# Final Report

Rathbun Lake Special Project:
Strategic Placement of BMPs for
Water Quality Protection
5031-011

<u>2006 - 2008</u>

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# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Description of the expenditure of watershed improvement funds and total project funds.

lowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) financial support enabled the Rathbun Land and Water Alliance to surpass the planned objectives for the *Rathbun Lake Special Project: Strategic Placement of BMPs for Water Quality Protection.* Specifically, this WIRB funding helped the Alliance and its partners, including cooperating landowners, to construct more debris basins and reduce the estimated quantities of sediment and phosphorus carried in runoff to Rathbun Lake annually by greater amounts than originally proposed.

The Alliance expended Watershed Improvement Funds for project activities as planned in the original application submitted to the Iowa WIRB. Please refer to the Summary of Watershed Improvement Funds Approved, Expended, and Balance in Table 1. A complete financial ledger for the term of the grant agreement accompanies this report.

Table 1			
Summary of Watershed Improvement Funds Approved, Expended, and Balance			
Grant Agreement Budget Line Item	Total Funds Approved (\$)	Total Funds Expended (\$)	Available Funds (\$) <sup>a</sup>
Construction of Impoundments			
(NRCS Debris Basin Practice)	500,000.00	465,567.20	34,432.80
Totals	500,000.00	465,567.20	34,432.80

The Alliance, its partners, and cooperating landowners did not have sufficient time remaining in the grant agreement period to undertake the construction of any additional debris basins that would have used the balance of available funds.

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# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY contd.

Similar to the information above regarding the Iowa WIRB's Watershed Improvement Funds, funds and in-kind contributions provided by partners were essential to the Alliance's success in surpassing the planned objectives for the Rathbun Lake Special Project: Strategic Placement of BMPs for Water Quality Protection.

Total project financial and non-financial resources were utilized for project activities as planned in the original application submitted to the lowa WIRB. Please refer to the Summary of Total Project Funding in Table 2. A complete financial ledger for the term of the grant agreement accompanies this report.

Table 2	Table 2					
Summary of	Total Project	Funding				
	Casl	h	In-Kind Cont	ributions	Tota	n <b>l</b>
Funding Source	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
WIRB	500,000.00	465,567.20	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	465,567.20
Landowners	60,000.00	71,312.01	82,500.00	87,830.00	142,500.00	159,142.01
NRCS	0.00	8,570.25	120,000.00	118,834.10	120,000.00	127,404.35
RRWA	40,000.00	36,959.09	12,480.00	6,528.30	52,480.00	43,487.39
Totals	600,000.00	582,408.55	214,980.00	213,192.40	814,980.00	795,600.95

Watershed Improvement Fund contribution: Approved application budget: 61% Actual: 59%

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

# Description of the water quality improvement practices applied and results achieved.

The Alliance and its partners, with the financial support from the Iowa WIRB, assisted landowners to construct twelve debris basins at strategic locations in the Rathbun Lake watershed. The original project objective called for the construction of at least ten basins. The debris basins were constructed at sites below areas in the watershed with high concentrations of priority land on which in-field best management practices (BMPs) will not be applied. The basins were constructed to reduce the amounts of sediment and associated phosphorus that are carried in runoff from priority land and impair water quality in Rathbun Lake and its tributaries. Table 3 presents a summary of the number of debris basins planned and constructed.

Table 3				
Summary of Practic	ces Appli	ed		
		Approved		Percent
Practice	Unit	Application Goal	Accomplishment	Completion
Debris Basins	No.	10	12	120

The Alliance and partners have determined that the twelve constructed debris basins will control runoff from approximately 2,333 acres. These twelve basins will reduce the delivery of sediment and phosphorus to Rathbun Lake and tributaries in the lake's watershed by an estimated 5,936 tons and 20,674 pounds per year respectively. These water quality related benefits surpass the original project objectives for acres treated with debris basins and the associated reduction in sediment and phosphorus delivery to Rathbun Lake and its tributaries. Table 4 presents a summary of planned and achieved water quality benefits.

