

2009 REAP Assemblies
649 attending, including 35 legislators

Afton: October 27, 2009

Attendance: 33

Chair: Doug Jones

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Don't change anything
2. Preserve diversity of programs
3. Need annual dependability of REAP funding
4. Expand forest establishment opportunities IIII
 - a. Wildflowers and prairie grasses
5. Better balance on per population allocations for county conservation boards between large and small counties IIIII
6. Full funding for REAP IIII
7. Grant scoring to support smaller county conservation boards III
8. Make REAP funding a legislative priority
9. Local decision-making on REAP funds is important
10. Bikers should help pay for trails II
11. Establish SWCD priorities for soil and water enhancement projects with guidance from DALSS
12. More money for open spaces II
 - a. Particularly for land acquisition
13. Consider bi-annual funding
14. Keep parks a priority for grants
15. Support sustainable funding II
16. More emphasis on water quality critical for lakes (not bike trails)
 - a. Lakes are important for tourism
17. Forest reserve tax dollars should go to REAP II

Albia: October 15, 2009

Attendance: 40

Chair: Nels Christensen

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding of REAP 40
2. More money for county conservation boards IIIIIIIIIII
3. More habitat for pheasant and quail III
 - a. Public education on game bird population
 - b. Partnerships with local conservation groups
4. Clean water key to other conservation issues IIII
5. Add another category for city population (League of Cities) II
6. Preservation of prairie remnants and plants
7. Education about REAP in schools IIII
 - a. More conservation education for youth II
 - b. Collaboration with city parks and county parks
8. More support for local county REAP committees IIII
 - a. Education about committees
 - b. Template for county committee plans, now
 - c. All grants go to county committee for approval
 - d. Give them something to do
9. More public awareness about REAP and its accomplishments

- a. Letters to the Editor
- 10. Keep REAP Assemblies in the fall
- 11. Increase funding for historical preservation III
- 12. Keep REAP funding formula the same II
- 13. Vote for sustainable funding
- 14. Increase conservation education funding from \$350,000 to \$650,000 III
- 15. HRDP should sign projects
- 16. Consider size of area for allocations
- 17. Help COGs help communities
- 18. Encourage cooperation of landowners and conservation

Burlington: October 14, 2009

Attendance: 37

Chair: Al Ourth

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

- 1. More awareness of grant deadlines and grant writing process III
- 2. Restrict roadside vegetation practices
 - a. Concern of wildlife too close to roads
- 3. Review percentages of REAP formula for education
- 4. More parental education about REAP in the classroom
- 5. Better feedback for unsuccessful grants
- 6. License plates should be displayed in dealerships III
- 7. Wood duck license plate IIII
- 8. Increase funding for roadside vegetation III
- 9. Full funding for REAP- all those in attendance unanimously voted for this: 37
- 10. Increase funding for conservation education II
 - a. Public education for adults and children
 - b. More visibility of REAP signs II
- 11. Riparian corridor protection, e.g. easements
- 12. More money for historical resources II
- 13. Use REAP money for water quality monitoring in critical watersheds
- 14. REAP should fund agri-forestry
- 15. Expand urban storm water runoff opportunities
- 16. City grants should be 10% match
- 17. Federal restrictions on streams are difficult to deal with
- 18. 5-year plans should be required for grant applications III
- 19. Sustainable funding for natural resources 37
- 20. Don't allow scorers to be applicants III
- 21. Don't fund the same project two years in a row II
- 22. Keep up with new opportunities in forestry and other areas
- 23. Generate more enthusiasm for REAP county committees III
 - a. Give them more work to do and money to do it
- 24. Pileated Woodpecker plate
- 25. New REAP media used for public education/marketing

Carroll: October 21, 2009

Attendance: 34

Chair: Jerry Peckum

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

- 1. Keep REAP formula the same.
- 2. Balance development and acquisition with county conservation grants.
- 3. Each county promote plates.

4. Keep emphasis on acquisition for county conservation grants.
5. More accessibility to non-profits for grants.
6. More public education on REAP. IIIIIII
7. Full funding for REAP and keep it protected.
8. Support sustainable funding initiative.
9. Support water trails.
10. Don't forget maintenance of existing projects.
11. Property tax payments are good.
12. Simplify education program grant application.
13. Keep emphasis on big, new projects.
14. Look to big, regional or statewide projects.
15. Give license plate \$ back to county committees to help educate public about REAP.
16. Assure private citizen participation in support of REAP (those who benefit from grants). III
17. Increase Conservation Education funding to \$500K.
18. Split county conservation grants 50/50 with development and acquisition.

