



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Watershed Management Authorities

(Focus on the Upper Cedar

Watershed Management Improvement Authority)

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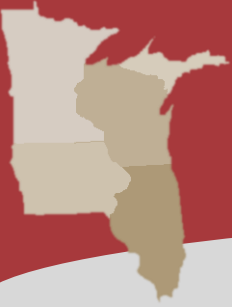
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Flooded Cedar in 2008



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Watershed Management Authority Legislation & Funding

In 2010, Iowa received \$84.1 million from HUD (Disaster Community Development Block Grant CDBG-D) to assist with ongoing disaster recovery programs following Iowa's 2008 floods and tornadoes. \$10 million was allocated to educational activities and watershed projects as authorized in **HF2459**:

- \$400,000 for educational projects and
- \$800,000 for Watershed Management Authorities, administered by DNR/IEDA
- \$8.8 million for pilot watershed projects administered by the Iowa Flood Center (U of I) – discussed on Slide 9



Watershed Management Authority Grant Program

IEDA and the DNR are currently administering **Phase I** of the Watershed Management Authority (WMA) grant program.

- As outlined in Iowa Code Chapter 466B, Subchapter II, a WMA is formed when two or more political subdivisions within a Hydrologic Unit Code 8 watershed (HUC-8) form an intergovernmental agreement under Iowa Code Chapter 28E.



Watershed Management Authority Activities

Activities of a WMA may include (per Iowa Code Ch. 466B):

1. Assess flood risks
2. Assess the water quality
3. Assess options for reducing flood risk and improving water quality
4. Monitor federal flood risk planning and activities
5. Educate residents of the watershed area
6. Allocate moneys made available to the authority for purposes of water quality and flood mitigation
7. Make and enter into contracts and agreements ; a watershed management authority shall not acquire property by eminent domain.



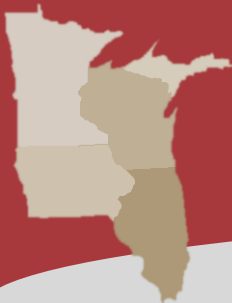
Watershed Management Authority Participants

- All cities, counties and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) in the watershed must be notified at least thirty days in advance of an intent to form a WMA. Although these entities must be invited to participate, they are not required to participate.
- The WMA may coordinate its activities with the Iowa DNR, IDALS, Councils of Governments, public drinking water utilities, and soil and water conservation districts.



Watershed Management Authority Governance

- A WMA is governed by a board of directors divided among the political subdivisions comprising the authority and appointed by the respective political subdivision's elected body (council, board of supervisors, board.)
- Directors serve four-year, staggered terms as determined by lot when the WMA is first formed.
- A WMA has no taxing authority.



Watershed Management Authority Efforts Underway

Six areas of the state are currently working to establish WMAs under a competitive grant program (WMA Phase I) announced by the DNR in the fall of 2011, including:

- Floyd County (all of the Iowa area of the Upper Cedar),
- Dallas County (a portion of the South Raccoon),
- Story County (portion of the South Skunk),
- Clayton County (a portion of the Turkey),
- Dubuque County (portion of the Grant-Little Maquoketa),
and
- City of Marion (portion of the Lower Cedar.)



Watershed Management Authority Benefits

- Among the many benefits of establishing a WMA now includes the fact that the DNR and IEDA plan to undertake a competitive application process in the summer of 2012 for three (possibly more) WMAs to receive funding assistance under **WMA Phase II** to prepare a watershed plan (funding of approximately \$175,000 each.)
- It is expected that areas that successfully establish a WMA will be well positioned to receive future state and federal watershed funding. Case in point: pilot projects! See next slide....



Goals for Pilot Projects

Specific goals of the pilot projects undertaken by the Iowa Flood Center/U of I are:

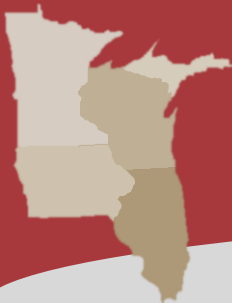
- Maximize soil water holding capacity from precipitation,
- Minimize severe scour erosion and sand deposition during floods,
- Manage water runoff in uplands under saturated soil moisture conditions, and
- Reduce and mitigate structural and nonstructural flood damage



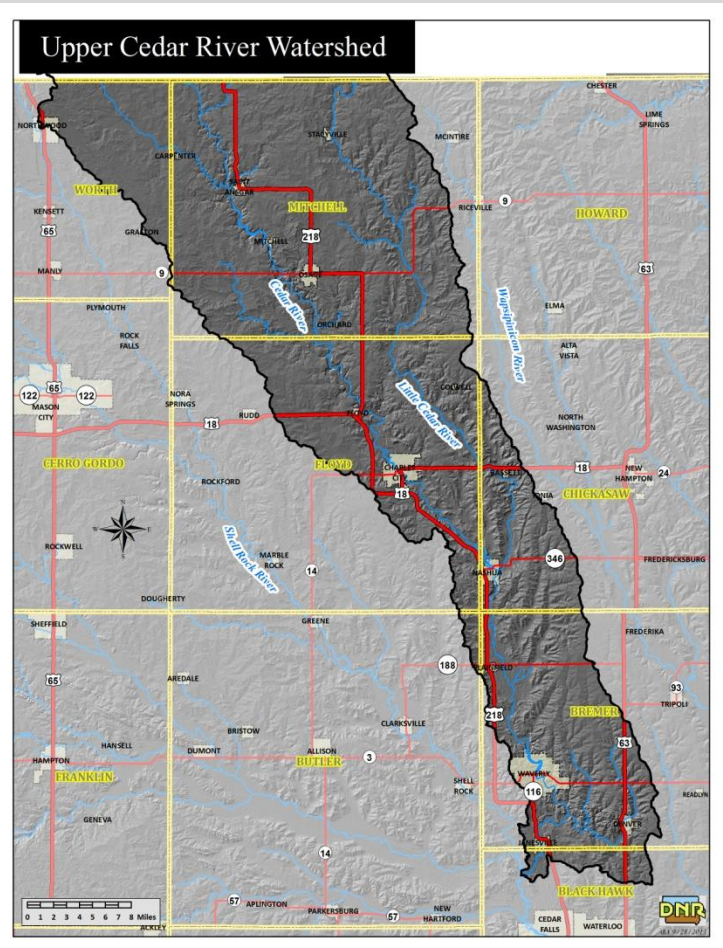
Hydrologic Assessment for Pilot Projects

- The hydrologic assessment will include data collection, hydrologic model development and an assessment of the areas most likely to reduce flood damages downstream.
- Local agencies and organizations in the selected watersheds will work with staff and researchers at IIHR/IFC to collect data and information in the watershed and serve as hosts for outreach events to be conducted throughout the watershed.
- Phase I will last 18-24 months.

Upper Cedar Watershed



- Seven Counties
- Seven SWCDs
- Seventeen Cities



Questions?



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