Table 4				
Summary of Water Qu	ality Be	nefits		
Water Quality Benefit	Unit	Approved Application Goal	Accomplishments	Percent Completion
Acres Treated with Debris Basins	Ac.	2,000	2,333	117
Reduced Sediment Delivery	T.	2,970	5,936	200
Reduced Phosphorus Delivery	Lb.	12,100	20,674	171

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY contd.**

A set of maps that accompany this report identifies the locations of the twelve debris basins constructed through the project. The debris basins are located in eight of the targeted sub-watersheds of the Rathbun Lake watershed in which the Alliance and partners have been working with landowners to apply BMPs for priority land. The maps also present information that describes the water quality benefits associated with the debris basins, that is, reduced sediment and phosphorus delivery, as well as similar information for other BMPs applied for priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds.

Alliance members' and partners' staff identified, evaluated, and prioritized more than 40 potential sites for the construction of debris basins. This process of selecting the most strategic sites to construct the debris basins contributed significantly to the much greater than anticipated reduction in sediment and phosphorus delivery to Rathbun Lake and the lake's tributaries. In addition, the Alliance and its partners were able to confirm the relative cost effectiveness of constructing debris basins at strategic locations to reduce water quality impairment caused by sediment and associated phosphorus. The estimated average annual cost per ton of reduced sediment delivery for the twelve debris basins was \$2.83. This compares with an estimated average annual cost of \$16.30 and \$12.30 per ton of reduced sediment delivery from installing terraces and water and sediment control basins respectively.

The Alliances' and partners' comprehensive water quality monitoring program activities in Rathbun Lake and its tributaries were carried out during the project period. The program consists of monthly and event sample collection from 20 sites and analyses for sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and pesticides. Monitoring results have been used to help identify water bodies in the Rathbun Lake watershed that are on lowa's Section 303(d) Lists of Impaired Waters and evaluate water bodies in the watershed as part of Iowa's 2008 305(b) Water Quality Assessment. The water quality monitoring program will continue after project completion. Similarly, the Alliance and partners will continue to use past and future monitoring results to assess water quality conditions in Rathbun Lake and its tributaries as well as to plan and evaluate, to the extent possible, the effectiveness of BMPs to protect and improve water quality.

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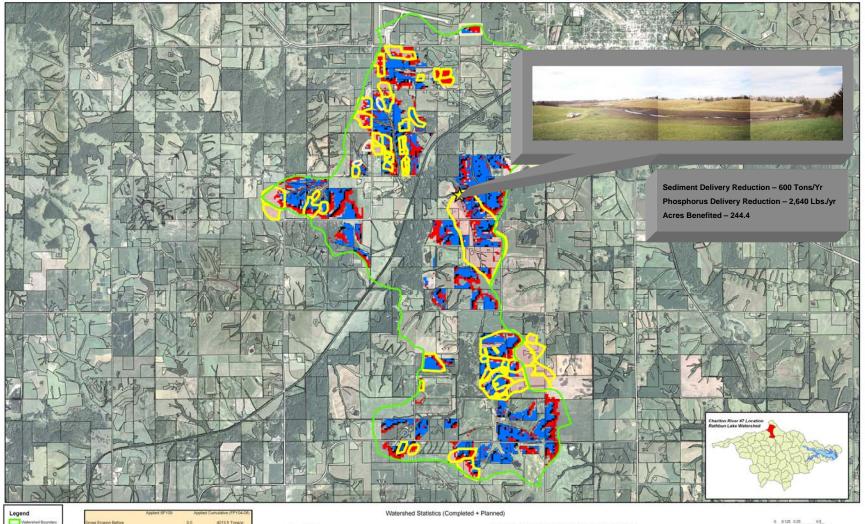
# PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

Description of activities completed to support the application of water quality improvement practices.

