

MEMO



To: Mayor and City Council
From: John Dunn
Date: January 24, 2023
Subject: Presentation of the Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Plan

At the January 24, 2023, City Council meeting, Sara Carmichael (Story County Watershed Coordinator) will provide a high-level overview of the Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority and its recently completed watershed management plan. Both the Public Works and Water & Pollution Control Departments have been highly engaged with the WMA.

The presentation is informational only. Sara will provide some thoughts on things the City of Ames could do to help advance the goals of the WMA, but no formal action is requested of Council at this time.

Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority (HWSSRWMA)

SARA CARMICHAEL
STORY COUNTY, WATERSHED COORDINATOR



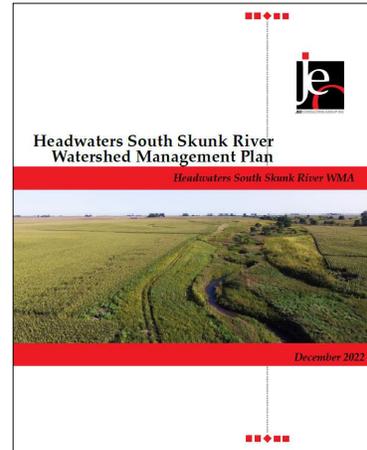
About Me

- ▶ Conservation Professional
 - ▶ 1.5yrs with Story County
- ▶ Focused on
 - ▶ Edge of Field Practices
 - ▶ Water Quality Monitoring
 - ▶ Watershed Education/Outreach



Overview

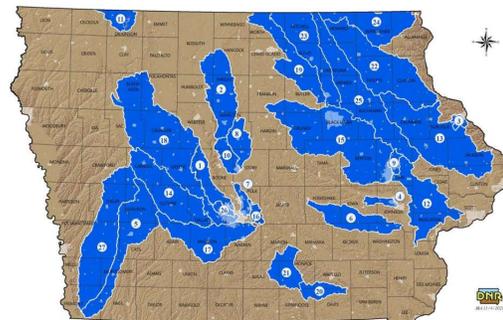
- ▶ What is a Watershed Management Authority (WMA)
- ▶ What is the HWSSRWMA and Why it's important
- ▶ Who is Involved with HWSSRWMA
- ▶ Goals/Objectives of HWSSRWMA
 - ▶ Long-Term/Short-Term Strategies
- ▶ Next Steps



What is a WMA

- ▶ 2010 Legislation – Dept. of Natural Resources
- ▶ Cities, Counties, SWCDs within a watershed
- ▶ Voluntary, no taxing or regulatory authority
- ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Conduct planning on watershed scale
 - ▶ Foster multi-jurisdictional partnerships and corporation
 - ▶ Leverage resources for all entities

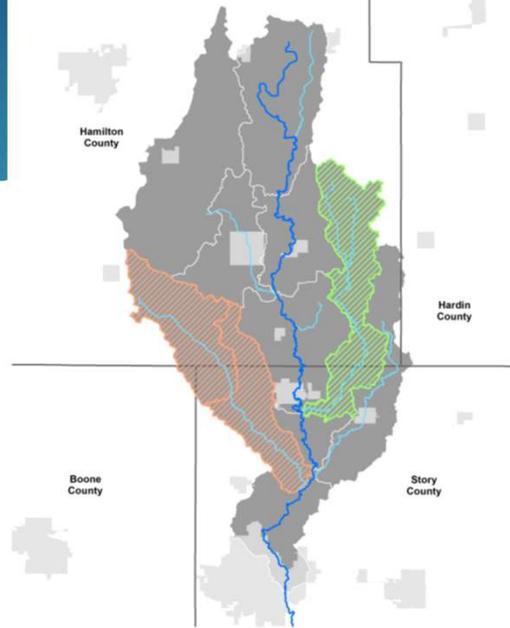
IOWA'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Beaver Creek WMA | 8. Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA | 15. Middle Cedar WMA |
| 2. Boone River WMA | 9. Indian Creek WMA | 16. Mud Creek, Spring Creek & Camp Creek WMA |
| 3. Catlin Creek WMA | 10. Smoky Creek WMA | 17. North & Middle Rivers WMA |
| 4. Clear Creek Watershed Coalition | 11. Little Sioux Headwaters Coalition | 18. North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition |
| 5. East Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition | 12. Lower Cedar WMA | 19. Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition |
| 6. English River WMA | 13. Maquoketa River WMA | 20. Soap Creek Watershed Board |
| 7. Fourmile Creek WMA | 14. Middle-South Raccoon WMA | 21. South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA |
| | | 22. Turkey River WMA |
| | | 23. Upper Cedar River WMA |
| | | 24. Upper Iowa WMA |
| | | 25. Upper Wapigwicon River WMA |
| | | 26. Walnut Creek WMA |
| | | 27. West Nishnabotna Watershed Coalition |

