2020 REAP Congress Report

Report to: **Governor Reynolds**
Iowa Legislature
Natural Resource Commission
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Department of Transportation
Department of Cultural Affairs

Inquires pertaining to this report may be directed to:

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TO: Governor Kim Reynolds
W. Charles Smithson, Secretary of the Senate
Meghan Nelson, Chief Clerk of the House
Margo Underwood, Chair of the Natural Resource Commission

As required by Section 455A.17, Code of Iowa, I present you with the report of the 2020 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress which was conducted on January 4th in the chambers of the House of Representatives.

Eighty-six of the ninety delegates to the REAP Congress attended. Those delegates were elected by 611 Iowans in the fall during the 18 regional Assemblies conducted throughout the state. More than half of the delegates were attending for the first time, echoing the enthusiasm for REAP seen across the state.

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 2020 REAP Congress took a number of actions in this regard.

Chief among these actions are to fully fund REAP at a minimum of $20 million, retain the current formula for distribution of the REAP funds, and eliminate the REAP sunset date.

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

Sincerely,

Kayla Lyon, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

2020 REAP Congress
January 4, 2020
House of Representatives Chambers

Roll Call

86 of the 90 delegates to the REAP Congress attended. The delegates were elected by 611 Iowans in the fall of 2019 during 18 regional Assemblies conducted throughout the state. A list of the delegates by county is included at the end of this report.

Opening Remarks

Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator, called the Congress to order at 10:00 a.m. and prepared them for their deliberations. DNR Director, Kayla Lyon, gave welcoming remarks.

Election of Congress Chair

Mark Ackelson of Polk County was elected.

2019 REAP Assembly Report

During November and December 2019, 18 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Assemblies were conducted throughout Iowa. The REAP Assemblies are required, per Iowa Code Chapter 455A.17, to be conducted on odd numbered years to provide attendees with information about REAP expenditures, ask attendees to identify opportunities or changes in policy, programs or funding, and to vote on motions for the five elected delegates per region to vote on at REAP Congress. 611 Iowans participated in the 2019 REAP Assemblies. In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 64 motions that were forwarded to the REAP Congress for consideration on January 4, 2020.

Individual Assembly Reports, including specific information addressed in each of the 18 Assemblies are included at the end of this report.

Action Items by REAP Congress

1. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends the elimination of the sunset date for REAP.** Marlatt, moved. Golightly, second. Vote: Yes: 86, No: 0. Motion carried.
    a. Discussion: Eliminate compared to extend the date. The sunset is tied to appropriation to REAP, if eliminated it may be set at $20M forever. If it becomes part of the NRORTF, no other programs have sunset clauses in that fund.

2. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at a minimum of $20 million.** Cohen, moved. Benton, second. Vote: Yes: 86 No: 0. Motion carried.
    a. Discussion: Source of funding, history of funding. Intent to set a baseline for funding for the future. $20M hasn't been met.

3. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends funding REAP at $40 million continually adjusting for inflation.** Malik, moved. Sergeant, second. Vote: Yes: 12, No: 74. Motion failed.
    i. Discussion: Limit to $40 minimum, which is closer to what $20 Million is in today's dollars. Original REAP was $30M for 10 years.
    b. Amendment: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends funding REAP at $40 million.** McCarley, Haake 2nd. Vote: Yes: 6 No: 80. Motion failed.
        i. Discussion: want to ask for something reasonable. Hasn't yet been fully funded. Focus efforts on getting $20 million.

4. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends to retain the current REAP formula.** Benton, moved. Slocum, second. Vote: Yes: 85, No: 0. Abs: 1 Motion carried.
    a. Discussion: why the current formula works, support for public land.

5. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends increasing the sales tax 3/8 of one cent to fund the Iowa NRORTF.** Hayes, moved. Hammond, second. Vote: Yes: 84, No: 0 abs: 2 Motion carried.
    a. Discussion: Creation of NRORTF, many programs have not been fully funded, this fund would provide long term funding, specific funding for programs in the constitutional amendment.

6. Motion: **The 2018 REAP Congress recommends retaining the current formula for NRORTF.** Barker, moved. Kruse, second. Vote: Yes: 84, No: 1. Abs: 1 Motion carried.
    a. Discussion: How the fund works, clarification that REAP is not included in the constitutional language.

7. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends increasing the number of categories to five for the REAP City Parks and Open Space grant program. The categories would be based on city population of <2000, 2000-10,000, 10,000-20,000, 20,000-75,000, >75,000.**
    a. Bowers, moved. Benton, second. Motion replaced, see below.
    b. Discussion: Large competition for funds, disadvantage to smaller cities, information and research on levels, by dividing into too many categories may not fund the best projects, not sure on category size, would the percentage allocated to each category change.
    c. Amendment: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the Natural Resources Commission evaluate and adjust categories and funding levels to reflect current city population and funding demands.** Kruse moved, Bowers 2nd. Vote: Yes: 83, No: 3. Abs: 0 Motion carried/replaced.
        i. Discussion: smaller cities competition, maximum requests in Administrative Rule, only addresses cities and not counties, issues in smaller cities, counties.

8. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends changing CEP from $350,000 to $500,000.**

a. Haake, moved. Marburger, second. Vote: Yes: 22, No: 64. Motion failed.
b. Discussion: Opening up the code for changes, limits amount for the rest of the portions in REAP, would increase with inflation.

9. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress endorse the Nutrient Reduction Strategy Program.**
    a. Schabuch, moved. Ritscher, second. Vote: Yes: 15, No: 70. Abs: 1. Motion failed.
    b. Discussion: What the NRS is/does, whether or not it is REAP Congress' job to discuss this program, supporting NRORTF includes supporting NRS.

10. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping REAP as a separate appropriation in addition to any funding received from the NRORTF.**
    a. McCarley, moved. Johnson, second. Vote: Yes: 84, No: 2. Abs: 0. Motion carried.
    b. Discussion: how the NRORTF is outlined in code.

11. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress recommends restoring funding to $30 Million.**
    a. McCarley, moved. Malik, second. Vote: Yes: 6, No: 79. Abs: 2. Motion failed.
    b. Discussion: giving a specific target to the Legislature.

12. Motion: **The 2020 REAP Congress thanks the Legislature and Governor for the support of REAP for the past two years.**
    a. Benton, moved. Hammond, second. Vote: Yes: 83, No: 1. Abs: 2. Motion carried.

13. Other discussion:
    a. Educate others about REAP, people do not know what it is.
    b. Point made to talk to legislators, not just local legislators, but all.
    c. Use stories about projects that have not gotten funded, but also focus on successes and completed projects, smaller communities.

14. Motion**: Adjourn.**
    a. Marlatt, moved. 2nd unanimous.
    b. 15th REAP Congress Adjourned on January 4, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

List of Congress Delegates and County

Delegate	County
Mark Ackelson	Polk
Abigail Anderson	Mahaska
Rodney Anderson	Mahaska
Cory Arp	Carroll
Ernie Aust	Page
Tyler Baird	Johnson
Michelle Barker	Johnson
Robert Benton	Fremont
Michelle Biodrowski	Pottawattamie
Kenneth Luke Bowers	Polk
Michael Boyle	Cedar
Brent Brown	Woodbury
Robert Bryant	Scott
Ann Burns	Jackson
Laura Chapin	Bremer
Dave Chase	Cass
Dan Cohen	Buchanan
Peter Eyheralde	Mahaska
Ellen Friedrich	Mitchell
Anna Golightly	Madison
Terry Graham	Fremont
Anna Gray	Polk
Steve Gustafson	Scott
Brennan Haag	Black Hawk
Darin Haake	Shelby
Zachary T. Hall	Ida
Katie Hammond	Louisa
Mark Hayes	Marshall
Scott Heater	Louisa
Jill Heisterkamp	Calhoun
Jodi Hitz	Union
Will Horsley	Clay
James Janett	Allamakee
Joseph Jayjack	Polk
Greg Johnson	Buena Vista
Tyler Kelley	Story
Jon Kruse	Buena Vista
Doug Kuhlman	Monona
Fred Long	Greene
Stephen Main	Bremer
Freedom Malik	Muscatine
Jeremiah Manken	Marshall
Ethan Marburger	Black Hawk

Delegate	County
Rod Marlatt	Fayette
Rebecca McCarley	Linn
Jared McGovern	Dubuque
Jessica Meredith	Sac
Mary Ellen Miller	Wayne
James Nelson	Monroe
William Ohde	Winneshiek
Adam Ohsann	Clinton
Carter Oliver	Harrison
Scott Osborn	Cherokee
Aric Ping	Clay
Jonah Quick	Harrison
Janelle Randau	Mahaska
Jennifer Rank	Hamilton
Molly Regan	Scott
Robert Ritscher	Benton
Logan Roberts	Marshall
Brenda Rust	Hancock
Chad Schaeffer	Webster
Al Schafbuch	Tama
Nicholas Schmalen	Osceola
Jill Schmidt	Cedar
Adam Sears	Hancock
Carter Sergeant	Johnson
Neil Shaffer	Howard
Adam Shirley	Mitchell
Kenny Slocum	Clayton
Martin Snyder	Carroll
Julie Solinski	Des Moines
Kayla Stalder	Decatur
Clay Steele	Lee
David Stein	Story
Brian Stroner	Hamilton
Rick Tebbs	Wapello
Mark Vavroch	Poweshiek
Philip Visser	Appanoose
Sandra Walton	Jackson
Jack Wardell	Carroll
Amy Warnke	Madison
Michael Webb	Worth
Andrew Joseph Wuebker	Monroe
Bailey Yotter	Des Moines
Kate Zimmerman	Ringgold

2019 REAP Assembly Report

During the November and December 2019, 18 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Assemblies were conducted throughout Iowa. The REAP Assemblies are required, per Iowa Code Chapter 455A.17, to be conducted on odd numbered years to provide attendees with information about REAP expenditures, ask attendees to identify opportunities or changes in policy, programs or funding, vote on motions for the five elected delegates per region to vote on at REAP Congress. 611 Iowans participated in the 2019 REAP Assemblies. In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 77 motions that will be forwarded to the REAP Congress for consideration on January 4, 2020.

The following motions were approved at the Assemblies. The number behind the motion indicates the number of Assemblies at which it was approved. Bolded items were approved at 10 or more Assemblies.