Cedar Falls: September 21, 2009

Attendance: 43

Chair: Rick Juchems

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More money for conservation education IIIIIII
2. More county committee involvement III
3. More visibility of REAP IIIIIIIII
4. Better, sustainable river basin development
5. More (full) funding for REAP IIIIIIIII
6. Increase license plate sales
7. Regional projects between counties/cities
8. Difficult to plan when funding is variable II
9. Sustainable funding dedicated to REAP II
10. Expand roadsides to fields for buffers/habitat/wetlands II
11. Protect habitats from livestock/farm chemicals III
12. Watershed/flood plain management III
13. Use REAP to establish better coalitions for natural resources
14. Signage on REAP projects
15. Historic resource protection

Coralville: September 23, 2009

Attendance: 47

Chair: Dick Heft

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Watershed planning and long-term land use IIIIIII
2. Preservation of privately-owned native prairies III
 - a. And inventory
3. Increase funding for conservation education IIIIIIIIIII
 - a. \$650,000
4. Increased urban conservation practices IIIII
5. Open space funding is important III
6. More roadsides to prairie III
7. More open spaces in rapidly developing urban areas II
8. More reliance on volunteers and conservation organizations II
9. Energy efficiency and carbon storage benefits from REAP III
10. Keep REAP formula the same II

11. Full funding of REAP, without shifting other funding 20
12. Increased funding for trails IIII
13. Maintenance of current projects
14. Maintain or improve money to Ag IIII
15. Funding for urban resource sustainability
16. Native prairies around urban detention ponds
17. Exclude livestock from streams
18. Money for park maintenance and upkeep III
 - a. Stewardship of wild areas
19. More space in parks
20. Discussion on change of REAP priorities for formula II
21. Cost-share for grants so they go farther
22. Preserve and protect Iowa's rare and unique habitats
23. Joint city projects
24. Partner with Coalition for Iowa Farmers with plantings around livestock facilities
25. Ag lease of public ground reviewed for best efficiency and fairness

Correctionville: October 05, 2009

Attendance: 33

Chair: Mark Peterson

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Improve funding for county conservation boards II
2. Fully fund REAP IIIIIIIII
 - a. Increase REAP cap to \$40 million
3. Help county committees to do better work II
 - a. Provide training
4. Increase funding for soil and water enhancement
5. Aid to counties in writing better grants
 - a. Grant workshops
6. Don't spend DNR Open Spaces money on maintenance; save for acquisition
 - a. Legislators' job to fund parks
7. Update practice lists for SWCDs; new and better opportunities
8. Not enough money for permanent positions in conservation II
9. More money for conservation education III
10. Keep REAP formula the same
 - a. But still increase education money
11. Sustainable funding for REAP
12. Legislature should provide means for low/no interest loans for conservation work for cities and counties
13. Increase roadside vegetation from 3% to 5%

Council Bluffs: October 20, 2009

Attendance: 34

Chair: John Batt

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Do more to encourage the sale of REAP license plates. III
2. More plate advertising at dealers and outdoor sales venues
3. Buy more land to increase public access areas, preserve it. IIII
4. Fully fund REAP IIIII
5. Sustainable funding of REAP. IIII
6. REAP is essential for small projects. II
7. Keep REAP formula the same.
8. Utilize REAP web site better, assure that it is up to date, more user friendly. II

9. Spend more \$ on public education about REAP. Ask for private donations?
10. Make REAP plate selection more broad.
11. Better advertising of REAP assemblies, county meetings, projects, etc. III
12. Make sure REAP signs are up.
13. No-match grant less than \$200,000; require match for larger amounts (graded match for differing amounts). II
14. Keep grant application process same.
15. Use REAP funds to stock private farm ponds (cost-share item thru districts).
16. Need to give high priority to Loess Hills natural areas.
17. Increase cap on REAP funds. II
18. Help increase purchase of natural "green spaces" within city limits.
19. Maintain and preserve educational component of REAP, particularly as it relates to children. III
20. Increase amount of funding for Conservation Education Grants.
21. Look into more use of funds for maintaining easements in the future.
22. Reinvigorate county REAP committees.
23. Give specific priority to establishment of trails.