What is the HWSSRWMA and Why it's important

- ▶ Formed in Fall 2018
- ▶ Plan development: Feb 2021-Dec 2022
- ▶ 4 counties; 9 incorporated cities; 210,698 acres; 47 miles of S. Skunk River
- ▶ Issues
 - ▶ Water Quality (E. coli, nitrates, sediment)
 - ▶ Altered Hydrology
 - ▶ Loss of Wildlife Habitat
 - ▶ Flooding



Who is involved with HWSSRWMA

- ▶ Members
 - ▶ 4 counties, 9 cities, 4 SWCDs
 - ▶ 9 are members
- ▶ Technical Team
 - ▶ 13 individuals
- ▶ "Champion Farmers"

Table 2: HWSSR WMA Membership Status of Eligible Entities

| Entity | Member of WMA? |
|---|----------------|
| Cities | |
| Ames | Yes |
| Blairsburg | No |
| Ellsworth | No |
| Jewell | Yes |
| Kamrar | No |
| Randall | Yes |
| Roland | Yes |
| Story City | Yes |
| Williams | No |
| Counties | |
| Boone | No |
| Hamilton | Yes |
| Hardin | No |
| Story | Yes |
| Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) | |
| Boone | No |
| Hamilton | Yes |
| Hardin | No |
| Story | Yes |



Goals/Objectives of HWSSRWMA Plan

Goal 3 More widely and deeply affect water quality improvements in the watershed by increasing individual and community commitment to water quality.

Objective 3.1 Form an education and outreach committee as part of the WMA by the end of 2023. This committee will work with partners to implement the education plan and action items.

Objective 3.2 Set up HWSSRWMA webpages or links on partner websites by 2024.

Objective 3.3 By the end of 2025 hold a minimum of two outreach and education event in the watershed per year (one in Story County, one in Hamilton County).

Objective 3.4 By the end of 2023, expand regular stream monitoring efforts into Hamilton County.

Strategies

- ▶ Story-Term – 5 years
 - ▶ Action Plan
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Projects & Studies
 - ▶ Partnerships & Policy
 - ▶ Monitoring & Plan Evaluation
- ▶ Long-Term – 20 years
 - ▶ Priority BMP Implementation
 - ▶ Hydrologic Modeling
 - ▶ Water Quality Monitoring
 - ▶ Flood Risk Assessments

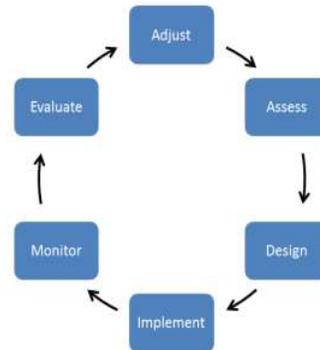


Figure 68: Basic Procedural Steps of Adaptive Management

Next Steps – What you can do!

- ▶ Tell us what's important to you
- ▶ Send Representative to WMA meetings
 - ▶ February 16th 10am-noon, Roland
- ▶ Education/Outreach
- ▶ Identify (more) Champion Landowners
- ▶ Help Identify Funding Opportunities



Thank You – Any Questions

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