

Final Report

Fox River Watershed Project
Fox River Ecosystem Development Board
9020-012

2010-2014

Financial Accountability

The 2010 Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) funding helped the Fox River Ecosystem Development Board (FRED) Board and its partners, including producers in the watershed, to implement several practices across the landscape to contain and filter out sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen from entering the Fox River. WIRB funds also allowed the FRED Board to hire a full time temporary employee to administer technical activities within the impaired segment of the Fox River Watershed.

The FRED Board expended WIRB Funds for project activities as planned in the original application submitted to the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board. The Summary of Watershed Improvement Funds can be found below in Table 1, a complete administrative spreadsheet for the term of the grant agreement is included with this report.

Table 1. Summary of Watershed Improvement Funds			
Grant Agreement Budget Line Item	Total Funds Approved (\$)	Total Funds Expended (\$)	Available Funds (\$)
Personnel	180,000.00	173,695.43	6,304.57
Grade Stab Structure	250,000.00	185,399.34	64,600.66
Water Sediment Basins	18,750.00	18,750.00	0.00
Terraces	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00
Totals	493,750.00	422,844.18	70,905.23

October of 2014 the project coordinator for WIRB took another position for the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the same office. With the project only having 2 months left another coordinator was not hired, leaving a balance for personnel. The line item for grade stab structures has a fairly significant balance. While sediment reduction goals for grade stabs were met quantity fell short. This was due to a few factors mainly dwindling partner funds after 319 funds ran out at the end of FY13. The FRED board also was accounting for the 10% of funds that the WIRB used to hold until the final report is approved as coming from the grade stab line item. The reason for this is that the FRED board does not have a source of money to float a payment to the landowner until the money from WIRB would have been released, with the new WIRB accounting procedures this is no longer an issue.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the total project funding by source and shows a comparison from the approved project budget as to the actual dollars spent.

Table 2. Summary of Total Project Funding			
Funding Source	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Totals Spent	% of Total Funding Spent on Fox Projects
WIRB	493,750.00	422,844.18	22%
WSPF	529,950.00	281,312.24	15%
WPF	0.00	287,431.25	15%
EQUIP	480,499.00	213,479.69	11%
IFIP	0.00	41,000.00	2%
New WIRB 1243-020	0.00	15,483.66	1%
319	90,176.00	118,631.09	6%
Landowner	437,425.00	556,288.14	29%
Totals	2,031,800.00	1,937,693.37	100%

Watershed Improvement Fund Contribution: Approved application budget: 24%
Actual: 22%

Partnering with various funding sources allowed the project to come in under the original WIRB budget. Original funding sources included WSPF, 319, EQIP, and landowner funds in addition to WIRB. WPF funds served as half of the original WSPF budget amount, WPF provided salary dollars as well as practice dollars in 2013 and 2014. State cost share dollars (IFIP) were also utilized for partner funds when available. In July 2013 the FRED board was awarded another WIRB contract (1243-020). The new WIRB contract was used for a few projects as partner dollars, when the two WIRB contract funds were utilized on projects only one of the contracts counted the project towards goals. EQIP allocations over the years have greatly reduced; annual funding has dropped by nearly 150 thousand dollars since 2008. With fewer partner dollars from EQIP other sources were utilized to maintain the approved WIRB contribution percentage.

Environmental Accountability

A total of 2,488 acres within the impaired segment were treated with best management practices. The project goals included 50 grade stabilization structures, 50 water and sediment control basins, and 30,000 feet of terraces. There were 30 grade stabilization structures completed, 104 water and sediment control basins, and 40,103 feet of tile outlet terraces constructed within the impaired segment drainage area of Fox River. Attachment 1 illustrates the BMP's installed in the WIRB priority area from 2010 thru current. These practices combined provide a sediment delivery reduction of 6,942 tons per year to the river as well as a reduction 9,024 pounds per year of phosphorus. Table 3 below provides a comparison of goals versus accomplishments.

Table 3.							
Practices and Activities							
Practice	Unit	Approved Application Goal	Accomplishment	Percent Complete	Approved Application Goal (sediment)	Accomplishment	Percent Complete
Grade Stab	No.	50	30	60	3,938	4774	121
W&S Basin	No.	50	104	208	315	1503	477
Terrace	Ft.	30,000	40,103	133	210	665	316

The project was able to far surpass the application goals for sediment reduction. Projects were evaluated prior to approval for funding, field visits where active classic and ephemeral gully erosion taking place was documented and then entered into the sediment delivery calculator to measure loading reductions that projects would provide.

