

**Mission:** The mission of the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority (UWRWMA) is to engage, educate, and encourage implementation of strategic efforts to improve the health, stewardship, and resiliency of watershed resources in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed.

**Purpose:** WMAs have been formed across Iowa for a variety of reasons. While the driving motivation for WMA formation may be water quality improvement and/or flood risk reduction, there are multiple purposes to cooperating with other jurisdictions within a watershed, including:

- Conducting planning on a watershed scale, which has greater benefits for water quality improvement and flood risk reduction
- Fostering multi-jurisdictional partnership and cooperation
- Leveraging resources such as funding, technical expertise
- Facilitating stakeholder involvement in watershed management

**Duties:** A board of directors governs the WMA, which may undertake the following activities:

- Assess and reduce flood risk;
- Assess and improve water quality;
- Monitor federal flood risk planning and activities;
- Educate residents of the watershed regarding flood risks and water quality; and
- Allocate moneys made available to the Authority for purposes of water quality and flood mitigation.

## **Goals and Objectives**

**Goal 1:** Develop a comprehensive plan to address flooding and water quality concerns. Encourage a comprehensive, multi-objective planning approach to watershed management that fosters understanding and use of SMART Planning Principles, and adds value to watershed management.

- **Objective:** Obtain grant funding for a paid coordinator to oversee Plan Development
  - Request grant writing assistance from NE Iowa RC&D
- **Objective:** Conduct research to gain understanding of the necessary plan components.
  - Obtain data from detailed water monitoring throughout the watershed.
  - Assess the work of other Watershed authorities operating in Eastern Iowa.
  - Obtain information from watershed experts, including, but not limited to, Iowa DNR, NRCS, County Conservation Boards, and others. Leverage

professional, social, and financial resources to maximize planning and ensure implementation

- **Objective:** Assure the Plan is a working document that meets the criterion outlined by the Iowa DNR, has local buy-in, provides expert guidance for the partners and provide regular updates and reports so that others may learn from our efforts.
  - Promote the watershed to include people with a wide variety of interests, including agriculture, businesses, engineers, parks and recreation, emergency management, communities, and nonprofit groups interested in water quality. Gather input from these people.
- **Objective:** Contract with a professional to coordinate Plan development.

**Goal 2:** Promote and communicate the mission and goals of the Watershed Authority. This should be directed to potential Watershed Authority partners (cities, counties, and SWCDs), groups with specific interest in flood control and water quality, state political leaders, and the general public.

- **Objective:** Foster exceptional communication to build partnerships and engagement that will result in long-term commitment and sustainability beyond planning through implementation
  - Establish a working committee that serves to communicate the mission, purpose, goals, objectives, and actions of the Watershed Authority.

**Goal 3:** Implement a Comprehensive Program of targeted activities designed to reduce flood risk and improve water quality in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Absent a Comprehensive Plan, these activities have yet to be identified. However, elements of the plan likely will address the following:

- Strategic attempts to increase storm water holding capacity in the form of retention areas, including wetlands, ponds, perennial vegetation, and healthy soils.
- Strategic attempts to improve water quality through perennial vegetation, buffer strips, waterways, and other soil loss measures.
- Implementation of new technologies to “treat” storm water runoff in such a way as to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, and other pollutants.
- Strategic efforts aimed at empowering agricultural, urban, and governmental land managers to implement conservation measures, including financial resources (grants, funding programs, etc.), technical advice, planning assistance, and education.

- Education efforts to provide better public understanding of the watershed; causes and effects of flooding and water pollution; problem-solving skills and methods; and sources of available financial and technical resources for taking action.

**Goal 4:** Evaluate the Watershed Authority’s effectiveness.

- **Objective:** Evaluation of the Planning Process, work of the paid coordinator, and the Watershed Authority’s ability to function.
- **Objective:** Evaluation parameters are included as a component within the Comprehensive Plan to address each targeted and strategic effort.
- **Objective:** Overall work of the Watershed is evaluated on a regular basis (perhaps annually).