

Upper Wapsipinicon WMA Implementation Update  
Developed by: Northeast Iowa RC&D  
Date: February 25th, 2020

### **Introduction:**

The Iowa Watershed Approach Project (IWA) is a \$96,887,177 National Disaster Resilience program grant awarded to the State of Iowa. The Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed was one of nine watersheds awarded funding for the implementation of conservation practices that work to mitigate flooding. These practices could include ponds, wetlands, saturated buffers, terraces, water and sediment control basins, oxbow restorations to name a few. The Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority (WMA) selected three Buchanan County subwatersheds and one Delaware County Subwatershed for targeted practice implementation that include; Sand Creek, Smith Creek-Upper Wapsipinicon, Dry Creek-Upper Wapsipinicon, and Nugents Creek-Buffalo Creek subwatershed.

### **Implementation Actions:**

Nearly \$2.9 million of the IWA project funds are dedicated for project implementation costs such as engineering/design and cost share of 90% to landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices focused on flood mitigation. Those funds will also provide 100% cost-share to public entities implementing flood reduction practices in the targeted area. The original Project Coordinator, Angie Auel, began reaching out to landowners in 2017 via local subwatershed watershed meetings, newsletters, and personal visits. Auel received interest from many landowners in Buchanan County, and began developing 28 projects for landowners in Buchanan County and 3 in Delaware County, 21 of which have continued towards implementation for an estimated total project cost of \$944,000. The total allocated cost-share funds provided by the IWA project for these 21 projects is \$911,000. The Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA through the grant awardee Howard County has contracted Shive Hattery Engineering to conduct the design/engineering and with Crawford Engineering completing some of the survey work for IWA projects.

During the past three months, Northeast Iowa RC&D Project Coordinators Nimrod and Evelsizer have made major headway in getting projects planned and out for bid. The first bid packet was let for bid in December for two ponds and one wetland project to be constructed this spring. The contract was awarded to Dan Oberbreckling Concrete and Excavation with a bid of \$99,680.30. An additional 9 projects are planned to be let yet this winter and early Spring 2020 for construction in summer 2020, with additional bid lettings occurring over the next 18 months.

Since Northeast Iowa RC&D began as Upper Wapsipinicon Project Coordinator in October 2019, an additional 12 projects have been developed for a total estimated cost of \$1,166,600. Project Coordinators Nimrod and Evelsizer have been working closely with the Buchanan County Engineer's office to explore the potential to implement on-road detention structures

throughout the targeted subwatersheds. The IWA project provides 100% cost-share for these projects to the county, which work to use the road as the dam structure and temporarily detain water during large rain events, thereby reducing the impact of flash flooding and protecting downstream infrastructure. Structures like these have been successfully implemented in Fayette and Winneshiek Counties through similar IWA projects. Landowners interested in pursuing projects are encouraged to contact Tori or Ross at Northeast Iowa RC&D at 563-864-7112.

*Table 1.1 IWA Project Costs*

Practice Type	Total Number Planned	Total Cost for Landowners	Cost-Share Provided by IWA project	Estimated Total Cost
Pond	15	\$43,179.00	\$ 423,511.00	\$466,690.00
Oxbow	4	\$3,910.00	\$ 268,990.00	\$ 272,900.00
Wetland	6	\$1,430.00	\$ 269,670.00	\$ 271,100.00
Grade Stabilization Structure	1	\$ 900.00	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 10,600.00
Grass Waterway	2	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 75,000.00
On-road Detention	5	\$0	\$ 1,025,100.00	\$ 1,025,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$ 56,919.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,064,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,121,390.00</b>

Note: Costs throughout this report represent estimates. Costs do not include engineering and are not final until a final design is created and projects are bid for construction.

