

Watershed Quality Planning Task Force

Final Report

November 2007



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Cover Photo: Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Union Grove Lake, Tama County.



Grasses and a watershed dam combine to protect the land in the Troublesome Creek Watershed project in Cass County. Photo: Iowa NRCS.

Executive Summary

The 2006 Iowa Legislative Session called for creation of a task force to discuss voluntary statewide water quality programs and needs (Senate File 2363). Specifically, the Legislature asked the [Watershed Quality Planning Task Force*](#) to develop a report by June 30, 2008 containing recommendations on the following issues:

- Improving water quality and optimizing the costs of voluntarily achieving and maintaining water quality standards.
- Creating economic incentives for voluntary nonpoint source load reductions, point source discharge reductions beyond those required by the federal Water Pollution Control Act, implementation of pollution prevention programs, wetland restoration and creation, and the development of emerging pollution control technologies.
- Facilitating the implementation of total maximum daily loads, urban stormwater control programs, and nonpoint source management practices required or authorized under the federal Water Pollution Control Act. This paragraph shall not be construed to obviate the requirement to develop a total maximum daily load for waters that do not meet water quality standards as required by section 303(d) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act or to delay implementation of a total maximum daily load that has been approved by the department and the director.
- Providing incentives for the development of new and more accurate and reliable pollution control quantification protocols and procedures.
- Providing greater flexibility through community-based nonregulatory, and performance driven watershed management planning.

During the 2007 legislative session, the deadline for the task force's recommendations was accelerated to January 1, 2008.

Voting membership on the task force included: The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities; the Iowa League of Cities; Iowa Association of Business and Industry; the Iowa Water Pollution Control Association; the Iowa Rural Water Association; Growing Green Communities; the Iowa Environmental Council; the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; the Iowa Corn Growers Association; the Iowa Soybean Association; the Iowa Pork Producers Association; Conservation Districts of Iowa; the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and the Iowa Conservation Alliance.

Nonvoting members of the task force included: Two members of the Iowa Senate (one from each party) and two members of the Iowa House of Representatives (one from each party).

The task force met from August 2006 through November 2007. The task force and its three committees and numerous subcommittees conservatively committed hundreds of hours in at least 23 meetings while learning from 54 professional experts, academics and citizens. There was also a significant amount of time committed to research, discussion and deliberation outside of scheduled meetings, while paring down at least 48 issues into six final recommendations that received consensus approval.

* <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/taskforce/index.html>

Additionally, the funding recommendations contained herein are intended to be from new sources, not from existing programs. Following is a result of these efforts.



Children having fun at the beach of Lake Icaria in the Walters Creek Watershed project in Adams County. Lake Icaria was formed by a watershed dam that was built to control erosion and flooding. Photo: Iowa NRCS.