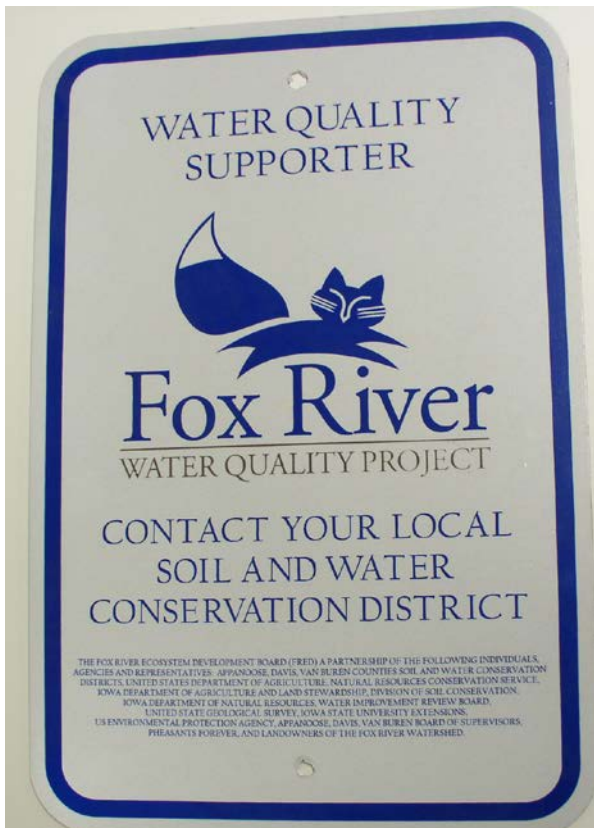
Program Accountability

FRED Board members and partners completed the following activities in support of the original application, as well as reaching project goals in reducing livestock runoff and sediments loads from entering the Fox River.

- Hired a full time temporary employee to work with a team of technical advisors, field staff, FRED Board members, and partners who were responsible for planning, implementing, and assessing the completion and impact of project activities.
- FRED Board members, partner representatives, and project coordinators, reviewed projects and the implementation of project activities and accomplishment of project objectives. The FRED Board submitted the required project plans of work, narrative reports, and financial ledgers.
- Contacted 206 landowners within the impaired reach of the Fox River Watershed in Appanoose and Davis counties. Assisted 133 landowners in an assessment of their farms, to determine what practices would be beneficial to them as well as the priorities of the FRED Board. As a result, 65 landowners worked with the FRED Board and partners to complete a number of BMP's on their farms.

9020-012 Fox River Watershed – Final Report

- Continued to seek and secure funding from other sources such as WPF/WSPF, and an additional WIRB application.
- Promoted the use and partner of additional sources of cost share such as EQIP, WSPF, WIRB, state cost share, and low interest loans.
- A Watershed tour of Fox River projects and Rathbun Lake took place in 2013. Guest included Secretary Bill Northey, area landowners, county supervisors, and representatives from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship– Division of Soil Conservation, Army Corp of Engineers, SIDCA, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Natural Resources Conservation Services.
- Put together information and presentations to show the progress and accomplishments as part of the FRED Boards information and education efforts made in the project. Set up and had displays at various site's including: county fairs and Pheasant Forever banquets, along with sending out press releases, articles, and posting signage around the watershed showing the support and appreciation of all our partners. Also installed road signs along state and county highways at river crossings.



(Above) Project supporter sign, these signs were placed on cooperating private landowners that installed BMP's on their ground. Fox River landowners are proud supporters of the watershed and their contributions to the project.



(Above) Highway signs placed at Fox River crossings on state and county highways in Appanoose, Davis, and Van Buren Counties.



