Iowa's Watershed Management Authorities

Partnerships for Water Quality Improvement and Flood Risk Reduction

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- *What is a WMA?
- ** Authorizing legislation
- *** WMA Activities**
- *How to form a WMA
- **★** Existing WMAs
- * Resources



Source: Indian Creek WMA

What is a WMA?

- * Formal agreement (Chapter 28E) amongst two or more political subdivisions
 - Cities, Counties, SWCDs
- * Activities include:
 - Watershed planning & management
 - Education
 - Grant writing & administration



Source: IDALS / Jeff Tisl

2010 – Watershed Management Legislation

- # HF 2459 Added
 provisions for WMA
 formation to the Surface
 Water Protection & Flood
 Mitigation Act
- * Other provisions included:
 - Watershed PlanningAdvisory Council
 - Watershed DemonstrationPilot Projects (Iowa Flood Center)



WMA Activities

- ★ Iowa Code Chapter 466B Subchapter II
- *** WMAs May:**
 - Assess flood risk
 - Assess water quality
 - Assess options for reducing flood risk and improving water quality
 - Monitor federal flood risk planning and activities
 - Educate residents of the watershed regarding water quality and flood risks

*** WMAs Shall Not:**

Acquire property by eminent domain

Why Form a WMA

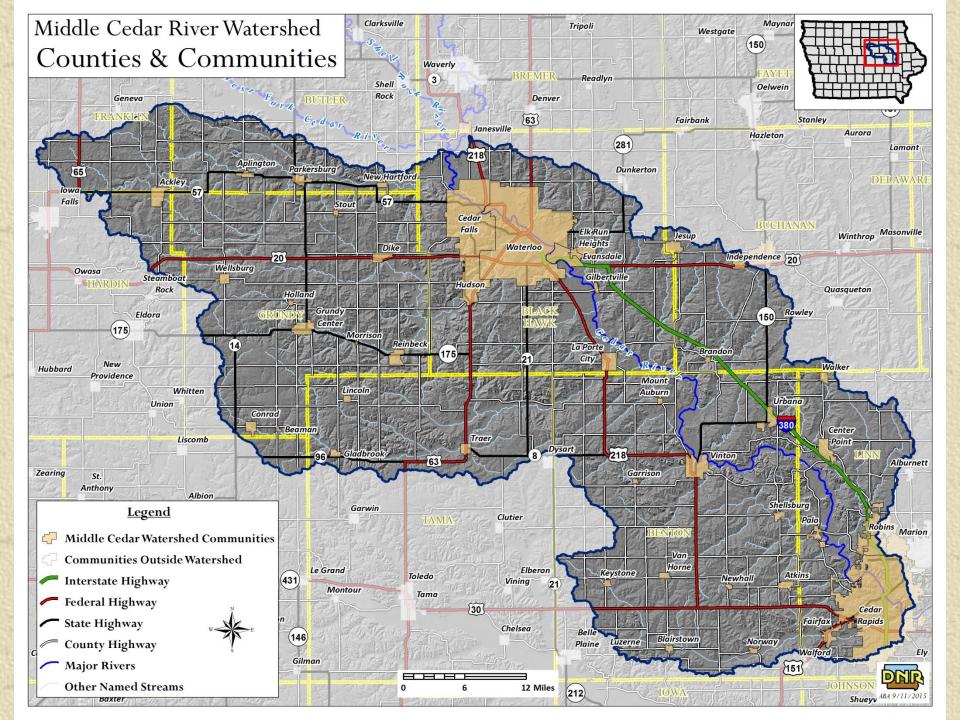
- * Allows water resource problems to be addressed at the watershed scale
- Develop partnerships to leverage resources and create efficiencies
- Build support for conservation in urban and rural areas
- Work together to obtain grants or other resources



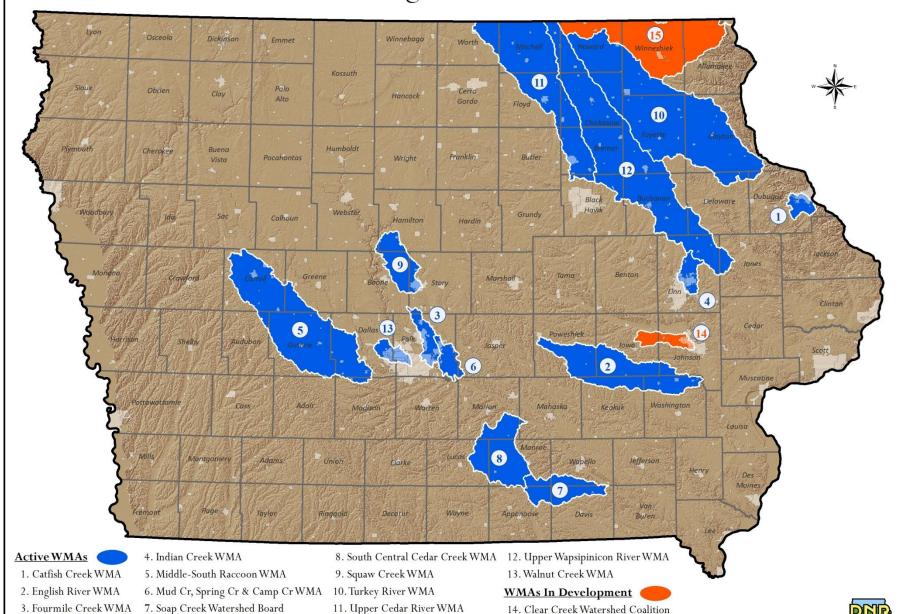
Source: English River WMA

How to Form a WMA

- Organize within one single HUC-8 watershed
- * Notify all eligible entities with invitation to participate
- Create a Chapter 28E agreement, including a map
- * A single entity can be involved in multiple WMAs, but participation is not required



Watershed Management Authorities



14. Clear Creek Watershed Coalition

15. Upper Iowa WMA

3. Fourmile Creek WMA



- *Seven WMAs are currently writing watershed plans
 - − Planning Grants − \$1.37 million
 - Demand far exceeds the available resources





Resources

- *** WMA Planning Grant**
- * 28e Agreement Checklist
- *DNR website:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedManagementAuthorities.aspx

Questions?

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* For more WMA information:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedManagementAuthorities.aspx





- * Sept. 29th release for public comment
- * October 20th submit proposal (not actually due until October 27th)
- ★ January release award announcements
- ★ July funds allocated & project begins
- ***** IF FUNDED
 - Years 1 & 2 of the project will look at WMA formation, hydrologic assessment, and modeling.
 - Years 3 & 4 will be mainly for project construction,
 - Year 5 for wrap-up and project evaluation/assessment.
- ★ Middle Cedar estimated \$12 million in funding

NDRC - Projects

Small Farm Pond (0.25 - 2 acres)	20
Medium Farm Pond (2 - 5 acres)	50
Large Farm Pond (5+ acres)	20
Storm Water Detention Basin	20
Small Wetland	10
Large Wetland	20
Terrace	10
Sediment Detention Basin	20
Floodplain Restoration	5
Channel Bank Stablization	0
Bioreactor	5
Saturated Buffer	7
Buffer Strips	30
Perennial Crop	60