Des Moines: October 28, 2009

Attendance: 58

Chair: Steve Roe

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. No major changes needed III
 - a. If formula opened (be cautious) for change, then #2
2. Increase funding for conservation education from \$350,000 to \$600,000 IIIIIIIII
3. Full funding for REAP 57
4. Support natural resources sustainable trust fund (Iowa's Water and Land Legacy) 57
5. No restrictions on urban water quality projects III
6. More water quality IIIIII
 - a. Public education and participation II
 - b. \$2 corn would help
7. Equitable distribution among DNR for land acquisition II
8. Encourage land acquisition of rare and unique natural spaces II
 - a. Make sure lands are ecologically restored II
9. More rotation of scoring grant members
10. More participation in REAP by citizens and public education about it IIII
11. DNR partner with DHS on natural resource education through daycare services
12. Development of trails
13. Encourage youth to get into the natural outdoors
14. Promote prairie biotic research
15. Help all CCBs qualify for all REAP opportunities
16. Encourage grants that promote youth retention in the state
17. Involve young Iowans in REAP and natural resource issues IIII
18. Don't change formula III
19. DNR Open Spaces higher percentage on acquisition and ecological restoration IIII
20. Target soil and water enhancement on priority areas
21. Emphasize land/habitat protection
22. Find way to help fund natural area inventories IIII
23. REAP needs to educate legislators of its importance II
24. REAP website improvement

Fort Dodge: October 07, 2009

Attendance: 42

Chair: Dave Haggard

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding of REAP 42
2. More REAP signs on projects
3. REAP interests need to talk to their legislators III
 - a. Community leaders and elected official need to be aware II
4. More money for conservation education IIIIIIIII
 - a. \$700,000 III
 - b. Legislative emphasis on outdoor education for youth IIIII
 - c. Add conservation education to the REAP formula (for example, 4%)
 - d. Outside of schools as well
5. More funding for trails III
6. More public education about REAP IIIIIIIIIIIII
7. More emphasis on water quality III
 - a. Particularly rivers III
8. Invasive species education
9. Market new plates II
10. Require campers/RVs to buy a natural resource plate II
11. Continued historical funding
12. Collaborate with other agencies for education
13. County committees should plan well II
 - a. Sustainable
14. Prepare for 2021
15. Keep county supervisors informed
16. More connected trails

Maquoketa: September 29, 2009

Attendance: 56

Chair: Dan Dunham

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding of REAP IIIIIII
2. Watershed management/sinkholes
3. Increase \$350,000 for conservation education III
 - a. \$500,000 (doesn't require formula change)
4. Keep REAP formula the same III
5. Educate legislators on REAP paying property tax
6. More promotion of REAP IIIII
 - a. More license plate promotion locally II
 - b. Off-Assembly years, encourage county REAP tours II
 - c. Promote REAP leverage money
 - d. Use REAP to promote sustainable funding
 - e. Local project promotion through local radio/newspaper PSAs
7. Do more to make REAP Congress effective, impacting
 - a. Use delegates in policy advisory to Legislators
8. Maintenance agreement for TSI changed to 10 from 20 years
9. Move Jones County to Region 8 REAP Assembly
10. Involve and promote REAP to younger Iowans
11. Hold county REAP meetings
12. REAP supportive of multi-county planning
13. REAP promotional posters in DNR, DALs field offices
14. Better REAP project signage
15. Get to Legislators this fall for full funding III

16. Allow NR plates for county CCBs, all of DNR

Marshalltown: October 01, 2009

Attendance: 30

Chair: Bob Etzel

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding of REAP II
2. Pass sustainable funding
3. Increase funding for education from \$350,000 to \$600,000 without changing the formula
4. More money for state parks
5. Continue support of soil and water conservation
 - a. For students as well as farmers
6. Investigate possibilities of lake development
7. Enhance roadside vegetation program
8. Spend money for advertising/marketing of REAP
9. Encourage school administrators to continue/enhance conservation education
 - a. Use wellness as lever
10. Increase \$20 million cap of REAP
11. Use state economic emergency fund to aid in acquisition opportunities with tight time frames