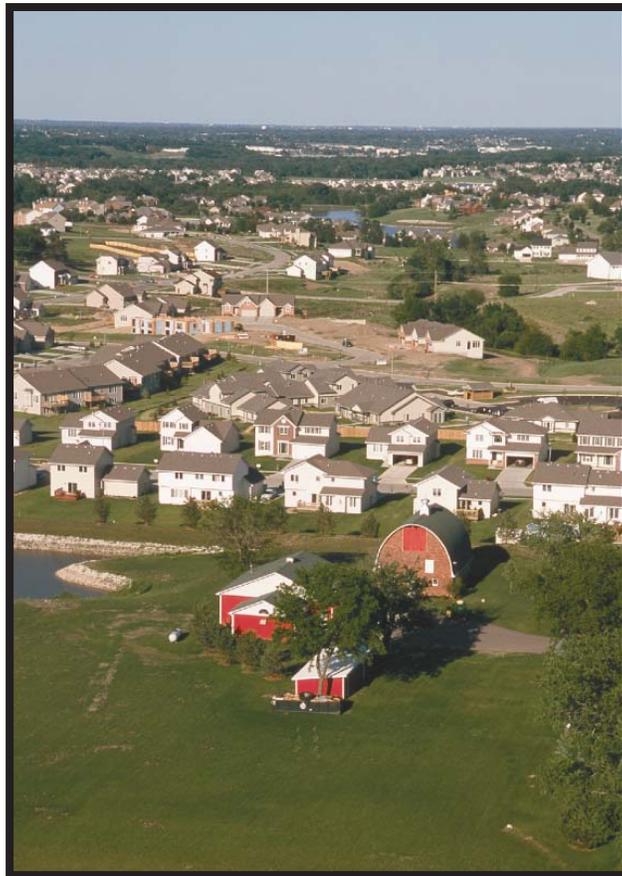
Summary of Recommendations

- 1. Creation of a Water Resource Coordinating Council.** The Water Resource Coordinating Council (WRCC) under the direction of the Governor is recommended with a common goal to develop an integrated approach to water resource management, and which recognizes the insufficiency of current approaches, programs, practices, funding and utilization of current funding programs. This approach seeks to overcome old polarities such as quantity versus quality, land versus water, the chemical versus the physical and biological, supply versus demand, political boundaries versus hydrological boundaries, and point versus non-point. This approach seeks to manage water comprehensively rather than compartmentally. The purpose of this recommendation is to coordinate programs, not to duplicate or supersede agency authorities and responsibilities. **Funding Recommendation: None.**
- 2. Develop a Water Quality Research & Marketing Campaign.** The task force recommends a marketing campaign be undertaken by public agencies and other organizations to rekindle the conservation ethic in all Iowans. Surveys indicate citizens' desire for improvement in water quality. Other surveys show that citizens don't understand the problems with local water quality. **Funding Recommendation: \$1 million for year one development.**
- 3. Larger (Regional) Watershed Assessment, Planning & Prioritization.** The state should support creating, publishing and updating periodically a Regional Watershed Assessment (RWA) program at a larger watershed scale, such as the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC – a federal term that delineates watersheds) 8 scale. There are approximately 56 HUC 8 size watershed units delineated in Iowa. A goal is to assess 11 HUC 8 size watersheds per year for five years to eventually cover the entire state. The Rapid Watershed Assessment tool used by Iowa NRCS, for example, is one assessment process that may be used. A regular review and update of these assessments should also be planned. **Funding Recommendation: \$5 million annually.**
- 4. Smaller (Community-Based) Watershed Assessment, Planning, Prioritization & Implementation.** Once a regional watershed assessment is completed at the HUC 8 scale, planned projects of a manageable scope can be implemented. Priority sub-watersheds at a HUC 12 or smaller scale can reasonably be recruited and provided more resources for planning. A sub-watershed plan should include objectives, a thorough local assessment of the physical, social, and financial resources of the watershed, an analysis of the alternatives, and an implementation plan that includes an evaluation process to measure results. **Funding Recommendation: \$5 million annually.**
- 5. Support for Smaller (Community-Based) Watershed Monitoring and Measurement.** In addition to current support for water monitoring, the state should provide technical and financial support for locally-based watershed monitoring and measurement. This monitoring would be custom designed to provide information on essential water resource questions facing the local community. Local communities would first be able to use this information to support enhanced planning, local data collection, and thus helping them identify priority areas to target limited resources. **Funding Recommendation: \$ 2.5 million annually.**

6. Wastewater and Stormwater Treatment Infrastructure. We all live in a watershed. Impacts to water quality come from a variety of sources, including both rural and urban, nonpoint and point sources. Challenges for point sources and communities can have a significant impact on watershed conditions from stormwater and wastewater. Aging wastewater and combined sewer/stormwater infrastructure issues are having negative impacts on water quality. Also, compliance with current and future water quality standards may be cost-prohibitive for many communities. **Funding Recommendation: None.**

Additional funding mechanisms should be identified and funding should be prioritized for communities that present the greatest water quality and health risks within the watershed. This will include sewered and unsewered communities.

There are also eight additional considerations for which there are no final recommendations. It is recommended, however, that the WRCC continue to work on these issues into the future.



Rural and urban folks both contribute to water quality solutions. Photo: Iowa NRCS

The funding recommendations contained herein are intended to be from new sources, not from existing programs.