1) **This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at $20 Million. 14**
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at $30 Million. 2
3) **This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula the same. 14**
4) **This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through the passage of a 3/8th of a percent increase of Iowa's statewide sales tax. 10**
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the IWILL formula the same as 2010. 4
6) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through the passage of a 3/8th of a percent increase of Iowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact, including fully funding REAP. 6
7) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support extending the REAP sunset to the year 2041, unless IWILL is fully funded with REAP in its existing form within the currently set IWILL formula. 1
8) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding IWILL and not replace any current natural resources funding. 2
9) **This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports eliminating the REAP sunset date. 13**
10) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports extending REAP for 30 years beyond the 2021 sunset date. **3**
11) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends continuing REAP for 50 more years. 1
12) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends extending REAP language for at least 15 years. 1
13) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP sunset be extended to 2036. 1

14) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends increasing the program authorization to $40 Million to account for inflation for the past 30 years. 1
15) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommend that funding and support of Watershed Management Authority and Coordinators in the state. 1
16) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recognizes the value of outdoor recreation in Iowa. 1
17) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the Legislature look at additional funding sources, other than gaming revenue. 1
18) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends allowing cities, county conservation boards, state and non-profits to be able to acquire land in Open Spaces for the people of Iowa to maintain a quality of life. Public land is very important to Region 8. 1
19) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends forming four city categories with input from smaller towns. 1
20) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the DNR works with County Conservation Boards to identify environmentally sensitive areas of the state. 1
21) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that conservation education funds be increased and remain taken off the top. 1

Additionally, participants at each assembly broke into small groups to discuss the most significant things REAP has done in their communities, positive and negative impacts and then a vision for the next five years. They listed and discussed hundreds of ideas, recommendations and impacts. They are listed by region in the Assembly Summary later in this document.

Below is a list of the most prevalent themes:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Quality of life ● Economic development for communities/workforce ● Trails ● New & improved facilities (campgrounds, parks) ● Places to go, things to do ● Health (mental/physical) ● Provides new and enhanced access (hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, recreation) ● Diversity in recreational experience: communities can play to their strength (river, lake, forest, history, etc.)	● Nature Centers (supplies, displays, staff) ● Materials for classrooms statewide/electronic ● Connecting NGSS/CORE standards, transferable curriculum development ● Programs available to the public ● Interpretive signage ● Enables groups to collaborate ● Engaging Iowans of all ages ● Dedicated funding to each county for staff and programming ● Knowing exactly what is funded	● Digitize newspapers, historic photos, documents ● Building restoration ● Revitalizing downtowns ● Economic impact/tourism ● Retaining community identity ● Leveraging of funds ● Matching use of volunteer time, adds number of people involved in projects/organizations ● Museums, document preservation and historic areas	● Improving water quality/nutrient reduction ● Buffer strips, bioreactors, wind breaks, cover crops, etc. ● Urban conservation ● Awareness to water quality ● Grant match dollars for rural ● Restoration/ habitat improvement, threatened & endangered species ● Project Coordinators help carry out the projects
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive ● Increase in tourism to region. ● Leverages funds ● Attracts businesses	Positive ● Travelling exhibits	Positive ● More public access to digital records/information ● Lots of visitors to sites	Positive ● Improved soil health for future generations ● Improved quality of life

Negative ● Competitive funding ● Ease to find areas/match projects ● Failure to promote ● No funding for maintenance ● Scoring criteria/selection	● Nature Centers (staff, programming, building, displays, et. al.) ● Available locally Negative ● Not enough funds to reach kids, because busing costs ● Competitive funding ● Reliance on funds that change	● Funds large & small projects Negative ● Can't save everything ● Belief that "free money" still exists ● Competitive	● Knowledgeable staff at the local level Negative ● Competition ● Not enough money ● Not enough awareness ● Changing land use
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● More funding (fund IWILL, REAP, etc.) ● More education of Iowans & legislators about REAP ● Fishing jetties, trails, wetland development, campground, water trails ● Trail connectivity, expansion & maintenance ● Recreational shooting ● Share successful projects – more outreach	● More funding (fund IWILL, REAP, etc.) ● Expand existing efforts ● Target audiences: younger ages and landowners ● Community support with schools & other groups ● Need to reach public (boards, schools, non-profits, parents) as to what is available	● More funding (fund IWILL, REAP, etc.) ● Need to engage communities ● Cemetery restoration & repair ● Identify, map, signage for one-room schools ● Better knowledge for counties/communities about program	● More funding (fund IWILL, REAP, etc.) ● Additional habitat on both public and private areas ● Promote benefits of practices ● Promote greater awareness of REAP ● Expand practices available to farmers

Individual Assembly Summary

Region 1: Calmar (Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiek)