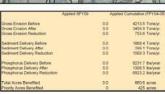
Alliance members and partners completed the following activities in support of the construction of twelve debris basins and achievement of associated reductions in sediment and phosphorus delivery to Rathbun Lake and the lake's tributaries:

- Assembled a team of expert advisors and field staff with Alliance member and partner organizations who were responsible for planning, implementing, and assessing the completion and impact of project activities;
- Developed and utilized a geographic information system (GIS) based methodology to help identify, evaluate, and prioritize more than 40 potential locations in the Rathbun Lake watershed to construct debris basins for water quality protection;
- Assisted twenty-two interested landowners to complete an in-depth evaluation of the
  possible construction of debris basins at high priority locations in the Rathbun Lake
  watershed. As a result, eleven landowners worked with the Alliance and partners to
  complete the engineering designs, develop maintenance plans, and construct debris
  basins at twelve of these sites:
- Prepared and presented information that described project progress and accomplishments as part of the Alliance's ongoing watershed outreach program activities which included tours of BMP application efforts in the watershed, displays at meetings, workshops, and conferences, and press releases and interviews with print, radio, and television media; and
- Alliance's board of directors, partner representatives, and project team members regularly reviewed progress in the implementation of project activities and accomplishment of project objectives. The Alliance submitted the required project plans of work, narrative reports, and financial ledgers.

#### Chariton River #7 Sub-Watershed Reece WIRB Structure + Priority Land Work







Size: 6,089 Acres

Priority Acres: 1,509 Acres Acres Benefiting: 910 Acres Priority Acres Benefiting: 451 Acres Approx. Sediment Del. Before Projects (Watershed): 8,525 Tons Approx. Sediment Del. After Projects (Watershed): 6,843 Tons

Approx. Sediment Del. Reduction (Watershed): 1,682 Tons Average Sediment Del. Reduction Per Acre: 1.85 T/Acre/Year Approximate Phosphorus Del. Before Projects (Watershed): 37,772 Lbs. Approximate Phosphorus Del. After Projects (Watershed): 30,320 Lbs. Approximate Phosphorus Del. Reduction (Watershed): 7,452 Lbs. Average Phosphorus Del. Reduction Per Acre: 8.19 Lbs./Acre

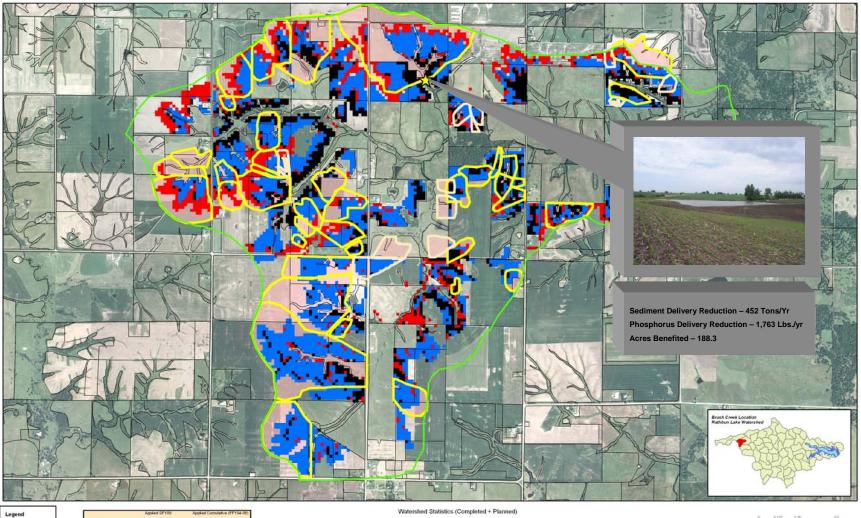




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Prepared By: Tyler J. Jacobsen, Rathbur Regional Water Association

#### Brush Creek Sub-Watershed Sponsler WIRB Structure + Priority Land Work





Applied SF100 Applied Cumulative of FF104-00.

Grees Evelor Service Service 1 3355.1 504.7 Total /r.

Grees Evelor Service 1 3355.1 504.7 Total /r.

