2012 REAP Congress

January 7, 2012

Report to: **Governor Branstad**
Iowa Legislature
Natural Resources Commission

REAP

Resource Enhancement and Protection

Inquires pertaining to this report may be directed to:

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February 7, 2012

TO: Governor Terry Branstad
Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate
W. Charlie Smithson, Chief Clerk of the House
Greg Drees, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission

As required by Section 455A.17, Code of Iowa, I present you with the report of the 2012 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress which was conducted on January 7th in the chambers of the House of Representatives.

Eighty-four of the ninety delegates to the REAP Congress attended. Those delegates were elected by 598 Iowans in the fall during the 18 regional assemblies conducted through the state.

These and many additional Iowans strongly believe that REAP can be one of the state's most important tools to stimulate economic development, improve health and their quality of life. The Congress took a number of actions in this regard.

Chief among these actions are to fully fund REAP at $20 Million, retain the current formula for distribution of the REAP funds and thank the General Assembly for their continued dedication to protecting the REAP Program.

REAP is recognized as Iowa's primary local funding program for natural and cultural resources. The massive amount of public participation, culminating in actions by the Congress, makes it truly a grassroots led program. The delegates thank you for the support you have given, and urge you to action for improving REAP in the future.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Lande, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

REAP Delegates listening to a speaker at the 2012 REAP Congress.

2012 REAP Congress
January 7, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 2:13 p.m.
House of Representatives Chambers

Roll Call

84 of the 90 delegates to the REAP Congress attended. Those delegates were elected by 598 Iowans in the fall during the 18 regional assemblies conducted through the state.

Guest Remarks

Chuck Gipp, DNR Deputy Director, called the Congress to order and prepared them for their deliberations, suggesting not to be concerned about changing anything or keeping everything the same; it is the delegates' meeting to do as they see fit.

Larry Wilson, former DNR Director and Deputy Director for 24 years, addressed the Congress. He shared insight on the history of REAP and memories of his travels around the state talking to Iowans about the REAP program during the regional assemblies. Additionally, he mentioned that it is the grassroots nature of REAP that continues to make the program successful. He impressed upon everyone how much REAP has benefitted every corner of every county in the state in the past 22 years:

- Total REAP Funding (including appropriations, license plate revenue, interest, Park User Fee): $322,242,853
- Total number of REAP projects: 13,198

Larry Wilson addresses the REAP Congress.

Election of Congress Chair

Jim Pease of Story County was elected unanimously.

2011 Assembly Report

The 598 participants in the 18 REAP Assemblies listed 769 ideas to improve the REAP program. Participants at each assembly were broken into small groups to discuss and provide recommendations on the different facets of the REAP program. Below are the top issues brought up at the Assemblies. The full Assembly Report is attached.

The top issues raised by the attendees were:

- water quality,
- soil conservation,
- benefits of outdoor recreation for healthy lifestyles,
- a need for increasing the number of areas for recreation, and;
- lack of knowledge/awareness of REAP projects.

The following motions were approved at the REAP Assemblies. The number behind the motion indicates the number of Assemblies at which it was approved.

1) Requesting the 2012 REAP Congress to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWiLL) by pledging REAP Congress support for fully funding Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through passage of a 3/8ths of a percent increase in Iowa's statewide sales tax. These funds will be dedicated to protecting Iowa's safe drinking water, preserving our agricultural soils, prevention of future flooding, and guaranteeing access to quality fish and wildlife habitat for hunting, fishing, and recreation. Funds will be constitutionally protected and only available for natural resources, conservation, and outdoor recreation programs. **18**
2) Recommend that REAP is fully funded. **8**
3) The REAP formula should not be changed. **7**
4) Recommend that the legislature institute a tax on bottle water to be used for mental health. **1**
5) Encourage REAP Congress to let the General Assembly know that the IWiLL funds be in addition to fully funding REAP out of infrastructure. **1**
6) Recommend that metrics be developed to measure the effectiveness of the outdoor recreation and county conservation portions of REAP. **1**
7) Recommend that the DNR revise the scoring rules to provide for trail maintenance. **1**
8) REAP-Practices guidelines be changed to allow Urban Conservation practices to be funded on a county-wide basis, instead of restricting them to designated watersheds. **1**
9) Change Administrative Rule to allow REAP-Practices funds to be used in combination with other public funds up to a maximum of 75 percent of the approved cost for permanent soil conservation practices. **1**
10) Recommend that the per capita portion of the county allocation be removed and the funds are just distributed evenly among the qualifying counties. **1**
11) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same, but raise the Conservation Education Program allotment from $350,000 to $500,000. **1**

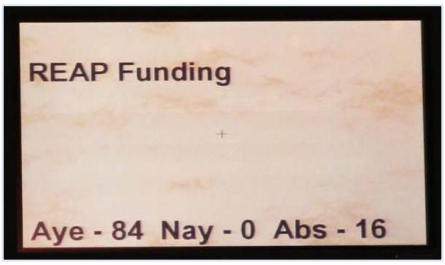
Residents discuss natural resources conservation at the Maquoketa REAP Assembly on September 27.

Stakeholder Updates

Tom Hazelton, CEO of Iowa's County Conservation System and Co-Chair of the REAP Alliance gave an update an update on the efforts of the REAP Alliance. The Alliance is a group of 37 active organizations working together to improve and maintain the REAP program. February 22nd has been scheduled as REAP Day at the Capitol.

Mark Langgin, Executive Director of Iowa's Water & Land Legacy Coalition presented on behalf of the REAP Alliance and Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Coalition. He invited everyone to visit the new REAP Alliance website and help spread the word about the importance of REAP through the Alliance's new social media presence.

Action Items by Congress



A picture from the voting screen in the House Chambers.