Attendance: 59
Chair: Mallory Boshart
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports keep the REAP formula the same. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support extending the REAP sunset to the year 2041, unless IWILL is fully funded with REAP in its existing form within the currently set IWILL formula. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous.
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommend that funding and support of Watershed Management Authority and Coordinators in the state. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Acquisition for trails ● Improve soil and water ● Better recreation ● More outdoor recreation ● More public support ● Increased community health ● Trail access ● Increase in natural trout reproduction ● Huge economic impact ● Highlights special places ● Improved impaired waters ● Creates common ground-organizations working together	● 2nd step education ● Ability to bundle conservation emphasis with educational studies ● Expansion of programs	● Clock tower ● Structure Preservation ● Story documentation ● Maintenance of Native American mounds ● Tourism ● Education sites	● Watershed approach ● Land acquisition ● Project funding ● Better outdoor recreation (trout streams) ● Better quality of life
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Winneshiek-30 miles of paved road Negative: ● Strings attached with land acquisition ● Lack of motorized usage ● Funding perpetually short	Negative: ● Paperwork is a barrier along with evaluation, flexibility and outcome measures	Positive: ● Provides money to help with projects Negative: ● Need more money for REAP	Positive: ● Education ● Increased energy around natural resources due to education Negative: ● Not enough money ● Increase herbicide usage ● Money will end if not reauthorized
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Fully fund REAP ● Keep formula the same ● Find out where the biggest needs are	● Expand sustainable agriculture	● Work on saving structures	● Fully fund REAP

● Supplement IWILL- leave REAP unchanged ● Focus on regional projects	● Expand practical education ● Include funds for pre-K ● Work toward making conservation education more meaningful to everyone	● Preserve more historical areas and artifacts ● Identify and inventory what is needed to save ● Funding to help recruit ● Expand REAP to its fullest ● Fund documented cemeteries ● 13% of IWILL to be designated to REAP	● Portion of money reserved for new practices and techniques ● Easier to use program-flexible

Region 2: Ventura (Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth)

Attendance: 16
Chair: Jeff Jensen
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support fully funding REAP at $30 Million. Vote: Unanimous.
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports keep the REAP formula the same. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports eliminating the sunset on REAP. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends passing IWILL. Vote: Unanimous
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the IWILL formula the same as 2010. Vote: Unanimous.
6) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding IWILL and not have that replace any current natural resources funding. Vote: Unanimous
7) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recognizes the value of outdoor recreation in Iowa. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses (due to lower turn-out the group participated as a whole)**:**

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Startup funds ● Teaching environmental education-very important ● Boots on the ground for soil and water ● All Iowans lives benefit			
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
● Better quality of life ● Increased opportunities for outdoor recreation ● Economic impact ● Universally available to all counties			

Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?
● Leave the formula the same ● Fully fund ● Continue to improve habitats ● Consistent funding ● Do a better job in communicating how it impacts every county-tell the story ● Continue acquisition of public land ● Get the word out about REAP ● TV campaign to advertise for REAP

Region 3: Spencer (Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sioux)

Attendance: 32
Chair: Jon Kruse
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports eliminating the sunset on REAP. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports keep the REAP formula the same. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends raising the sales tax at least ⅜ of a cent to fund IWILL. Vote: Unanimous
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the IWILL formula the same. Vote: Unanimous.
6) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding IWILL and not have that replace any current natural resources funding. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Increase outdoor recreation opportunities ● Cabins and rec amenities ● More open space and habitat ● Improved facilities ● Nature center ● Playground equipment	● Dedicated funds for education	●	● Windbreaks and native plantings
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Additional opportunities ● Increased quality of life ● More outdoor exposure ● Improvement for ADA accessibility	● Nature centers ● Education Program grants ● Soil and Water field days ● FSA workshops ● Educating landowners on water quality practices	Positive: ● Almost every county has projects that have been done Negative:	Positive: ● Landowners have access to REAP money to improve water quality-benefits all

		● Need more funding for archaeological studies (Phase II and III)	● Public land acquisition ● Project Coordinators help people access resources Negative: ● Drainage districts can be a weakness in getting water quality improvements
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Increase camping activities ● Push for 20 million ● Remove REAP sunset	● Fully fund REAP ● Encourage people to be personally vested in the environment ● Continue to educate landowners on water quality	●	● Fund IWILL ● Modernize practices because technology is changing

Region 4: Correctionville (Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Woodbury)

Attendance: 20
Chair: Victoria DeVos
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress support fully funding REAP at $30 Million and extend for 30 years. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Land acquisition ● Trail projects ● Park improvements ● Parks/open spaces are among the top 5 things employers look for	● Increased number of professional naturalists in Iowa ● Increased number of people reached with EE ● Writing in depth, quality EE curriculum ● Allowed funding for nature centers ● Economic dev and tourism to nature centers	● Preservation of special sites ● Preservation of buildings and newspapers ● Restoration of old park buildings (Stone park) ● Lewis & Clark ● Sgt Floyd	● CRP buffers ● Forestry native grasses ● Windbreaks ● Pond cost share ● Staffing for projects ● Timber mgmt ● Urban Water projects
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Leverage money ● Funds park projects and trail projects Negative: ● Not enough money to fund projects/increase demand	Positive: ● Program supplies ● Danielle has a job:) ● Center exhibits/building ● Naturalists attending national/regional workshops Negative: ● Only $350,000	Positive: ● Tourism ● Preserving the past ● Bike Trails Negative: ● Not enough funds ● Political battles	● Flemming ground for hunting-Correctionville ● IHAP

	● Becoming reliant on REAP funds to keep moving		
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Fully fund @ 30 million ● Increase CEP funding ● Extend sunset another 30 years	● More sustainable funding ● Connect more to nature-disconnect to devices ● More accessibility for schools to attend field trips	● Expand historical development ● Help in filling out grants ● More advertisement of available grants	● Remain funded ● Staffing for projects