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Geliment Celevry Applied 1 355.1 504.7 Total /r.

Frespictors Celevry Better 1 355.0 504.7 Total /r.

Total Acres Sevetted 1 383.1 1823.3 acres

Total Acres Sevetted 1 355.1 504.9 acres

Total Acres Sevetted 1 355.

2000

Size: 4,066 Acres
Priority Acres: 1,461 Acres
Acres Benefiting: 1275 Acres
Priority Acres Benefiting: 728 Acres
Approx. Sediment Del. Before Projects (Wate

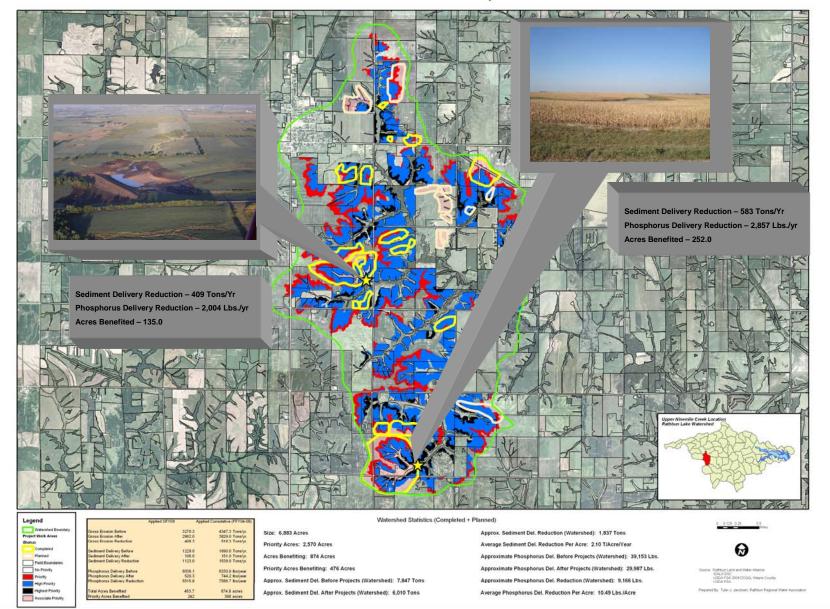
Approx. Sediment Del. Before Projects (Watershed): 6,384 Tons Approx. Sediment Del. After Projects (Watershed): 4,123 Tons Approx. Sediment Del. Reduction (Watershed): 2,281 Tons
Average Sediment Del. Reduction Per Acre: 1.77 TiAcre/Year
Approximate Phosphorus Del. Before Projects (Watershed): 25,278 Lbs.
Approximate Phosphorus Del. After Projects (Watershed): 16,326 Lbs.
Approximate Phosphorus Del. Reduction (Watershed): 8,952 Lbs.
Average Phosphorus Del. Reduction Per Acre: 7.02 Lbs./Acre



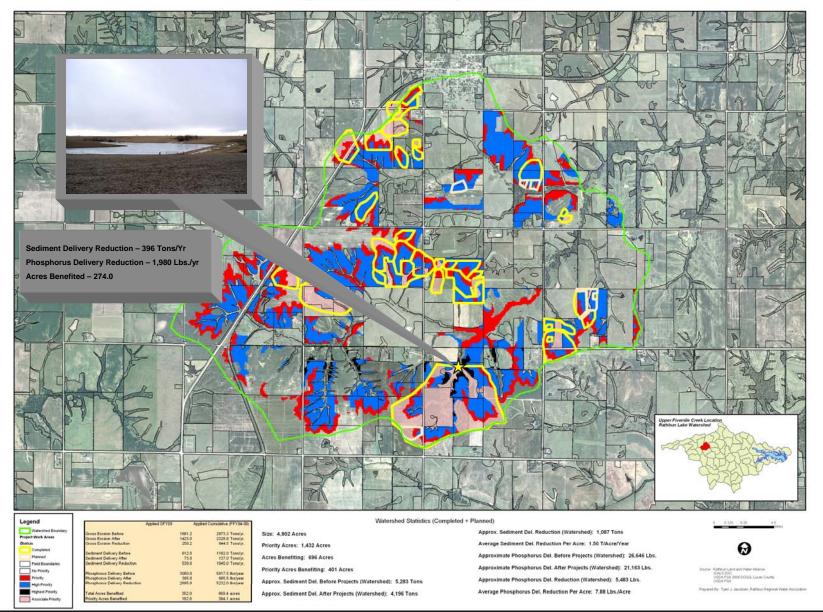
Source: Retrount, and and Water Alliance Chat. S DOC USDA FSA 2006 DOGG, December County USDA FSA