1. Motion: **The 2012 REAP Congress recommends that the Iowa Legislature fully fund REAP for next two years.** Jane Weber, moved. Sarah Lande, second. Vote: Yes: 84, No: 0. Motion passed.
2. Motion: **Recommend that the Conservation Education (CEP) fund be increased from $350,000 to $500,000.** Roger White, moved. Mike Delaney, second. Vote: Aye: 4, No: 76. Motion failed.

a. Concerns broadly voiced for the importance of increased conservation education, but against changing the REAP formula.

3. Motion: **The 2012 REAP Congress recommends that the formula remain the same.** Al Ourth, moved. Kevin Maason, second. Vote: 82, No: 0. Motion passed.
4. Motion: **The 2012 REAP Congress recommends that the legislature fully fund trust fund through passage of a 3/8 of a percent increase of Iowa's statewide sales tax.** Jon Kruse, moved. Mike Delaney, second. Vote: Yes: 75, No: 5. Motion passed.
5. Motion: **The 2012 REAP Congress expresses appreciation for Iowa's past and ongoing support of funding for REAP.** Roger White, moved. Steve Wilson, 2nd. Vote: Yes: 72, No: 7. Motion passed.
6. Motion: **The 2012 REAP Congress supports the continuation of the Forest Reserve Program.** John Olds: moved. Roger White: seconded. Vote: Yes: 74. No: 6. Motion carried.

Items Discussed by Congress

Many items were discussed at length by the Delegates at Congress, but no motions were made for specific action. They are listed below:

1. County Conservation Funding Options ($.22 eligibility and per capita).
2. Review REAP scoring criteria based on input from Assemblies.
3. Importance of REAP County Committees and how to keep them energized.
4. Importance of promoting REAP's benefits to Iowans.
5. Importance of promoting sales of Natural Resource License Plates.
6. REAP Congress' impact on the decisions made on the Iowa Legislature.

2012 REAP Congress Chair, Jim Pease of Ames, calls on a Delegate, while REAP Coordinator, Tammie Krausman looks on.

Motion to adjourn at 2:13 p.m. passed unanimously.

Attachment 1: Full REAP Assembly Report

Cedar Falls

Attendance: 45
Chair: Joel Haage
Approved Motions:

1) REAP Congress support for fully funding Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through passage of a 3/8ths of a percent increase in Iowa's statewide sales tax.
2) The REAP formula should not be changed.

Education

Focus in the next 5 years

1) No Child left indoors
2) Include health initiatives with NCLI
3) Integrate EE with Core Curriculum
4) In service training in EE/Cultural/Heritage
5) Funding for offsite Ed Opps
6) Funding for Enviro, Cultural, Historical Presentations in Classrooms
7) Funding for adults and seniors

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Health
2) Tourism
3) Keeps close to home
4) Connectivity
5) Improved infrastructure
6) Jobs
7) Increased opps for education
8) Low cost recreation
9) Historical interpretation
10) Opportunity for special events
11) With out REAP none of these projects would exist
12) Entertainment
13) Social community interaction

Roadblocks

1) Maintenance of upkeep
2) Funding (lack of)
3) Transport for school groups
4) Closed facilities/reduced staff
5) Never been fully funded
6) Public awareness
7) Accessibility to locations and interconnectivity
8) Lack of facilities
9) ADA accessibility
10) Competing interests
11) Need for new media opportunities
12) Lack of public land

Successful Strategies

1) Funding
2) Need to adopt new media – apps, cell phone comm. with public
3) Update county plan
4) Reaching out to kids/you
5) Volunteer projects
6) Public events/family multigenerals
7) Advocacy groups – friends, clubs
8) Fundraise at local levels
9) Adult learning

Next 5 years

1) Multiuse facilities
2) Attracting youth/families
3) Increasing technology – new media
4) Sustainability – economy, enviro, social: balanced approach
5) Financial viability

6) Water trail development: paddling, whitewater tubing, water quality
7) Partnership with city/schools/Uni/Interest groups
8) Develop Stewardship: Connect/learn from all trail users
9) Multiuse Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Identified
10) Increase wild/nature locations
11) Increase wildlife corridors – enviro. Indicators, habitat

Natural Resource Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Watersheds
2) Soil loss per acre each year
3) Water quality
4) Protecting habitats that need protected
5) Connectivity parcels, linear parks, greenways
6) River corridors – watersheds, viewsheds from water
7) River corridors can raise quality of life
8) Trying to promote and sustain local businesses
    a. Economic Development because of natural resources, especially in largely rural communities.
9) Getting houses out of floodplains – open spaces
10) Marketing what we have
11) Threats to our natural resources – invasive species
12) Control Flooding and detrimental affects

Next 5 years if lower

1) Will take more volunteer efforts
2) Sales tax increase, sustainable funding-IWiLL
3) Political consequences
4) Different parts of programs may be cut – parks, rec areas
    a. Cut off development of areas acquired
    b. Less acquisition of more areas
5) Very small number of projects are already funded through REAP
6) REAP Money leverages other money, loss of a little REAP, means a lot of other money is lost
7) Would focus on education and let the parks suffer

Primary focus

1) Habitat will be lost forever – less habitat means less wildlife diversity – less recreational opportunities. Ground for habitat is ground for everyone to use.
2) Prairies, fends - special wildlife areas
3) Rivers & water access
4) Need to get people involved as volunteers to help the professionals – public/private partnership.

Monona

Attendance: 36
Chair: Corey Meyer
Approved Motions:

1) REAP Congress support for fully funding Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through passage of a 3/8ths of a percent increase in Iowa's statewide sales tax.
2) Recommend that the legislature institute a tax on bottle water to be used for mental health.