Region 5: Webster City (Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, Wright)

Attendance: 18
Chair: Jill Heisterkamp
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully fund IWILL with a tax increase. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends continuing REAP for 50 more years. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Trails ● Campground improvement ● Water trail access ● Economic boost ● Promotion of outdoor activity ● Increased quality of life	● Funding source-sustainable ● Continued awareness ● Schools utilize CCB Naturalist to help educate ● Outdoor education for kids ● Education in every county	● Digitize newspapers and historical documents ● Keeping written records preserved and maintained-enables family research, community research and museums to maintain resources	● Buffer strips ● Terraces ● Clean water
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Brings $ to partnerships for development ● Public improvement ● Public Access ● Health Negative: ● Never enough $ ● Not fully funded	Positive: ● Trails used for school education ● Boone River Rec Trail ● Jean Ellsworth Trail ● Eagle Scout projects along trails Negative: ● Lack of full funding	Positive: ● Opens up research for individuals for online use ● Preserves history, stories Negative: ● Not enough money to go around	Positive: ● Buffer strips ● Terraces ● Clean water Negative: ● Native grasses haven't been sustained due to roundup spray along highway
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Formula looks good ● Extend REAP ● Fully fund	● Raise education allocation for REAP ● Pass IWILL	● More funding-please! ● Expand and accommodate with passage of time	● More on water quality ● More saturated buffers

● Update facilities for ADA ● IWILL ● Maintenance funds and sustainability	● Extend education to adults		

Region 6: Marshalltown (Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Tama)

Attendance: 26
Chair: Jack Boyer
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund by increasing sales tax. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports keep the REAP formula with no changes. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends not altering the 2010 Trust Fund formula for distribution. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends extending REAP for another 30 years, with a preference to remove the sunset clause so the program runs in perpetuity. Vote: Unanimous
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses (due to lower turn-out the group participated as a whole)**:**

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Historic home-Dysart church ● Brick factory (100 yrs old) ● Soil & water conservation ● Watershed protection ● Roadside vegetation ● Keeping local families, creating spaces close to home ● Education-deeper experiences			
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive ● Can never have enough funding Negative ● Some aren't keeping up on current issues Not everyone knows how our local projects are funded			
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Conservation Education can never be stressed enough ● Educate elected officials ● Keep everyone current on current issues ● Keep reaching out to the younger generation			

Region 7: Cedar Falls (Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy)

Attendance: 74
Chair: Roger White
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the REAP pie the same. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends extending the sunset indefinitely. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports the NRORTF and with the current formula. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Bike trails ● Natural area restoration ● City parks ● Nature trails ● REAP brings public to nature	● Roadside/Ditch plantings ● Land acquisition ● Nature centers-supplies, displays, visuals ● Program development ● High school and college internships ● Children w/o access go to parks and historical bldg	● Rehabilitation of historic buildings for re-use ● Promotes planning for projects to know whether it is worthy of investment	● Helps with water quality and quantity ● Soil health is part of land use and land values ● Steady, sustainable funding ● Habitat restoration ● More native vegetation
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Better quality of life ● Diverse rec opportunities ● Improved health and wellness ● Keeps retirees in Iowa ● Brings revenue to local area ● Increased community ● REAP benefits all of the public ● Recruit and keep young people in local towns/state of Iowa Negative: ● Needs more money	Negative: ● Not fully funded Positive: ● Community education ● Educators understand DNR better ● Land acquisition	● Requires matching funds-more people working for common goals ● Sometimes matching funds are hard to find	Positive: ● Access points ● Change REAP funding pie to sustain WMA's Negative: ● Competition puts neighbors against each other
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Don't change the formula ● REAP needs more visibility	● Fully fund REAP ● Get more children in nature ● Increase awareness of REAP in community ● Increase conservation education funding ● Include Cons Ed in other parts of pie	● Encourage libraries to utilize REAP to preserve local history ● Keep formula the same ● Fully fund REAP	● Fully fund REAP ● More public land ● Blend public conservation with private lands

Region 8: Maquoketa (Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson)

Attendance: 64
Chair: Dave Haier
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the Legislature look at additional funding sources, other than gaming revenue. Vote: 63 Yea, 1 No
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends continuing funding beyond the sunset and make the program permanent. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the legislature raise the sales tax to fund IWILL the way the people voted for it, including fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends allowing cities, county conservation boards, state and non-profits to be able to acquire land in Open Spaces for the people of Iowa to maintain a quality of life. Public land is very important to Region 8. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Acquired property ● Trail system development ● Update parks and amenities ● Better access to rivers for recreational use ● Tourism ● Attracts workforce ● Keeps money local ● Increase the quality of life for residents ● Free rec to all demographics ● Health ● Use of land that isn't good for ag	● Kick started EE programs, county naturalists ● Curriculum is transferable among projects ● Nature centers ● Increase quality of life-more open spaces to play	● Easy application and reporting ● Necessary function ● Projects wouldn't happen without REAP funding	● Land acquisition-protect land ● Buffers-river waterway-helps with water quality ● Cover crops & soil protection ● Watershed work-urban pavers ● Only fund that supports on-going stewardship of existing land
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Preserve natural areas ● Acquisition of property in natural state ● More public access (Bankston Park) ● Provides more habitat ● Improve brain health ● Relieves crowding ● Connecting via trails ● Draw workforce Negative: ● Not fully funded ● More apps than can be funded ● Concerns of neighbors ● Have not funded IWILL	Positive: ● ID guides through IRUM ● Great impacts on community ● Broad and varied projects Negative: ● Not enough money ● Broad and varied projects	Positive: ● Funding process is a little less formal ● Projects are well received ● Requires match Negative: ● Not enough money	Positive: ● Coldwater streams ● White water canyon ● Public awareness ● Water & soil practices installed through REAP ● Access points Negative: ● Competition puts neighbors against each other