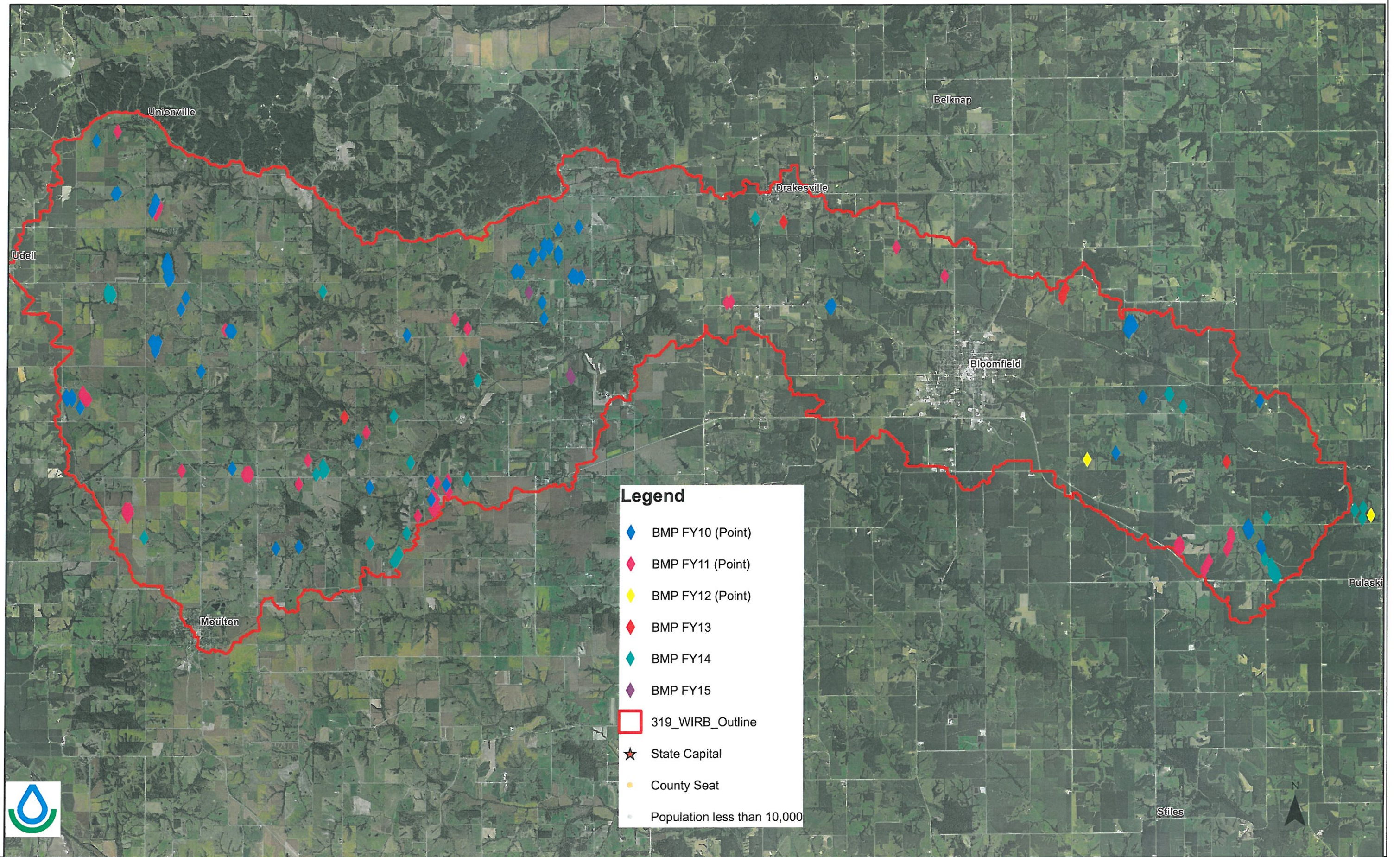
Watershed tour group: Neal Smith, Appanoose County Supervisor; Velvet Buckingham, Protect Rathbun Lake Project (PRLP) Coordinator; Dean Kaster, Appanoose County Supervisor; Marty Braster, RRWA water quality management specialist; Steve Siegel, Wapello County Supervisor and SIDCA Board; Margaret Cope, Appanoose and Monroe County District Conservationist (DC); Kristy York, NRCS Program Specialist; Phil Brown, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rathbun Lake Manager; Brian DeMoss, PRLP Coordinator; Jamie Carpenter, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist; Brandon Dittman, IDALS Field Representative; John Glenn, RRWA CEO and Rathbun Land and Water Alliance (RLWA) President; Mark Fehseke, Lucas and Wayne County DC; Tammy Eakins, Bloomfield Federal Technician (NRC); James Martin, IDALS Basin Coordinator; Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture; Dale Taylor, Davis County Supervisor; Matt Griener, Davis County Supervisor and Fox River Ecosystem Development Board (FRED); Susan Knapp, Davis County SWCD Commissioner; Felicia Campbell, Fox River Water Quality Project (FRWQP) Coordinator; TJ Mathis, Van Buren and Lee County DC; Alicia Bales, FRED Board; Vince Sitzmann, IDALS–DSC Field Services Bureau Chief; Eric Bales, Fox River Landowner; Ralph Alshouse, RLWA Board; Charles Scott, Davis County SWCD Commissioner; Ron Bride, Davis County Supervisor and SIDCA Board; Lane Collins, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist; Craig Foster, FRWQP Coordinator; and Matt McDonald, IDALS SE Iowa Field Representative.