Natural Resources Conservation

1) Water Quality
2) Forest management
3) Runoff, Flooding, etc. Erosion Control
4) Habitat
5) Agricultural Conversion
6) Bluffland protection/wetlands

a. Education/public notification
b. Trout stream protection

Successful Strategies

1) More need with less resources, coupled with higher commodity prices

Primary Focus in next 5 years

1) Green Development
2) Education
3) Land use/Ag practices
4) Water Quality Monitoring= Our gauge
5) Regulatory Issues

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Enormous Benefits
    a. Bike trails
    b. Tourism
    c. Health
2) Many smaller projects funded and benefiting communities
3) Completed projects are a community draw
4) Encourages community involvement
5) REAP funds help leverage other funds
6) REAP funded projects are helping regain or to develop an identity
7) REAP funded projects provide low cost outside activity for local citizens

Road blocks

1) Lack of facilities near outdoor attractions (restrooms) such as campgrounds, trails, parks.
2) Lack of knowledge or lack of appreciation of outdoor activities
3) Need more advertising. Cooperative advertising within the area – i.e. between cities and counties.

Strategies

1) Issue – lack of understanding by public on why funds are needed
    a. Strategy - get people involved
2) Issue – lack of knowledge
    a. Strategy – more education

Take Away

More money to REAP – it is a balanced program that has benefits for individual communities and for the state. Continue to educate the public on the benefits of REAP.

Education

1) Understanding our local resources out our back door

Roadblocks

1) Standardized Testing
2) Impact of agriculture
    a. Flooding
3) Quality of life
    a. Air
    b. Water
    c. Soil
4) Science based
5) Lack of knowledge by teachers

Next 5 years

1) Provide teachers with opportunities to learn and then teach.

Coralville

Attendance: 74
Chair: Mike Moran

Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that REAP is fully funded.
3) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same.

Outdoor Recreation

Primary Issues

1) Obesity Reduction
2) Conservation appreciation behavior
3) Healthy behavior w/improved opportunities
4) Preservation and acquisition

Barriers and Roadblocks

5) Lack of birds, habitat
6) Proximity, signage, not connected
7) Isolation of projects - harder to fund
8) Funding formula doesn't favor large trail projects
9) Big projects require coordination of funding
10) Available opportunities
11) Education opportunities diminishing at schools

Strategies for Success

12) Fund REAP at $20M
13) Publicity and signage
14) Longer term funding
15) More planning
16) Connect with new communication methods
17) Get more generational participation

Next 5 years

18) Develop existing resources
19) Preserve potential resources; prairie
20) Smaller, closer to people projects
21) Open space acquisition
22) Conservation easements on private lands
23) Return land to native
24) More urban opportunities
25) Retain CRP
26) Out of state advertising - tourism, hunting
27) Best practices from around IA & Upper Midwest to increase animal, bird, fish populations
28) Trails - if you pour it, make it porous. Pressure on concrete and asphalt companies to get them to make price the same.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Balance of public use v. private use - not out of balance, but should always consider needs
2) Habitat restoration and enhancement (mgmt)
3) Soil Conservation
4) Water Quality
5) Prairie Restoration
6) Timber Stand Improvement
7) Watershed Management (water quality/habitat/flooding)

Next 5 years

1) Depends on commodity prices (increase in commodity prices=less habitat)
2) Increase in ag. income then state will have more funds for state programs.
3) Small increase in funding - but not large
4) Sustainable funding not likely in 5 years

Primary Focus

1) Wetlands needed in eastern Iowa
2) Timber stand improvement
3) Watershed management (urban focus also runoff and water quality) through private landowner cost share, wetlands, land acquisition, flood issues and filter strips.
4) Education on the value of wildlife, habitat, absentee landowners
5) Prairie Habitat

Historical Resources

Benefits

1) Important to have cultural resources to visit and remain attached to roots
2) Able to have tours and educate public
3) Few state funds for preservation

Priorities

1) During depression people are scaling back - people are not caring to put money into historic preservation and progress that has been made over that last several years will be lost. Once a historical resource is gone, it cannot be replaced.
2) Tourism is a big business - historical brings tourism.

Education

Issues

1) Water quality
    a. Ag practices
    b. Land use
2) Lack of natural areas (habitat)
3) Land owner education
4) K-12 Education
5) Placed based education
6) Get kids outdoors

Roadblocks

1) Lack of awareness
2) Policy - not high enough priority
3) Disconnect from land
4) Resistance to agriculture education
5) Additional support and money for maintenance education

Long term strategies

1) Mandated environmental education for teachers
2) Continued professional development
3) Talk to Parent Teacher Organizations, Dept. of Ed
4) Showing increase student achievement
    a. Interdisciplinary
    b. Placed based education
5) Succession plan for outdoor learning areas
6) Life cycles of produces (understand products and agriculture)

Maquoketa

Attendance: 46
Chair: Patrick Prevenas
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that the REAP formula does not change.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Invasive Species
2) Water Quality
a. Trout improvement in streams
3) Lack of permanent habitat protection
4) Soil Loss
5) Soil Quality – Issue that improved as well
6) Species loss – pheasants/grassland species

Status Quo or lower funding

1) We would go backwards
2) Negative economic impact

Focus for next 5 years

1) Land acquisition
2) Conservation education
3) Status quo is not enough – continuing at status quo is a big problem

Education

Issues

1) Water quality
    a. Relationship of water to quality of life is large
    b. Reach out, keep educating to kids, adults and legislators
    c. Agricultural practices effects on water quality
2) Keep the education local to make more impact
3) Getting kids outdoors
    a. People need to see it to love it or care about it
    b. Be healthy
4) Costs that impede field trips
5) Soil quality/soil conservation
    a. The demands that producing food puts on our land
6) Recreational opportunities
    a. Hunting
7) Promote volunteering to service learning

Roadblocks

1) EE is not on standardized tests
2) Technology
3) Funding
4) Is it better to focus on the teachers or getting the students out

Long term strategies

1) Sustainable funding

Next 5 years

1) Water quality
2) Soil erosion
3) Outdoor/open space experiences

Historical Resources

Positive Outcomes/Benefits

1) Rather see re-roofing of Potter House type projects than something like Clinton Engines
2) Focus more on small projects than splashier projects

How to get the word out

1) Use media to share the success stories

Specific areas to focus on in region

1) Small projects
    a. 2 buildings in Lamont privately owned with original facades
    b. May not be flashy, but can see how things once were. Very important for people and school children.