Recommendation No. 1 - Creation of a Water Resource Coordinating Council

There are a number of programs that deal with water quality and watershed protection. A significant challenge historically has been coordination of these programs among agencies and organizations. The Water Resource Coordinating Council (WRCC) is charged to develop an integrated approach to water resource management, and which recognizes the insufficiency of current approaches, programs, practices, funding and utilization of current funding programs. This approach seeks to overcome old polarities such as quantity versus quality, land versus water, the chemical versus the physical and biological, supply versus demand, political boundaries versus hydrological boundaries, and point versus non-point. This approach seeks to manage water comprehensively rather than compartmentally. The purpose of this recommendation is to coordinate programs, not to duplicate or supersede agency authorities and responsibilities.

The council is charged by the Governor to oversee Iowa's water resources in a sustainable and fiscally responsible manner, consistent with the legislative charge of the Watershed Quality Planning Task Force, 2006-07. The Office of the Governor shall convene the WRCC at least quarterly. This group shall operate by consensus.

The citizens of Iowa entrust the State's water resources infrastructure with the Governor, as Chief Executive Officer of the State of Iowa, and therefore charge the Governor with the primary responsibility to recognize the assets and challenges; and to preserve and protect Iowa's water resources. It is also the responsibility of the Legislature, duly elected by the citizens of the State of Iowa, to empower, and fund all state agencies and institutions to ensure their full accessibility to programs and practices that improve, preserve and protect all water resources. The Governor and the Legislature recognize that all Iowa citizens have the responsibility to be involved in locally-led sub-watershed initiatives that enhance and protect our water resources.

The WRCC shall consider the steps necessary to address the planning, management and implementation of water resource improvement and protection, including:

- 1) Maximizing communication and participation among many diverse sub-watershed stakeholders;
- 2) Identification of program efficiencies and eliminate duplication of services;
- 3) Improvement of water resource information availability and management;
- 4) Providing incentives and recognition for environmental excellence; and,
- 5) Identification of measurable improvements to water quality in Iowa.

A. The purpose of the council is for ongoing, regular coordination of water resource protection strategies, planning, assessment, prioritization, review, concurrence, advocacy, and education and oversight functions. The council's outcomes should make it easier for local citizens to organize sub-watershed projects and access available programs and resources in a way that leads to improvement in long-term water quality.

Through the WRCC we can better manage Iowa's water resources and water resource programs and funding to ensure coordination and prioritization of programs and funding, and eliminating redundancies to ensure water quality improvement and protection. Examples of what the council will review include:

- 1) A complete statewide watershed assessment and planning process, which will include an interim (12-31-08) and a long term comprehensive State Water Plan (12-31-09), with ongoing updates every 5 years;
- 2) A protocol for identifying high priority watersheds and sub-watersheds for targeting resources;
- 3) Best available technology to prioritize where citizen and funding investment will improve and protect water quality within individual sub-watersheds;
- 4) Voluntary performance based standards;
- 5) Protocol for assigning multi-agency watershed and sub-watershed teams to coordinate citizen and agency activities within a watershed.

B. Membership in the WRCC shall be of the highest level within their agency, with the authority to make decisions and commitments for the agency they represent and shall include the following:

- 1) Governor of Iowa, chairperson;
- 2) Iowa Department of Natural Resources;
- 3) Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation;
- 4) Iowa Department of Public Health;
- 5) Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management;
- 6) Iowa Secretary of Agriculture;
- 7) Iowa State University College of Agriculture;
- 8) University of Iowa;
- 9) University of Northern Iowa;
- 10) Iowa Department of Transportation;
- 11) Iowa Department of Economic Development;
- 12) U.S. Geological Survey-Iowa Office;
- 13) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- 14) USDA Farm Service Agency;
- 15) USDA Rural Development;
- 16) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and,
- 17) U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

In addition, to further the coordination of efforts to improve water quality, public and private organizations and agencies, businesses, citizen groups and nonprofits that have an interest in land and water management shall be invited by the Governor for public input. The work of the WRCC shall comply with the Iowa open meetings and open records laws. All meetings will be open to the public and an agenda will be posted in advance.

As this is considered a current, ongoing responsibility of the agencies, no recommendation is made on funding.

Recommendation No. 2 - Develop a Water Quality Research & Marketing Campaign

The task force recommends that a marketing campaign be developed and implemented by public agencies and other organizations to rekindle the conservation ethic in all Iowans. Surveys indicate citizens' desire for improvement in water quality. Other surveys show that citizens don't understand the problems with local water quality.