● Needs better marketing and promotion ● Competition for the limited resources ● Some don't want more public land-understanding of benefits and economic benefits would help			
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Division of funds is good ● Fully fund REAP ● Lift the sunset ● REAP is unique in US ● Needs to stay in place so we don't go backward ● No match is important ● More info on what can be useful for public outreach ● Promotion of recruitment of workforce ● Water quantity and quality issues ● Don't replace REAP with IWILL, need both!	● Continue to expand opportunities for teachers and pre-teachers to experience EE	● Help with developing curriculum ● Engaging youth in historic programs (hands-on activities) ● Maintaining what has been restored	● Every part of REAP should continue ● More money ● Fund IWILL ● Long-term continuance of water quality ● Promote and expand water quality projects and spread to new landowners ● Change REAP funding pie to sustain WMA's

Region 9: Muscatine (Muscatine, Scott)

Attendance: 27
Chair: Roger Kean
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP and do not let it sunset. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends moving forward with the ⅜ cent sales tax increase for IWILL. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the REAP formula as it is. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Trail systems have been developed in Bettendorf/Muscatine cities ● Weed park improvements ● Land acquisition ● Public land management ● Property taxes paid	● Environmental education ● Invasive species removal ● Created environmental education programs ● Funds staff to take care of nature center, exhibits, etc. ● Trail systems ● Preserve natural areas	● Historical Resource Development-REAP money helped restore historic Pine Creek Grist Mill	● Water quality projects-works well with all 99 counties ● Soil and water enhancement ● Permeable pavement projects ● Provides a lot of supplemental opportunities ● Projects matched with additional funds ● Water quality improvement and nutrient reduction ● Quantify phosphorus reductions-annual report makes its way to legislature ● Promotion of long-term sustainable agricultural opportunities ● Addressing water quality impairments and opportunities ● Education addresses ag contributions to degradation

			● Promotion of urban and rural partnerships ● Roadside vegetation has helped Scott and Muscatine Conservation-equipment, seeding, etc.
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Negative: ● Not enough trail funding	●	●	Negative: ● Lack of support-Leopold Center ● Need to support local communities and farms ● Concerns-farming practices and manure management ● WQ initiative should be non-negotiable-not voluntary
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Acquire functional habitats ● Lost grove needs signs ● Urban trout signs ● Fully fund REAP out of IWILL if ⅜ cent passes in future ● IWILL trust fund can't be touched for anything but what is in legislation ● Extend REAP sunset date ● Write a trail grant from Nichols to Muscatine to Davenport then across bridge to Illinois ● Cities or counties must have a trail plan in place ● Need to find a way to measure and report success of trails (tie message to economic development) ● Trails coordinator in place to do events with trails ● ⅜ sales tax increase for IWILL	● Increase CEP ● Don't sunset REAP ● Fully fund REAP ● Increase funding significantly for environmental education	●	● Mitigate and adapt for climate change ● Funding for combating invasive species ● Use roadsides and trails for corridors to nature ● Explore opportunities for streambank stabilization ● Refinement for unified process for water quality assessments ● Educate more about REAP ● Continue to develop and promote WQ assessment process ● More cooperation between agriculture and conservation-leg would lead the charge

Region 10: Oxford (Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Washington)

Attendance: 54
Chair: Dick Heft
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends removing the sunset for REAP. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends increasing the program authorization to $40 Million to account for inflation for the past 30 years. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports IWILL with the approved allocations. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP is kept unchanged. Vote: Unanimous
5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Match $ for projects ● Base natural areas	● Competitive grants (ex. take a kid outside) used curriculum, materials and training workshops. ● Dedicated funding for every county, as well.	● Preservation & Interpretation (need to know what they are seeing) ● Get the experience of visiting historical sites ● Draws tourism ● Historic sites are often near tied to outdoor recreation	● Properties purchased-Public use ● Restoration/habitat improvement ● Urban Conservation ● Roadside vegetation ● Watershed management ● Pollinators ● Trails ● Health/Economy
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Promote opportunities for people enjoy the outdoors ● Community icons & draw ● Bike Trails ● Recreation variety ● Basic outdoor skills ● Making Iowa attractive to retain our educated young people Negative: ● Ease to find areas ● Failure to promote	● By educating the people in the community, it will inspire more participation in conservation. It will also teach the next generation about REAP and conservation. ● Competitive grants can discourage project applicants over time.	Negative: ● When there isn't enough funding for all worthy projects ● Some might say that preservation impedes development ● Misunderstanding of why public $ money is spent on this	Positive: ● Bio sensitive areas - streams ● Rare species ● Price Creek ● Floodplain restoration ● Access points on rivers ● Trails
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Full funding ● Fund IWILL – People have spoken ● Serve the people – Iowa Leg. ● Comprehensive water quality ● Keep formula the same ● Natural Resource Enhancement emphasis	● REAP can improve by reaching more young people in the public-school systems. ● Also, by building more green buildings such as schools REAP can educate students.	● More funding	● Fully FUND! ● Iowa water & Land Legacy Fund ● Can deposit 5 cents to REAP