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Preston bike trail/copper creek
2) 2 city REAP grants – 6.5 total miles of trails
3) City of Maquoketa had to apply 3 times
4) Whitewater Canyon land acquisition
5) Bluff Mills Bridge Restoration – 1902 Save the bridge

Roadblocks

1) Liability on projects
2) Limit of funding amount in small city projects
3) Geographic locations of distance between projects

Strategies for success

1) Cooperation – work with multi-agencies and private

Primary focus

1) Projects – Increased number of areas/acres
2) Land acquisition
3) Educate yourself – on outdoor activities
4) Include family activities

Mason City

Attendance: 36
Chair: Margo Underwood
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that REAP is fully funded.
3) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same.
4) Encourage REAP Congress to let the General Assembly know that the IWiLL funds be in addition to fully funding REAP out of infrastructure.

Education

Priorities

1) Healthy Lifestyles= priorities via outdoor recreation to all ages. connection to land
2) 1/3 of Iowans are obese, trails etc., healthy outlets for population. Bikes/Walking etc. access corridors
3) Tourism and Year-Round amenities
4) Selling the benefits - trail networks - positive benefit promotion
5) No centralized trail promotion in the state
6) Working with state grants is complicated

Roadblocks

1) Information out to the public
2) Tax decrease movement affects our movements, etc.
3) Costs for development and land acquisitions
4) Trail design management - one size fits all & maintenance.
5) Trail user fee

Successful Strategies

1) Trail user fee within reasonable limits to not limit users
2) Marketing and promoting benefits to communities
3) Leadership with new sponsorship for trails, etc.

Primary Focus

1) Marketing. Need support, sell it to kids: middle school and high school, need more emphasis here
2) ATV trails & public roadway
3) Year around opportunities

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water quality
2) Water control - wetlands
3) Soil Erosion
4) Places to recreate. Lack of available places.
5) Funding shortage to maintain places that we do have (time, persons, equipment)
6) Preservation of native "rare" habitats
7) Underfunded forestry
8) Enhancement and protection of forest habitat
9) Lack of Management
10) Funding for state forest nursery
11) Balancing forest harvest goals of actual harvest goals
12) Loss of habitat on private lands
13) CRP

Next 5 years if funding decreases

1) Go back 20 years in 2 years
2) Because private owners and lack of private habitat maintenance

3) Lose momentum of projects that have just started

Primary Focus for next 5 years

1) Wetlands - many benefits (soil, water, flood, habitat)
2) Sign up incentives with federal programs
3) Use REAP to improve quality of wetland/grasslands on state or private lands
4) Wetland Complex
5) Focus on Private Landowners
6) Use REAP to extend payment on WRP
7) Funding for waterways & terraces
8) Focus on water and alternative energy

Historical Resources

1) Historical Resources continue to be funded
2) Educating the public. some from State Historical Society come to educate decision-makers before demolition of historic structure.
3) Continue to use historic structures rather than replace with new.
4) Cost is always a concern with historic properties.
5) Encourage advanced planning for the impact other structures may have. Mutually beneficial way to share information.

Marshalltown

Attendance: 27
Chair: Terry Gray
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water Quality
2) Habitat Loss
3) Soil Conservation/Soil Loss
4) Lack of sustainable funding

Next 5 years with decrease

1) IWiLL initiative
2) Extreme decline & downward spiral

Primary Focus for next 5 years

1) Buffer Strips
2) Acquiring land
3) More leased/motivation to allow more hunting
4) Private sector - encourage better stewardship
5) Focusing on water quality and adjoining lands - drainageways, creeks, lakes, streams, rivers...

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Would be done without REAP.
2) Increased money toward local business
3) More involvement by citizens
4) Benefit toward citizens, positive health benefits. Ex. Trail usage
5) Bringing travelers from all over
6) Been able to preserve unique land.
7) Helps parks - maintain, create.

Roadblocks

1) Lack of funding
2) Doesn't help out after natural disaster
3) Money doesn't help with upkeep and maintenance.
4) Need more signage for newcomers and advertisements so they know where to go and more about an area.

Successful Strategies

1) Being more vocal about the program.
2) Educating the public and younger generation about REAP.
3) Advertise REAP more.

Primary Focus for next 5 years

1) Trails
2) Wildlife education
3) Land acquisitions and preservations. These wouldn't be possible without REAP. People are going to want more public areas.
4) Natural habitat is decreasing at an alarming rate.
5) General maintenance of areas
6) Press coverage of different events

Education

Primary issues

1) Water quality
2) Maintaining state and county parks
3) Education on environmental issues.

Roadblocks

1) Lack of interest in the outdoors and spending time in the outdoors.
2) Lack of responsibility and respect for outdoor places

Strategies

1) Linking health to outdoor recreation,
2) Advertisement for outdoor areas,
3) Renewing a culture of responsibility,
4) Promoting family behaviors

Primary focus in next 5 years

1) Green living
2) Water quality
3) Healthy living

Correctionville

Attendance: 27
Chair: Dawn Snyder
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same.
3) Encourage the legislature to increase funding for REAP.

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Increased quality of life
2) Get children away from TV
3) Family oriented atmosphere/tourism
4) Economic development
5) Exercise Oriented/health

Roadblocks

1) Competition with electronics
2) Cost of land - donation, endowments
3) Lack of funding
4) Promotion of education
5) Community Support

Successful Strategies

1) Promote benefits
2) Educate community
3) Develop programs/initiatives. "WOW" programs.

Primary focus for next 5 years

1) Expand existing programs/trails
2) Sustainability of existing
3) Camping local/ "state"cations
4) Water activities
5) Canoeing/Kayaking small river access development

Natural Resource Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water quality and drainage (flooding)
2) Impoundment structures - age and condition
3) Roadside vegetation and windbreaks

Next 5 years with decreased funding

1) Loss of unique habitats, poorer water quality

Primary focus for next 5 years

1) Improving and/or maintaining what we have
2) Mitigate disasters (floods)
3) Loess Hills Prairie
4) Research on point source relating to cities.