Property By: Tyler J. Jacobson, Rethbyo Regional Hotel Association

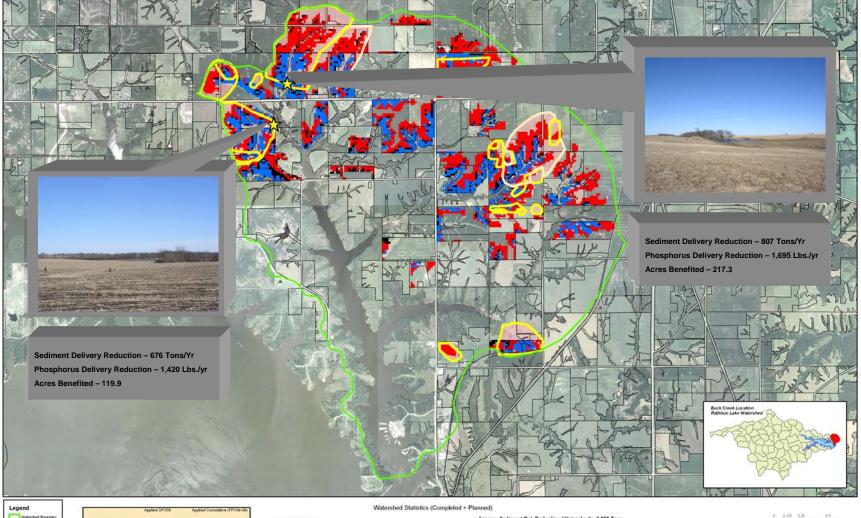
# Upper Ninemile Sub-Watershed Cline & Unruh WIRB Structures + Priority Land Work



#### Upper Fivemile Sub-Watershed Jang WIRB Structure + Priority Land Work



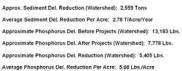
#### **Buck Creek Sub-Watershed** Tisue WIRB Structures + Priority Land Work



Leg	end
	Watershed Boundary
Project	t Work Areas
Statu	
	Completed
	Planned
	Field Boundaries
	No Priority
	Priority
	High Priority
	Highest Priority
-5	Associate Priority