Region 11: West Des Moines (Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren)

Attendance: 40
Chair: Cindy Valin
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends reauthorizing REAP. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends maintaining the REAP formula. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million annually. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends when NRORTF is passed, REAP should also be fully funded. Vote: Unanimous

5) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports raising the sales tax at least ⅜ of one cent to fully fund NRORTF. Vote: Unanimous
6) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends forming four city categories with input from smaller towns. Vote: Unanimous
7) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports the NRORTF formula as originally passed in Iowa Code Ch. 461. Vote: Unanimous
8) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the DNR works with County Conservation Boards to identify environmentally sensitive areas of the state. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Provide open spaces such as multi-use rec trail, connections, water trails, wildlife corridor ● Community beautification-community building ● Quality of life ● Connects nature and public health ● Economic development ● Equal opportunity for all communities ● Workforce development ● Young professionals	● Deeper and more effective interpretation of natural resources and related issues ● Supporting the county conservation board system to leverage other funds	● Jordan House ● Bennett School-1 room schoolhouse	● Riparian buffer strips ● Land acquisition (remnant prairies and rare and unique features) ● LRTF ● Native vegetation in roadside ● Cost share in every county ● Complemented by education ● Workforce development for quality of life ● Health benefits (mental and physical) of outdoor recreation
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Helps leverage other funds Negative: ● Lack of funding ● Competition against small/medium communities ● City size funding formula ● Unreliable funding sources	Positive: ● Getting family and youth outdoors ● Improving outdoor safety ● Preserve and protect critical land habitat Negative: ● It is hard to know specifically what REAP directly creates as outcomes because multiple $ sources are combined in projects-impacts are attributed to non-REAP funded projects	● Acquire property around Jordan House for city park ● Cataloging archives-new facilities	Positive: ● Synergies: T.EL.C. project, steam restoration, stormwater, recreation, conservation ● Seed money of leveraged $2 million for boathouse in Des Moines wouldn't have happened without REAP ● Easter Lake and Badger Creek work that has been done to improve water quality ● Big Creek Lake watershed ● Madrid bird-friendly park-helping meet criteria for bird friendly Iowa community Negative: ● Challenge to keep up with changing land use in watersheds
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Re-authorize REAP ● Sunset clause removed ● Make permanent ● Fully fund ● IWILL	● A comprehensive review/study of REAP conservation ed in Iowa:	● Create a vision for what is important to preserve (structures, collections)	● Holistic-address water quality issues in addition to nutrients ● Don't lose what we have achieved ● Invest money locally-ROI

● Protect vulnerable lands through acquisition	a. benefits/outcomes, goals, significant changes b. impacts of state infrastructure/funding changes on REAP cons ed c. Impact of funds-# of children engaging with outdoors/natural resources	● Do an inventory-history can get lost (ex. Pioneer cemetery) ● Darling house in Des Moines	● Remove sunset and fully fund ● Maintain existing formula

Region 12: Carroll (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Sac)

Attendance: 24
Chair: Jack Wardell
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends extending REAP language for at least 15 years. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the formula not be changed and no restrictions on how the money is spent. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that IWILL is passed in addition to REAP. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
Trails, cities, state parks ● improved access on many levels	● Annual Winter Solstice weekend for educators at Springbrook ● Springbook closed? Why? Is it held somewhere else? ● Nature centers & similar facilities ● Educational materials & kiosks		● REAP for conservation ● Land acquisition/public use/habitat ● Soil and Water Conservation District funding (water quality, native species plantings, etc.) ● T & E Habitat
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
● No funding for Maintenance ● Land Acquisition ● More Public Hunting	● Educational displays ● Not enough $$		● Wildlife Habitat ● Quality of life ● Economic Development
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Additional funding for Maintenance ● More Trails ● More FUNDING	● Needs to reach public (boards, schools) as to what is available ● Improve contacts		● Funding (IWILL) ● No change to formula

Region 13: Shenandoah (Fremont, Mill, Montgomery, Page)