For example, the 2006 Iowa [Sustainable Funding Task Force](http://www.iowadnr.com/sustainablefunding/index.html)* survey showed 86 percent agree that the protection of Iowa's fish and wildlife benefits all Iowa residents. Another survey by the [Heartland Regional Water Coordination Initiative](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SP290.pdf)** in 2007 shows a disparity between rural and urban residents regarding who is responsible for protecting local watersheds. It found that almost 39 percent of farmers believe it is an individual citizen's responsibility to protect local water quality compared to 20 percent of rural non-farm and 5.3 percent of town/city residents. Perhaps as important (or more so) to understand is that nearly 80 percent of Iowans look to some level of government for responsibility rather than their own actions.

It is not possible or desirable for state government to take complete control and responsibility for the quality of our water. Good water resources can improve quality of life for all residents whether it's because we enjoy water trails in canoes, like to hunt and fish the wildlife that benefits from improved watersheds, or just because we all need water to live. Improved water quality will improve Iowa's quality of life. Also, the economic benefits could far outweigh the costs of implementing this strategy. The desired outcome for this extensive, long-term campaign is for Iowans to take personal responsibility for water quality. Citizens must understand the needs of their sub-watersheds and have the tools available to lead change in local pilot projects.

The recommended concept is, "Clean Water - Everyone Is Responsible and Benefits." The recommendation is that money should be allocated by the Iowa Legislature to fund a major outreach campaign to help shift attitudes. The WRCC should be responsible for development and implementation of this recommendation.

The recommended budget is \$1 million for development. Additional funds for long-term implementation will be necessary.



Clean water is a goal for all Iowans. Photo: Iowa NRCS.

* <http://www.iowadnr.com/sustainablefunding/index.html>

** <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SP290.pdf>

Recommendation No. 3 - Larger (Regional) Watershed Assessment, Planning & Prioritization

In order to make improvements in the water quality in Iowa, we first need to know where the problems are. With limited funds available it is important to target the highest priority watersheds and sub-watersheds. The state should support publishing and updating periodically a Regional Watershed Assessment (RWA) program at a larger watershed scale, such as the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 scale. There are approximately 56 HUC 8 size watershed units delineated in Iowa.

A goal is to assess 11 HUC 8 size watersheds per year for 5 years to eventually cover the entire state. A regular review and update of these assessments should also be planned. A standard RWA provides a summary or snapshot of the condition of the watershed. This summary may include land use, soil types, slopes, management practices currently in use, stream conditions, and possible point source and nonpoint source impairments. A standard RWA would provide local watershed groups with common information they could use to prioritize local efforts. A key component of an RWA is the opportunity for local data collection and input in the process. Once RWAs are completed, we can logically determine which local watersheds should receive attention first.

The estimated cost of data collection and management is \$5 million annually for five years. Such an effort could be leveraged with federal funds.



Aerial photos are used for conservation planning by the NRCS to show where conservation practices are already in place. Such tools are important for watershed planning, assessment and prioritization at a large scale.

Photo: Iowa NRCS.

Recommendation No. 4 - Smaller (Community-Based) Watershed Assessment, Planning, Prioritization & Implementation

Once a regional watershed assessment is completed at the HUC 8 scale, planned projects of a manageable scope can be implemented. Priority sub-watersheds at HUC 12 or smaller should be recruited and provided more resources for planning. This key step in the process is often overlooked. A sub-watershed plan should include objectives, a thorough local assessment of the physical, social, and financial resources of the watershed, an analysis of the alternatives, and an implementation plan that includes an evaluation process to measure results. Comprehensive watershed plans should account for all point and nonpoint sources.

To be successful, local sub-watersheds need to organize in some fashion. A variety of options for how to organize exists, and may include soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), drainage districts, SWCD sub-districts as defined by 161A.13 in Iowa Code, 28E agreements, state not-for-profits, and federal IRS non-profits.

The task force recommends pilot sub-watershed projects to develop the local process to improve water quality. The development of local leadership and ownership is essential to complete a more detailed sub-watershed plan which uses existing programs and resources, yet is tailored to specific localized needs. This should include identification of barriers that inhibit local sub-watershed groups from achieving their goals. The process used in these pilot sub-watershed projects should be replicable across Iowa.