Education

Primary issues

1) Erosion control - educating contractors on soil conservation
2) Water Quality
3) Education to make a connection
4) Habitat destruction
5) Funding
6) Disconnect from neighbors - sense of community
7) Stewardship
8) Getting education programs into the schools

Roadblocks

1) Funding - Volunteering
2) Time and staffing

Primary focus

1) Reconnecting nature to people

Spencer

Attendance: 56
Chair: Jon Kruse
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Maintain existing REAP formula
3) Fully fund REAP at $20 Million
4) The $.22 allotment for counties should be examined for potential changes.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary issues

1) Water drainage - water moving too fast
2) Lack of water retention
3) Lack of money for conservation
4) Lack of regulation
5) Lack of education for conservation

Status with decreased funding

1) Static funding we will progress - reducedfunding we can't move forward
2) Less leverage
3) Partnerships will collapse

4) Increased "out of pocket" expense by community
5) We will lose capability
6) Status Quo will not accomplish what Iowans said they wanted

Primary focus

1) Pristine natural habitats that have no farmland and values - unique areas
2) Watershed approach
3) Floodplain protection - Flood insurance areas should be taken out of production
4) Work with landowners - absentee especially
5) Target where they are needed. The most bang for the buck.
6) Mandatory buffer strips on waterways and lakeshores.

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Healthier Iowa
2) Quality of Life
3) Creating connections to nature for citizens

Roadblocks

1) Computers
2) Motivation
3) Proximity access
4) Winter/Weather
5) Funding

Successful Strategies

1) Continue public/private partnerships
2) Advertisement/Marketing

Primary focus

1) Traffic has increase of restored natural lakes
2) People return to retire
3) Attracts young people back
4) Meets needs of baby boomers
5) Handicap/multigenerational
6) Increase habit for quality of life

Education

Primary issues

1) Water Quality - farmers not only issue. Private people need to be educated.
2) Land Use and stewardship, regardless of where you live. Absentee landowners - benefits/programs

Roadblocks

1) Scheduling - curriculum. Would be positive working together
2) Adults outreach - using a different venue
3) Too structured - be more open ended
4) Future populations aren't rural. change in relationship to land
5) Technology
6) Agriculture link to world. Links storefronts to agriculture. Rain gardens.

Successful Strategies

1) Participation in Clay Co. Fair and other venues
2) Get out in public
3) Preach to choir
4) Link Health Initiative and conservation education

Next 5 years

1) Get people outdoors.

Fort Dodge

Attendance: 16
Chair: Brian Lammers

Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Quality of Life
2) Health/Wellness
3) Give kids something to do
4) Aesthetics/Scenery
5) More attractive to tourists, business and industry
6) Population control for hunting

Roadblocks

1) Money
2) Kids in town, not familiar with hunting and fishing
3) Online/Video games is the only fun
4) Knowledge of where areas are.

Success Strategies

1) Hunter Safety as part of curriculum for school
2) Shooting Sports
3) Get access in schools with fishing
4) BOW/OJ in more locations, more times of the year.
5) More free weekends (fishing, hunting, camping) or just for kids.
6) Geocaching lessons

Next 5 years

1) Get into schools and get them engaged
2) Offer programs from CCB, County mentoring for hunting
3) Scouting programs
4) Find ways to get to the youth clubs
5) Laser shooting events
6) Incorporate kids' technology to get them engaged
7) Cell phone reception in parks
8) 4H Groups/FFA to get involved in BOW/OJ.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary issues

1) Flooding
2) Water Quality
3) Soil Loss

Status with decreased funding

1) All of the above will be worse

Primary focus

1) More funding for practices and personnel
2) Targeting soil conservation

Education *(no education group)*

Muscatine

Attendance: 21
Chair: Roger Kean
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Encourage the legislature to fully fund REAP.

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Healthy Life Style
2) Alterative Transportation
3) Economic Benefits
4) Aesthetic Beauty
5) Educational Benefits

Roadblocks

1) Lack of Knowledge
2) Competition of groups for usage

Strategies for Success

1) Education

Next 5 years

1) Regional Connections
2) Trails
3) Plantings

Natural Resource Conservation

Primary issues

1) Water Quality
2) Soil Erosion
3) Habitat Loss
4) Suburban Sprawl
5) Sustainability across the board

Status if decreased funds

1) Relying on landowners to do their own conservation
2) You can only count on volunteers so much
3) Lack of education, lack of volunteers
4) Takes a little incentive, no incentives = no project

Status if increased funds

1) Building on what you've started
2) Some projects are 5 or 6 phases
3) Implement all phases

Primary focus

1) Stream buffers and projects surrounding waterways would serve habitat and water quality issues.
2) Native grasslands
3) Concerns over premature mowing, it against the law
4) No mowing during nesting season.

Education

Focus

1) Water Quality
2) Problem with misinformation or not enough. Understand the source of the problem.
3) Schools - Time and budget crunch. Need funded mandates to address this.

Historical Resources

Benefits

1) Preservation

Priorities

1) At risk for low funding
2) HDRP is essential and not a luxury

Burlington

Attendance: 16
Chair: Julie Ohde
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion

2) Recommend that metrics be developed to measure the effectiveness of the outdoor recreation and county conservation portions of REAP.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Runoff
2) Soil Conservation
3) Pollution
4) Wildlife populations
5) Land and water quality
    a. Plant populations diversity
    b. Native plants
    c. Animal populations diversity
    d. Limit chemicals
    e. Improve runoff drainage
    f. Riparian zones
    g. Control siltation

Focus for next 5 years

1) Siltation in waterways (rivers)
2) Parking lots/roadways cause runoff
3) Need to have urban plans
4) Educate People
    a. Children and landowners
5) Promote Individual Responsibility

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Increase tax revenue/economic benefit
2) Increase quality of life
3) Increase economic development/tourism