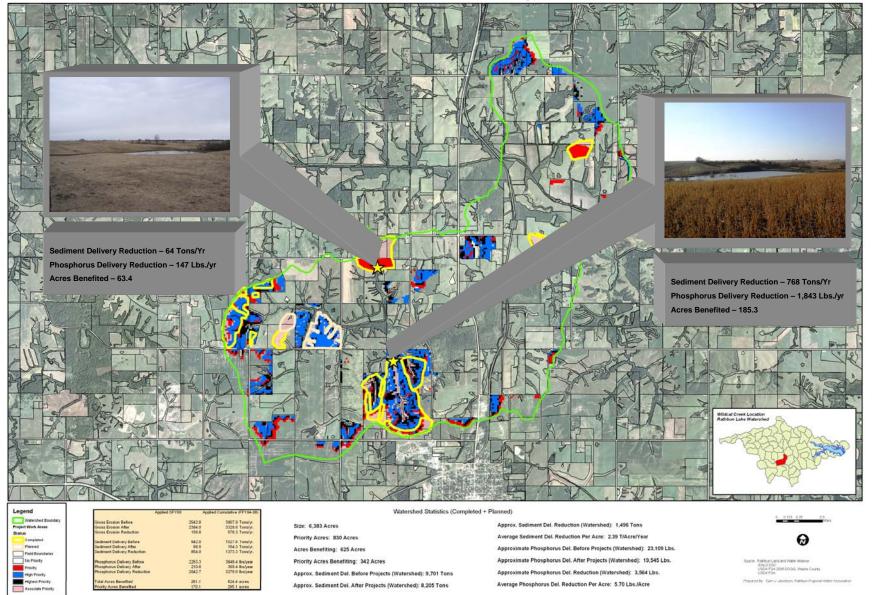
	Applied SFY09	Applied Cumulative :FFY04-08
Gross Erosion Before	4462.6	5556.8 Tons/yr.
Gross Erosion After	4379.0	5226.8 Torslyt.
Gross Erosion Reduction	83.6	332.0 Tons/yr.
Sediment Delivery Before	1644.0	2148.5 Tons/vr.
Sedment Delivery After	161.0	203.4 Tons/vr.
Sedment Delivery Reduction	1483.0	1945.1 Tons/yr.
Phosphorus Delivery Before	3452.4	4755.7 Bullets
Phosphorus Delivery After	338.1	448.2 Balyest
Phosphorus Delivery Reduction	3114.3	4307.5 Bis/year
Total Acres Benefited	337.2	658.0 acres
Priority Acres Benefited	196.6	415.7 acres

Approx. Sediment Del. Reduction (Watershed): 2,559 Tons Size: 6,502 Acres Average Sediment Del. Reduction Per Acre: 2.78 T/Acre/Year Priority Acres: 1,218 Acres Acres Benefiting: 919 Acres Priority Acres Benefiting: 488 Acres Approximate Phosphorus Del. Reduction (Watershed): 5,405 Lbs. Approx. Sediment Del. Before Projects (Watershed): 6,241 Tons Approx. Sediment Del. After Projects (Watershed): 3,682 Tons

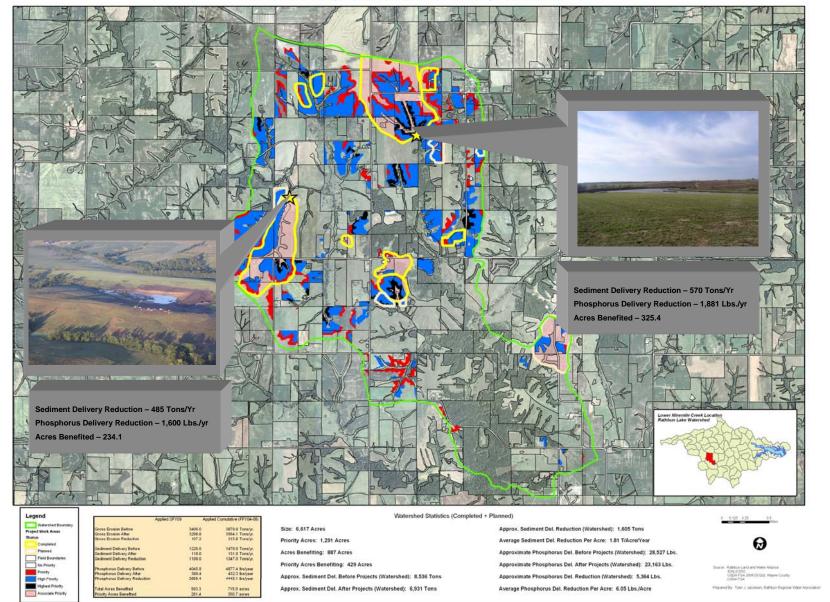




#### Wildcat Creek Sub-Watershed Oen & Goretska WIRB Structures + Priority Land Work



#### Lower Ninemile Creek Sub-Watershed Allred & Harvey WIRB Structures + Priority Land Work



#### Upper Dick Creek Sub-Watershed Hamilton WIRB Structure + Priority Land Work