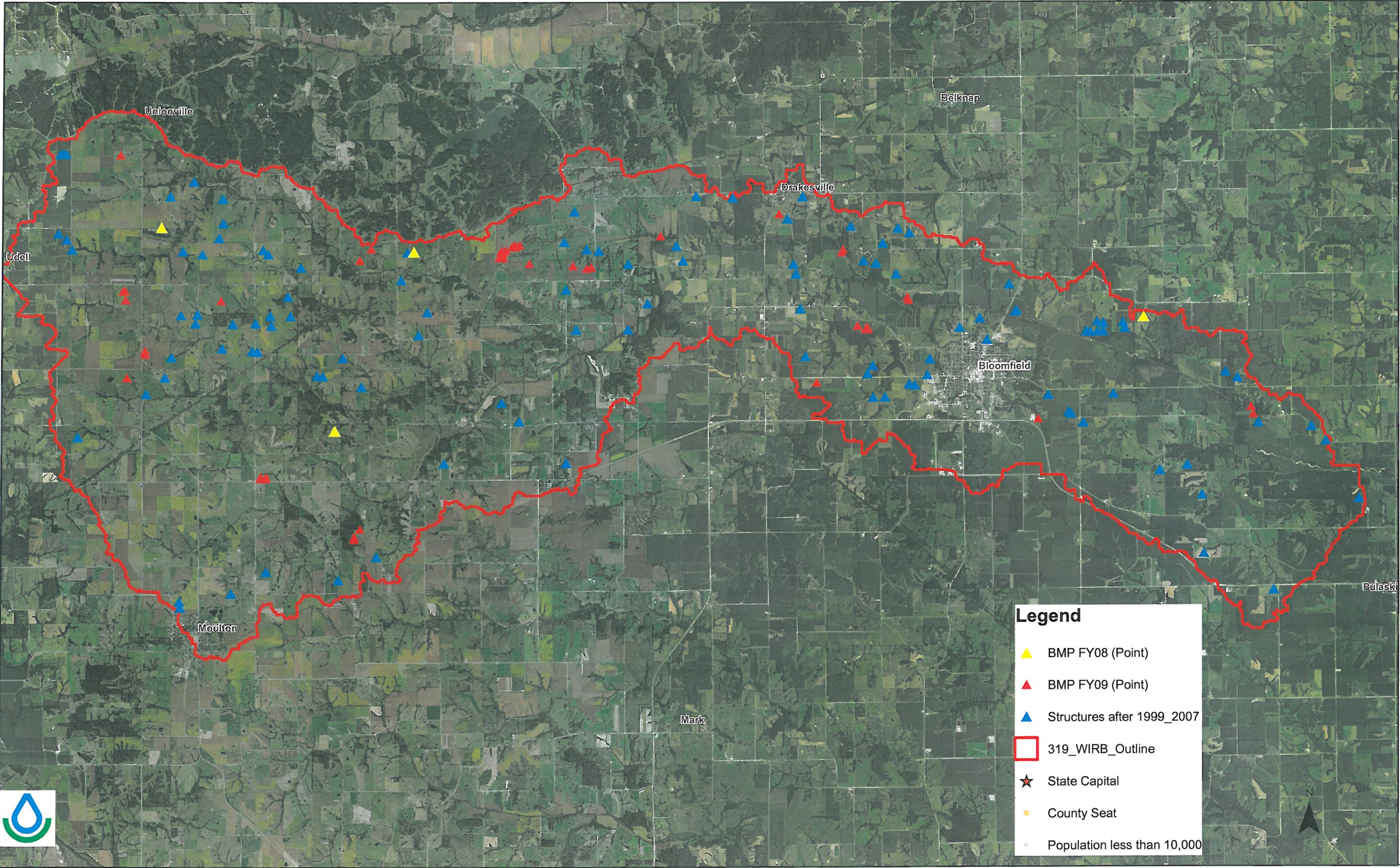
Summary

The Fox River has had great success over the years and is entering into its sixteenth year of being a formal watershed group. Over the years there's been a lot of work completed within the watershed providing benefit to the Fox River as well as the Mississippi River, where the Fox outlets. Attachment 2 illustrates BMP's installed from 1999 thru 2010 (prior to 9020-012 beginning) and Attachment 3 illustrates cumulative BMP's installed from 1999 thru current. Landowners within the watershed seem to be satisfied with the progress that has been made; significant flood reduction is noticeable after heavy rains. And while landowners are pleased with the work that has been completed there's still a backlog of applications on hand. The ability to partner several different funding sources to provide landowners 75% cost share has allowed for tremendous support and landowner participation making the project goals attainable. It is the intention of the Fox River Ecosystem Development Board to continue to seek funding to further implement practices within the landscape of the watershed.

The Fox River Ecosystem Board has been fortunate to receive support from a variety of agencies, organizations, and individuals to get this project to where it is today. The board would like to extend a special thanks to: The Appanoose, Davis and Van Buren and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, participating landowners and their land improvement contractors in the Fox River Watershed, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Section 319 Program, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Agency and USDA Farm Service Agency.

Fox River BMP's 2010 - Current





Fox River BMP's Cumulative