The recommended budget for planning and implementation of one or more pilot sub-watershed projects is \$5 million.



A watershed dam and upland terraces in a small watershed project in western Iowa. Photo: Iowa NRCS.

Recommendation No. 5 - Support for Smaller (Community-Based) Watershed Monitoring and Measurement

In addition to current support for water monitoring, the state should provide additional support for locally-based watershed monitoring and measurement. This monitoring would be custom designed to provide information on essential water resource questions facing the local community. Local communities would first be able to use this information to support enhanced planning, local data collection, and thus helping them identify priority areas to target limited resources.

Secondly, data collected over time would provide the local watershed community with feedback on the short and long-term impacts of their watershed project management. This information and feedback is necessary for local watershed residents to be able to make changes to their plans when needed. Such information is a key to identifying cost effective watershed improvements. This monitoring would be targeted to 12-digit HUC or smaller sub-basins where changes are detectable in a reasonable time frame and results can be used to encourage changes in practices and overall management.

To support this, the state should set-aside funds in its ambient monitoring program to partner with local communities for this additional watershed monitoring and assessment. **Therefore, there should be an increase in the state's ambient monitoring program budget by \$2.5 million to support these activities.**



*Lynette Siegley, an employee with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, collects water samples in Sny Magill Creek in Clayton County in northeast Iowa.
Photo: Iowa NRCS.*

Recommendation No. 6 – Wastewater and Stormwater Treatment Infrastructure

We all live in a watershed. Impacts to water quality come from a variety of sources, including both rural and urban, nonpoint and point sources. Challenges for point sources and communities can have a significant impact on watershed conditions from stormwater and wastewater. Aging wastewater and combined sewer/stormwater infrastructure issues are having negative impacts on water quality. Also, compliance with current and future water quality standards may be cost-prohibitive for many communities.

Additional funding mechanisms should be identified and funding should be prioritized for communities that present the greatest water quality and health risks within the watershed. This will include sewered and unsewered communities.



More and more, communities are labeling storm sewers to discourage people from dumping any materials that might pollute the water. Photo: Iowa NRCS.

Additional Considerations

These issues were topics of discussion either with the full task force or in the subcommittees. Some of these ideas were explored and require no legislative action to accomplish at this time, but were ideas that the newly formed WRCC could address. Other suggestions may need additional partnerships to further develop.

Pollutant Credit Trading: Pollutant trading can provide a sustainable and cost-effective strategy for improving Iowa's water quality. The fundamental necessity of pollutant trading is a regulated point source and the regulatory authority must require a reduction in the discharge of a specific pollutant. Trading allows the discharger to "purchase" pollutant reductions from other point or nonpoint source dischargers such that water quality standards can be met. To this point in time, IDNR has found that Iowa's water quality standards lend themselves only to point source-to-point source trades. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will be improving water quality standards in the coming years to address excess nutrients that impact the recreational and aquatic life uses of the State's lakes and streams. In order to meet nutrient standards point sources and permitted dischargers in nutrient impaired watersheds will be required to significantly reduce phosphorus and nitrogen in their effluent. These new standards may bring about the desire and ability for regulated point sources to purchase pollutant reductions from nonpoint sources.

However, the agencies on the WRCC should watch for opportunities to take advantage of newly developing trading opportunities. When new opportunities arise, the WRCC should work together to be sure the necessary legal authorities are in place to make these pollutant trading opportunities available to Iowans.

Strategic Conservation Easements:

Conservation easements along stream corridors is not a new idea. Back in the 1950's the USDA administered the "Soil Bank" program, which could be used to retire cropland in flood-prone areas. Today, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service both administer programs (i.e., Wetland Reserve, Emergency Watershed Protection Floodplain Easement Program) useful in protecting stream corridors.

One subcommittee suggestion was to develop and fund a program to utilize key, targeted land conservation easements within all watersheds to retire fragile land that contributes significantly to water quality problems. Special attention should be placed upon connecting corridors along rivers and streams that would provide benefits for recreation and wildlife as well as water quality protection. Iowa's goal should be to establish buffers, with and without permanent easements, along all 70,000+ miles of streams within the state. These easements could be either privately or publicly owned, depending on the desires of the current landowner.

