landowners, residents and businesses, agricultural producers, concerned citizens, non-governmental organizations, and the many partners that are involved with the IWA program statewide and locally. To that end, the project coordinator will research, plan, and implement an information and education outreach program to raise awareness about the IWA program, encourage participation in the planning process and the implementation of practices. This effort should incorporate some type of water monitoring effort as an informational and evaluation tool. Examples of activities may include informational meetings, field days, newsletters and local media coverage, workshops, and recognitions for active participants.
- **Development of a watershed management plan:** The project coordinator will oversee development of a watershed management plan for the INSERT NAME watershed. The project coordinator will collaborate with partners and contractors to ensure the watershed management plan is on track, and assist with collecting water quality data and conducting field assessments.
- **Implementation of the watershed management plan:** The project coordinator will perform professional and technical duties to advance the goals of the watershed management plan. These duties will include implementing the information and education outreach plan, coordinating water quality monitoring, and assisting with the implementation of best management practices designed to increase flood resilience in the project area. The coordinator will work one-on-one with producers and other decision makers to facilitate adoption and implementation of the practices identified in the watershed management plan. The coordinator will also help landowners navigate the process of signing up for cost-share assistance through the IWA program.
- **Project evaluation:** The coordinator will evaluate project activities on an ongoing basis, working with local partners and stakeholders to prioritize current and future project activities. Use current technology and tools, such as GIS, to identify resource needs and identify innovative solutions. Utilize monitoring and measurement techniques to evaluate progress toward meeting project goals and implementation of solutions. Assist the WMA in identifying other potential flood reduction and water quality programs and assisting, as needed, in applying for funds through those programs.

- Overall project coordination: The IWA program will have multiple activities on-going throughout the five-year program. The coordinator will oversee efforts to collaborate with appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that can affect the success of the project. The coordinator will plan and lead group meetings as well as one-on-one meetings with project sponsors, WMA members, local cooperators, and various WMA stakeholders. The project coordinator will help with organizing and publicizing meetings, will maintain a clear understanding of project timelines and budgets, and will be the point of contact for IWA program partners, as well as contractors and consultants hired to work on different aspects of the program.
- Project Reporting and Administration: The coordinator will provide administrative support and manage the project to maintain quality control and maximize involvement of local advisors, WMA members and staff of program partners. Work with project advisory groups and WMA members to complete annual plans of operations and budgets for the project. Assist, as needed, with completing and submitting all required financial and progress reporting documents in accordance with IEDA and HUD contract deadlines.

Applicant Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated professional with strong communication skills and an ability to take the initiative on watershed planning and implementation of conservation projects. The Coordinator will need to be flexible and willing to take on new tasks and responsibilities as program opportunities evolve. The position requires a conscientious individual who will provide follow-through on all areas of responsibility.

The Coordinator must have knowledge of ecosystem and watershed concepts, watershed planning, water resource issues, flood mitigation programs and strategies, and watershed improvement practices. Some experience with habitat restoration or agricultural conservation practices, volunteer management, community engagement, environmental education, and/or outreach is also required. The Coordinator must be able to communicate clearly and effectively with a broad range of individuals. The position requires a college degree in Environmental Science or Planning, or a related discipline, and relevant job experience in the watershed management field. A working knowledge of basic state and federal agricultural conservation programs is preferred.

Position Information:

This is a full-time position that will be in effect over the five-year span of the Iowa Watershed Approach program. Primary work hours will be during normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm), however, early morning, evening and weekend work, with occasional overnight trips, will be regularly required throughout the year to meet with local leaders and boards of political subdivisions, watershed committees, conservation districts, interested stakeholders, various state and federal agencies, and to attend trainings. The successful applicant must have a valid driver's license and the ability to use a personal vehicle for travel.

Compensation and Benefits:

- INSERT SALARY RANGE HERE
- Starting pay is commensurate with education, experience and skills.
- Flexible work schedule
- Supportive communities and partner organizations
- Compensation for mileage and travel expenses

- INSERT STATEMENT REGARDING HEALTH AND OTHER INSURANCE BENEFITS HERE
- INSERT STATEMENT REGARDING LEAVE BENEFITS SUCH AS VACATION, HOLIDAYS, SICK LEAVE
- INSERT STATEMENT REGARDING RETIREMENT OR OTHER BENEFITS, IF ANY.

Application Process:

- To apply, please submit each of the following **via email** to INSERT NAME County, Attention:
INSERT CONTACT NAME
 - cover letter
 - resume
 - writing sample
 - three professional references
- The writing sample should be from a newsletter, press release or other outreach piece, or a technical report on relevant environmental issues. If not available, another piece may be submitted that conveys the applicant's ability to clearly interpret the natural world to the general public.
- Submit all four pieces *together* no later than INSERT DEADLINE to:
 - Contact Name
 - Contact Email
 - Contact Mailing Address

INSERT NAME does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, physical or mental disability. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or familial status.