Roadblocks

1) Reaching new audiences
2) Passing it on/mentorships

Strategies for success

1) Public outreach
2) Social media
3) Marketing plan/goals

Next 5 years

1) Trails (city, county, regional)

Education

Issues

1) Water Quality
2) Land Use
3) Legacy passing on to the next generation

Roadblocks

1) Money
2) Interest among teachers

Long term strategies

Fairfield

Attendance: 20
Chair: Jim Gevock
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same.
3) Fully fund REAP at $20 Million.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Clean water and air
2) Timber quality improvements
3) Rebuilding soil
4) Prairie restoration
5) Climate change

Status Quo or lower funding

1) Less money = less help
2) Water quality is key to quality of life
3) Without further funding, tools are not available to address issues

Focus for next 5 years

1) Accessible public lands

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) More opportunities to enjoy public lands
2) Increased economic activity from users of public land
3) Cleaner air and water
4) REAP being flexible
5) Need much more public land

Roadblocks

1) People too busy
2) Economic conditions
3) Lack of access to public lands
4) Societal changes (single parent homes)

Strategies for success

1) Funding
2) Find ways to overcome cultural
3) Cooperation between citizens, agencies, organizations
4) Taking pride and ownership by public

Next 5 years

1) Acquisition of land - expand existing areas
2) New avenues for outdoor activities - geocaching
3) Include things for non-consumptive users
4) Multi-faceted approach (more than one goal accomplished per activity)

Education

Issues

1) Awareness of current natural resources and how to care for it.
2) Concern about timber management and education
3) Children understanding how agriculture ties in with their lives (ties to soil)
4) Children utilizing outdoors for play and exploration

Roadblocks

1) Finding sources of funding
2) Lack of teachers that are trained in environmental education
3) Tying environmental education with other subject areas beyond science.

Long term strategies

1) Provide funding such as REAP
2) Fully fund REAP
3) Educate more kids in grades 7-12
4) Water Quality
5) Educate kids on how to care for resources

Historical Resources

Impacts

1) Educating today's generation about history in the area. Can pass that information to the next generation so they can realize the potential of the history of the region.
2) Lot of history is oral and creates an ability to document that oral history.

Status quo or decreased funding

1) Diminishes progress on established projects
2) Curtail initiation of new projects

Next 5 years

1) Get the word out through county conservation

Shenandoah

Attendance: 17
Chair: Bill Danforth
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water quality
2) Maintaining habitat.
3) Soil quality
4) Air quality

Status Quo or lower funding

1) Get funding to most important projects, REAP very essential
2) Possible decrease in outdoorsman/woman. REAP will continue to be very important.
3) Less interest in REAP
4) High crop prices.
5) Working to maintain habitat (upland) to keep resources we currently have.

Focus for next 5 years

1) Generating/Maintaining funding and interest
2) How to balance ag and conservation

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Discussed Wabash Trace and four counties and cooperation through county's to take care of the Trace.
2) Discussed water trails. Need to continue trail past Pottawattamie County

Strategies for success

1) Rails to trails projects
2) Coordination among four counties with beautification of towns along Trace.

Next 5 years

1) Be it water quality or walking/biking trails, need coordinated efforts between groups to make these projects happen.

Education

Issues

1) Lower elementary exposure
2) Children get very little exposure

Roadblocks

1) Many teachers don't understand conservation
2) Time demands in school schedule
3) Other education standards take priority
4) Money
5) As children become more removed from land their understanding and value of outdoors gets less.

Long term strategies

1) More resources and training for teachers.
2) Money for school field trips gas/drivers/liabilities.
3) Recruit volunteers to help teach.

4) Solicit money from non-governmental organizations.

Focus for next 5 years

1) Conservation is everyone's responsibility.
2) Teacher training
3) Convince landowners they should keep all their soil at home.

Council Bluffs

Attendance: 20
Chair: Brenda Mainwaring
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Soil loss and loss of habitat
2) Loss of public access
3) Impaired streams
4) Floodplain development
5) Livestock facilities in floodplain
6) Development in Loess Hills/ soils. Need low impact development ordinance or Buffer ordinance.

Status Quo or lower funding

1) If IWiLL is funded then a positive impact will occur.

Focus for next 5 years

1) Crop land conversion
2) Good conservation education needed.
3) Enforce conservation compliance

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Economic development - 3 bike shops in Council Bluffs
2) Connecting areas with trails
3) Healthier lifestyles
4) Trail system - community pride
5) Family activities - getting out together and giving kids awareness of outdoors
6) Nature viewing
7) Elevate level and quality of infrastructure
8) Matching funds

Roadblocks

1) Competition from other groups (more projects than funding allows)
2) Lack of opportunities (public land)
3) Over crowding
4) Public education (lack of)
5) Poor marketing
6) Kids electronic devices, social media

Strategies for success

1) Using social marketing: facebook, twitter, etc.
2) Fund the best projects
3) Signage - getting people to areas

Next 5 years

1) Partnerships are important!
2) More land acquisition

Education *(no education group)*

Carroll

Attendance: 25
Chair: Rick Hunsaker
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that the DNR revise the scoring rules to provide for trail maintenance.
3) Fully fund REAP at $20 Million.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Soil erosion
2) Water quality
3) Wildlife
4) Lake protection and development
5) Altered hydrology
6) Development of river corridors
7) Timber/Forest management
8) Lead in the environment

Status Quo or lower funding

1) We will see more pressure on the natural resource by changes in land use (profitability in agriculture).
2) More demand or pressure on remaining resources.
3) Loss of CRP

Focus for next 5 years

1) Replace CRP
2) Wetlands and water quality
3) Creation of "new" habitat
4) Protect what we have
5) Enhance management of forestry resources
6) Stronger outreach/education
7) Strategic placement of conservation practices.
8) We need IWiLL

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Quality of Life
2) Biking and walking
3) Economic development
4) Regional partnerships
5) Hunting and fishing access

Roadblocks

1) Money/Cost of project and equipment
2) Mobility access
3) Trails need to be in town

Strategies for success

1) IWiLL

Next 5 years

1) Maintain existing projects

Education

Issues

1) Getting kids outdoors
2) Easy access to parks

Roadblocks

1) Language
2) Culture
3) Funding
4) Single parenting

Long term strategies

1) Fully fund IWiLL
2) Bi-lingual naturalists
3) Build curriculum into naturalists
4) Many groups outdoors - Church

5) Get youth out thru partnerships with non-governmental organizations (aka mentoring).