Water quality benefits should be considered a priority for the state in land acquisitions. The WRCC and other interested organizations could explore creating and applying for an additional Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP) for Iowa, or consider an Iowa only program, unique to our needs.

Funding: The Legislature created a Sustainable Funding Task Force the same legislative session as this task force was formed. Because that group looked at several options for increasing funds for conservation and natural resources, we feel those recommendations should be first considered as a means to implement some of our recommendations. However, there is an opportunity for leveraging state funds with a

variety of federal and private sources and the WRCC should pursue these. Historically, approximately 95 percent of our conservation and regulatory funds come from federal sources and five percent from state sources.

Watershed Districts: Many different options were looked at to reorganize conservation on a watershed basis. After considerable research, it was determined that for the most part, we have the authority to work in watersheds through the current soil and water conservation districts (refer to the SWCD enabling legislation under Iowa Code 161A.7) and through 28E agreements. Other options include the use of sub-districts as defined by 161A.13 in Iowa Code or 28E agreements.

No matter the authority or structure, there are also questions about the long-term success of meeting existing or expected water quality standards. One task force subcommittee recommended a pilot sub-watershed project to demonstrate whether these current statutes and programs can be synchronized or modified to maximize limited resources to achieve multiple objectives. This pilot project would highlight for the WRCC any rule changes that may need to occur to make working holistically in watersheds more practical. It is also likely to point out needed legislative changes.

Access to Available Programs and Resources: Watershed groups have many resources available to them for assessment, planning, and implementation of watershed projects. These resources, however, are widely unknown to the majority of people, organizations, cities, and others within the state.

The WRCC should work to develop a one-stop shop, or clearinghouse, for those interested in watershed work. This could include a matrix of programs and incentives needs to be developed for communities and cities as well as rural

landowners and others. The intent is to be sure the alternatives available to people interested in improving and protecting water quality at their level of involvement is easily accessed. Such a matrix could take the form of a kiosk set within a web-based program that would satisfy inquiries about both programs as well as practices. Emphasis should be placed on making the clearinghouse easily accessible, user friendly and understandable.

Iowa Drainage Districts: The Iowa and national emphasis on renewable energy will require that the state's landscape continue to be as productive as possible to supply both feed for livestock and fuel for energy. Cropland must be adequately drained for efficient production and much of the drainage infrastructure will need to be updated in the coming years. Drainage districts are encouraged to consider the water quality they discharge while improving their drainage infrastructure. Such non-traditional approaches might include wetland mitigation, nitrate reducing wetlands, controlled drainage, bio-reactors, and cover crops that will improve the quality and environmental impact of drainage water entering Iowa streams.

Conservation Design: State agencies should set a strong example of leadership by designing and retrofitting all buildings, grounds, parks, and preserves in such a way as to maximize water quality benefits. In addition, any entity that accepts state funding should be required to follow the same guidelines.

Credit for Reaching Water Quality Goals: Participants in projects of priority watersheds should receive financial bonuses in excess of normal cost-share from sources other than the project sponsors based upon their collective success in meeting previously identified, minimum pollutant reduction goals. Such goals could be based upon either monitoring or modeling. While no watershed project is currently utilizing this approach, there is no

legal reason that projects funded through the state of Iowa could not utilize these bonuses. Further, it is recommended that the WRCC look

at current programs dealing with water quality to explore whether this strategy could be employed.



*Canoers enjoy the Volga River after extensive streambank stabilization efforts.
Photo: Jeff Tisl, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship.*

Success Stories

A number of organizations, agencies and people are helping Iowans across the state improve their lakes and streams by supporting and working with watershed projects. By making changes in how we manage both private and public land, as recommended by the Iowa Watershed Quality Planning Task Force, we can reduce the amount of pollution like sediment, nutrients and bacteria, reaching our water in a more comprehensive, thoughtful and timely manner. The stories featured here are just three of the many successes we've seen so far, and there's more work underway.