Mason City: September 30, 2009

Attendance: 36

Chair: Carol Schutte

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Assure better land use practices through education/enforcement particularly where water quality is impacted; DNR/DALS, etc IIII
2. Fund REAP as much as possible IIII
3. Better marketing of REAP, strategic planning IIIIIIIII
 - a. Involve county conservation boards
 - b. Get celebrity spokesperson
 - c. Re-energize local committees
4. Best practices for REAP projects
5. Sustainable funding would double REAP (don't lose existing funding) IIIIIII
6. Work locally with county committees on REAP education II
7. Keep REAP formula the same IIIIIII
8. Increase the REAP education funding to at least \$500,000 IIIIIIIII
9. More ownership of REAP, term limits on grant selection committees
 - a. Broaden base of committees
10. Emphasis on public land acquisition IIIIIII
11. REAP plates on official vehicles
12. More youth interested in the outdoors II
 - a. PF, DU local youth days
13. Mandatory stream management for landowners (cropping too close)
14. Determine and educate value of public conservation land

Monona: September 22, 2009

Attendance: 38

Chair: Rod Marlatt

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Keep REAP formula the same IIIIIII
2. Appreciates change in county committee membership
3. REAP's value for carbon storage

4. More money for conservation education (Legislative change) IIIIIIIIIII
5. More public education on need for, and value of, REAP III
6. More land acquisitions III
7. Increase funding for REAP
8. More funding for county conservation
9. More multi-county/regional collaboration on projects
10. Maintain REAP identity
11. More public promotion for license plates
12. Improve public understanding of watersheds II
13. Soil erosion prevention

Muscatine: October 13, 2009

Attendance: 28

Chair: Michael and Esther

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More emphasis on low-impact development IIIII
 - a. Stronger emphasis on in-fill vs. sprawl
 - b. Major greenbelts around communities; valuable as buffers
 - c. More focus on green rehabilitation of homes II
2. More public education about REAP IIII
 - a. Public access tv
 - b. Reach children II
 - c. Ads to compete with ag chemicals; tv ads
3. More open spaces (Lost Grove)
4. Focus on upper end of watersheds II
5. Fully fund REAP
6. Leave REAP formula the same
7. REAP funds allocated based on application percentages III
8. Encourage more partnering and matches for higher leverages
9. Consider values of farmer's markets for conservation management of soil and water; diversified, alternative farming II
10. Help fund planning, technical design for conservation/environmental projects II
11. Increase funding for conservation education
12. Help with grant writing
13. More money for trails
14. More money for historic preservation
15. Bio-tourism

Shenandoah: October 19, 2009

Attendance: 11

Chair: Ross Harrison

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More money for REAP IIII
2. More help for improvement, development and maintenance of county parks IIII
 - a. City parks
 - b. State parks
3. Full funding for REAP III
4. More money for conservation education
 - a. Get youth involved in the outdoors
5. More public promotion of REAP
6. Change county conservation scoring criteria
7. Appropriate funds by geographical area

8. Too much emphasis put on written grant application instead of overall quality of project
9. Consider something similar to DOTs allocation of funds on a regional basis

Spencer: October 06, 2009

Attendance: 49

Chair: Dan Heissel

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

2. Full funding 49
 - a. More flexibility in spending IIIII
3. Increase conservation education spending to \$650,000 IIIIII
 - a. High priority for education
 - b. Teach land stewardship
 - c. Get youth in the outdoors
4. More weight for emerging historic preservation (northwest Iowa last to be settled) II
5. More prairie restoration
6. More public hunting ground III
7. Evaluate past projects to assure money is spent correctly
8. More emphasis on water quality IIIIIII
 - a. Specifically education
9. More access for trails and birding II
10. Re-establish bison population
11. Leverage REAP funding as much as possible
12. More money for local promotion of natural resources
13. Rough fish removal for improved waterfowl habitat
14. Allow for different grant rating for city urban parks II
15. Wetland restoration II
16. Closing above-ground tile inlets
17. Lake restoration, Lower Gar
18. More public education about REAP II
19. Protect all bodies of water; buffers
20. Keep REAP formula the same
21. More money for trails II
22. Help with grant writing