Next 5 years

1) K-12 Program - get into the schools.

Moravia

Attendance: 22
Chair: Debra Morgan
Approved Motions:
1) IWiLL Motion

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water Quality
2) Preserving forest land in Iowa under private ownership, not public. Restoring tax funding lost from forest reserve program so counties don't avoid program due to decreased revenue or burdening other tax base. 17,000 acres in Monroe County. >4,000 in Wayne for example.
3) Rotational grazing education for the livestock producers. Encourage more livestock producers.
4) Soil quality/soil erosion – runoff vs. infiltration.
5) We need to increase our carbon sequestration. Plant more grasses/forbs to store carbon.

Status Quo or lower funding

1) Prices increasing so we won't get as much work done with status quo.
2) More conservation coming off the land with current commodity prices.

Focus for next 5 years

1) Forest
2) Cover on marginal land – manage for specific species such as pheasant and quail habitat.
3) Grazing land

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Social benefits
2) Economic benefits – more licenses, local spending of hunters and fishermen.
3) Tourism
4) Health benefits of walking and biking on trail.

Roadblocks

1) Society is more urban and less rural and nature oriented.
2) Lack of interest
3) Lack of contact with nature
4) Technology junkies of youth

Strategies for success

1) Education of public
2) Youth mentoring projects
3) Get youth involved
4) Restore bird populations

Next 5 years

1) Education and publicity
2) Hunting access
3) More youth involvement
4) More trails in state forests and urban areas
5) Lake restoration as needed

Education *(no education group)*

Creston

Attendance: 34
Chair: John Tapken
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) REAP-Practices guidelines be changed to allow Urban Conservation practices to be funded on a county-wide basis, instead of restricting them to designated watersheds.
3) Change Administrative Rule to allow REAP-Practices funds to be used in combination with other public funds up to a maximum of 75 percent of the approved cost for permanent soil conservation practices.
4) Recommend that the per capita portion of the county allocation be removed and the funds are just distributed evenly among the qualifying counties.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Water quality
2) Wildlife habitat
3) Soil Conservation
4) Public Access

Status Quo or lower funding

1) Would like money for septic systems
2) Support for IWiLL
3) Watershed projects
4) More Lakes
5) More water resources to improve public access and economy

Focus for next 5 years

1) Upland habitat
2) Improve the pheasant population
3) Prairie habitat

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Tourism
2) Economic Impact
3) Opportunities: fish, hunt, camp
4) Wildlife diversity
5) Water Quality: water use and drinking

Roadblocks

1) Funding quantity
2) Funding formula – scoring weighting: buy land, no development

Strategies for success

1) Legislature – lobbying/political influence
2) Changing the pie division: land area weighted too high. Population portion to small for program.

Next 5 years

1) Hunting or Fishing based recreation
2) Quality of life
3) Water Quality

Education

Issues

1) Water quality: runoff and stormwater
2) Soil conservation
3) Water management

Roadblocks

1) Lack of understanding by educators/parents/community
2) Funding
3) Lack of concern and care for land and natural resources

Long term strategies

1) Keep preaching with engaged activities
2) More opportunities so: more funding, more volunteerism, more sustainability
3) Program for handicapped

West Des Moines

Attendance: 60
Chair: Jim Pease
Approved Motions:

1) IWiLL Motion
2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same, but raise the Conservation Education Program allotment from $350,000 to $500,000.
3) Fully fund REAP at $20 Million or more.

Natural Resources Conservation

Primary Issues

1) Soil: too much erosion.
    a. Sustainability issues
    b. Poor land use management causes erosion = water quality issues
2) Is there a need not being met?
3) Lack of conservation ethic is the biggest issue.
    a. Need a culture that prioritizes conservation
4) Unwillingness to regulate ourselves
5) Lack of awareness
    a. Increased urbanization
    b. Disconnection from land
    c. Loss of habitat
6) No investment in natural resources
7) Green infrastructure/ Stream buffers
8) No recognition of natural capital
9) Loss of grassland due to decrease in CRP
10) Altered hydrology, lack of natural vegetation resulting in poor water quality
11) No understanding of ecosystem function and services it provides

Roadblocks (group answered OR questions)

1) Too many other alternatives or competing interests.
2) Lack of funding
3) Fear of talking about controversy, such as climate change. Politics get in the way.
4) Standardized test curriculum. Need flexibility to include creative programming
5) Teachers need to learn how to use the new technologies that kids are using.
6) Continuing education/career development for teachers
7) Self selecting news or new media doesn't give us all viewpoints.

Strategies for success

1) Getting conservation into the core curriculum
2) Using "peer pressure" stimulate action by example. Education alone isn't enough.
3) Jim Murdock, presenter at ISU has a system
4) Use technology to reach out to kids. Conservation education Iphone apps

Focus for next 5 years

1) Conservation will be priced out of the market. E.g. land inflation. Incentive payments too low. Less money = more land being developed and no seed money, fewer projects overall.
2) Conservation needs to market stronger than farm organizations that lie to farmers.
3) Corridors of habitat/ green infrastructure/ build complexes to link work to ecosystem services.
4) Keep the water on the land longer/infiltration

5) Watershed boundaries not political boundaries
6) Better ag practices – good sense restrictions, adoption must be wider scale, increased adoption.
7) Put people back to work, ala CCC.
8) Use of IFIS flood probability for sensible land use planning.
9) Use of green solutions for floods.
10) Non-traditional partners, e.g. corporations, farm energy wants less tillage.
11) Market the multiple benefits of conservation practices: energy cons, jobs, habitat, flood damage risk reduction.