Learn more at: [IA DNR: Clean Water Starts With You: Clean Water Success Stories*](#)

How you can help: [Clean Water Starts With You**](#)

Lake Darling

Lake and park use went down as the lake's water quality declined. But as a result of strong partnerships between landowners, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the IDNR and other agencies, Lake Darling is remarkably clearer and swimming advisories have decreased. Strong local effort is bringing Lake Darling back.



*Photo: Lake Darling water jars,
from Clay Smith, IDNR*

Nine Eagles Lake and Slip Bluff Lake

These southern Iowa lakes landed on the state's impaired waters list for sediment problems. As a result of a watershed project coordinated by the IDNR, sediment delivery to the lake was reduced by 85 percent, which surpassed the original goal of a 50 percent reduction. Water clarity exceeded targets for secchi disk depth (determines the level of water clarity; the higher the number equals better clarity) by achieving a disk depth of 5.6 feet, improving on the goal of 4.1 feet. Nine Eagles Lake has now been removed from the state's 2004 impaired waters list.

Iowa Great Lakes - Clean Water Alliance

The Dickinson County Clean Water Alliance claims more than 50 local organizations and state and federal agencies in its membership. The alliance began in 1990 by a small group of citizens and has become the clearinghouse for all water quality projects in the area. They now have a full-time coordinator who organizes partnerships and funding for a variety of clean water activities for the Iowa Great Lakes, including water protection projects, education and research.

Learn more at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/watershed/iowagreatlakes/about.html>

* <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/success.html>

** <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/wis.html>

The Rebirth of Iowa's Trout Streams



Photo: Bigalk Creek, from Tom Wilton, IDNR

In 1980, only six Iowa trout streams were clean enough to allow trout to reproduce naturally. Today, with improvements to watersheds and in streams, 32 streams support natural production. The clearer, cleaner streams are drawing in tourists to small northeast Iowa towns, bolstering both local businesses and the environment.

Appendix

WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE LEGISLATION*

Senate File 2363, Sec. 4

A watershed quality planning task force is established within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Iowa department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITY

By June 30, 2008, the task force shall report to the general assembly its recommendations for a voluntary statewide water quality program which is designed to achieve all of the following goals:

- a. Improving water quality and optimizing the costs of voluntarily achieving and maintaining water quality standards.
- b. Creating economic incentives for voluntary nonpoint source load reductions, point source discharge reductions beyond those required by the federal Water Pollution Control Act, implementation of pollution prevention programs, wetland restoration and creation, and the development of emerging pollution control technologies.
- c. Facilitating the implementation of total maximum daily loads, urban storm water control programs, and nonpoint source management practices required or authorized under the federal Water Pollution Control Act. This paragraph shall not be construed to obviate the requirement to develop a total maximum daily load for waters that do not meet water quality standards as required by section 303(d) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act or to delay implementation of a total maximum daily load that has been approved by the department and the director.
- d. Providing incentives for the development of new and more accurate and reliable pollution control quantification protocols and procedures.
- e. Providing greater flexibility through community-based nonregulatory, and performance driven watershed management planning.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Membership on the task force shall consist of all of the following:

- a. Voting members of the task force shall include all of the following:
 - (1) One member selected by the Iowa association of municipal utilities.
 - (2) One member selected by the Iowa league of cities.
 - (3) One member selected by the Iowa association of business and industry.
 - (4) One member selected by the Iowa water pollution control association.
 - (5) One member selected by the Iowa rural water association.
 - (6) One member selected by growing green communities.
 - (7) One member selected by the Iowa environmental council.
 - (8) One member selected by the Iowa farm bureau federation.
 - (9) One member selected by the Iowa corn growers association.
 - (10) One member selected by the Iowa soybean association.
 - (11) One member selected by the Iowa pork producers council.
 - (12) One member selected by the soil and water conservation districts of Iowa.
 - (13) One person representing the department of agriculture and land stewardship selected by the secretary of agriculture.
 - (14) One person representing the Iowa department of natural resources selected by the director.
 - (15) Two members selected by the Iowa conservation alliance.

* <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/taskforce/files/legis.pdf>

Nonvoting members of the task force shall include all of the following:

- (1) Two members of the senate. One senator shall be appointed by the republican leader of the senate and one senator shall be appointed by the democratic leader of the senate.
- (2) Two members of the house of representatives. One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

Task Force Web Page: <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/taskforce/index.html>

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