Outdoor Recreation

Benefits

1) Health benefits
2) Leveraging dollars
3) Increased connectivity
4) Economic benefits – spread out/rural
5) Experiencing natural
6) Ownership

Roadblocks

1) Uninformed about Iowa/educate
2) Technology: people staying indoors
3) Perception that trails serve only bikes.
4) Marketing/advertising – need more
5) Demand and need for REAP dollars not recognized by legislature
6) Education element not equally funded.
7) Lack of understanding for upkeep of infrastructure

Strategies for success

1) Effective marketing (on what we have)
2) Connect outdoors to technology, facebook, apps.
3) Engage through geocaching – connect to amenities
4) Events that are centered around outdoor recreation. Ex. RAGBRAI with a DNR focus.

Next 5 years

1) Get people outside. Ex. Experience big blue stem, etc.
2) Utilize technology to get people outdoors.
3) Get people involved in what we have. Ex. Not go to Yosemite because of economic reasons.
4) Make a camping route.
5) Maintain trails
6) Emphasize connectivity
7) Water activities (awareness)
8) Awareness of water trails helps build protection
9) More projects/water trails/white water.
10) More shared use trails. Ex. Equestrian
11) Cross country trails/ tracks great.
12) Create a four season mentality. Foster other activities: snow shoeing, snow mobile, etc.
13) Get friends' groups started. Ex. Equestrian trails have work days for volunteers. Friends of Shimek Forest coordinate fundraising efforts from private – designate a donation.
14) Maintain current REAP Funding.

Education

Issues

1) Water Quality
    a. Agriculture
    b. Urban yards
    c. Land use – habitat loss and degradation
2) Flooding. Increasing in frequency and depth
3) Toxins in the environment, including lead.

Roadblocks

1) Must include formal education development.
2) Pre-service training
3) Building capacity and sustainability for conservation education in Iowa
4) Curriculum's current emphasis is on reading and language arts.
5) Funding
6) Litigious society

Long term strategies

1) Collaboration
2) Build community will
    a. Thru the children with hands-on activities outside
    b. Place-based education to get kids & adults involved in community and so they know what is there.
    c. Increase funding to $500,000

Next 5 years

1) Get kids and adults outside
2) Connecting to Iowa Core

<u>Historical Resources</u>

Impacts

1) Training and supporting young professionals through internships
2) Protects and conserves of cultural resources
3) Increases awareness of cultural resources
4) Supports historic preservation
5) Raised awareness of significant historical structures: Salisbury House, Living History Farms, which increases appreciation.
6) Motivated to preserve country schools that maybe wouldn't have.
7) Can raise funds locally with state dollars involved
8) Created good partnerships.

Status quo or reduced funding

1) Gained good momentum
2) Decreased funding will impact ability to fund historic preservation projects.
3) More funding could help promote a Rural Tourism Program. Every county in Iowa has something historically significant and perhaps more so has been done in urban areas than rural.
4) Four very significant house museums in Des Moines. Wish there was more opportunity to market this unique.
5) REAP funding could be used for marketing.
6) Opportunity for historical resources to leverage other dollars to preserve, conserve, to share Iowan's rich history.
7) Opportunities will be compromised as funds/resources are reduced.
8) Concern and pie gets smaller that HRDP won't be able to preserve/share the rich cultural history that Iowans have.

Strategies for Success

1) Turnover of people/volunteers that are busy:
    a. Need to get their attention, but can be a struggle.
    b. DM Register – cultural resource reporter: Michael Morain.
    c. IMA, other professional organizations, ICPC.
    d. Facebook.
    e. However, older demographic
    f. Lindsay Smith, uses Twitter.
    g. HRDP creates jobs and generates work.
    h. Can tie historic preservation to sustainability
    i. Historic preservation supports conservation.
    j. Enjoy working with SHPO and DCA. Well organized, but encourage flexibility.

Primary Focus

1) Way we can tie historical preservation or cultural interpretation with the trails. Stop by country schools, museums. Encourage historical structure owners to work with those developing trails. Get a dialogue started. Salisbury House and Bill Riley Trail. The historic house museums + special, "Bike Night."

Attachment 2: Small Group Discussion Questions

Outdoor Recreation

a. In the past 5 years REAP Open Space funding, through county and city grant programs has funded over 1300 projects for a total of $27 Million.
    i. Thinking of the local projects you heard discussed tonight, what are the positive benefits/outcomes of this increased recreational opportunity?
    ii. What are the roadblocks for increased participation in outdoor recreational opportunities?
    iii. In order to be successful, what are strategies that should be initiated to overcome the roadblocks to outdoor participation?
    iv. Where do you think the primary focus of outdoor recreational opportunities should be in the next 5 years?

Natural Resources Conservation

b. In the past 5 years, REAP Open Space funding Private Public Grants have funded over 2300 projects for a total of $37 Million.
    v. What are the primary natural resources conservation issues in Iowa?
    vi. Where do you think Iowa's natural resources conservation will be in the next 5 years with status quo or decreased funding? How will progress made in the past couple year with increased funding be impacted?
    vii. Where do you think the primary focus for conservation habitat should be in the next 5 years?

Conservation Education

c. In the past 5 years, REAP CEP has funded nearly 125 projects for a total of nearly $2 Million.
    viii. What are the primary natural resources conservation issues in Iowa?
    ix. What are the roadblocks for conservation education today and what do you think they will be in the future?
    x. In order to be successful, what are strategies that should be initiated to overcome these roadblocks?
    xi. What should the primary focus of conservation education be in Iowa over the next 5 years?

Historical Preservation

a. What are the primary historic preservation issues in Iowa?
b. What are the roadblocks for historic preservation today and what do you think they will be in the future?
c. In order to be successful, what are strategies that should be initiated to overcome these roadblocks?
d. What should the primary focus of historic preservation be in Iowa over the next 5 years?