Attendance: 11
Chair: Rebecca Castle
Approved Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the formula intact as per the original legislation. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports an increase in the sales tax which will in turn fully fund REAP. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends eliminating the sunset or extending for another 20-25 years of REAP. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● 3.4 billion in recreation business to Iowa ● Allowing more opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation ● Wabash TRACE paid for by REAP money, depot ● Admiral Trail ● Depot Trail ● Shen Historical Museum ● Property acquisition for hunting/fishing grounds as well as habitat ● Waubonsie State Park improvements ● This area is predominantly natural with small cities-if we could capitalize on our natural areas it could help the area's economy ● Outdoor recreation important part of health and wellness	● Conservation education trailer-partnering with hungry campus alliance and Pott SWCD ● Stream trailer and rainfall simulator ● Hosting conservation education days with local schools ● Landscape displays and wellhead protection displays ● Support of local naturalist programs-outdoor classrooms	● Archaeological assessment in Loess Hills through state Archaeologist ● Wabash depot ● Rev Todd House ● Preserving, interpreting and cataloging remnant historic fabric-education leads to appreciation, preservation can lead to economic benefits through tourism	● Conservation practices applied to the land-terraces, windbreaks, native prairie plantings
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Help with improvements to parks and watershed ● Education experiences ● Hunting/fishing opportunities Negative: ● Too competitive-not enough funding ● Funding needs that don't quite fit $ opportunity	Positive: ● Helps bring kids to outdoors ● Connects people to nature ● Promotes environmental awareness ● Builds community involvement Negative: ● Not enough funding	Positive: ● Structural improvement-curb appeal and mothballing ● Matching funds-able to leverage other funds ● Inspire other projects to apply Negative: ● Not enough money ● Public isn't educated about grant requirements	Positive: ● Funding source for conservation practices that might not otherwise get funded
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			

● Need more public land access ● Need more river access points ● Put some of those fish hatchery ponds/holding areas in this area ● Need a designated water trail ● Increase other unusual recreation like ATV/UTV trails/parks, a pump track ● Shooting range needed	● Funding should increase from $350,000 or be a percent of the pie ● Devote a % of funding to rural or urban-don't have small communities with fewer resources competing with large cities/towns ● Look at sustainable conservation ed funding for county naturalist or other local conservation educators	● REAP should be fully funded ● Historic tax credits/other funding sources have changed-maybe look at changes as they may be relevant ● Increase education about the program and requirements	● Continuing conservation practices: terraces, windbreaks, native prairie plantings ● Additional emphasis on water quality ● Do more of the same

Region 14: Afton (Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, Union)

Attendance: 22
Chair: Kate Zimmerman
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends eliminating the sunset clause. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports funding IWILL in addition to REAP or conjunction. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the REAP formula as is. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Used as matching funds to complete project - $ goes further ● REAP needed because other funding sources are being cut - Go to funding source ● Broad use of funds - including new projects and maintenance ● Put a lot of acres into public ownership ● Allow parks to grow and modernize with public demand ● Invest in Resources and Development that brings in revenues - tourism $ ● People like nice things - brings people to communities if they have nice places ● To recreate with nice amenities ● REAP allows CLB's to grow vs just maintaining status quo	● More $$ for conservation education	● Most significant things REAP has done for Historic preservation ● Ties to education ● Ties to tourism	● Project Coordinators help carry out the projects ● Parks, lakes, cabins ● Tourist
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			

Negative: ● Not enough money ● Arbitrary and unclear scoring criteria county conservation grants Positive: ● Development at 3-mile Rec Area ● Cabins, roads, camping, showers, beach parking, fish cleaning, lake renovation ● Grants are VERY competitive- very high-quality projects are being funded ● Adams County Lake Icaria, cabins, shower houses, campgrounds, check in stations ● Trail projects - McKinley Park ● Matching funds for Fish Habitat projects ● Union County, Cedar Park, Grovesback wildlife, 3-mile lake	● More applications in this region	● Plus - lots of visitors (Round Barn in Taylor County) ● Preservation of historic sites/info that might have otherwise been lost (covered bridge)	● Leveraging money to make REAP $$ go further
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
	● Target education at a younger ages - targeted fund ● Interpretive signs	● Plus - separate categories ● grants ● matching funds	● Add more money to REAP ● There is more demand than there are funds, which shows the success of REAP ● There are NO bad projects

Region 15: Oskaloosa (Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren, Wapello)

Attendance: 46
Chair: Eric Systema
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends removing the sunset from 2021. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends keeping the REAP formula as is. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress encourages the legislature to support funding IWILL. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Access - trails parks, natural areas, rivers, etc. ● Lower Des Moines River waterway ● American Gothic Regional Trail (hiking)	● Holding Assemblies or meetings ● Funding with grant programs putting it towards education ● Knowing exactly where grants/funds go in a county ● Building trails, allows connections to be made in the communities and in turn	● Without funding a lot of towns could not have had adequate resources for ● Museums, document preservation and historic areas	● Funding equation works! ● Land - IE Cedar Bluffs ● MuchaKinock Watershed - accomplishments ● Cooperation among groups & private land owners

Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positives: ● Community pride, involvement, volunteers ● Economic benefits ● Foster partnerships - public/private Negatives: - self-interest??	● Encourages education. ● Field Days - Little Lick Creek, Bussay Abandoned, and in addition to public meetings	● Provides funding to a wide variety of sources ● But not enough funding to go around	Negative: property tax Positive: Keomah updates
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● 5-year plan - more cooperation, connections, education & explanations ● $$$Money$$$	● Holding Assemblies/meetings ● Start education at a younger age ● Mahaska - ELC growth ● Van Buren-county involvement ex: REAP commission ● Information to residents about where grants are going - monthly?	● Need to continue historic preservation because you have to respect history as it has ● Evolved in order to pursue the future	● Expand water quality benefits ● Pass IWILL ● Private landowners & Public

Region 16: Burlington (Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa)

Attendance: 44
Chair: Al Ourth
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends removing the sunset clause from the REAP legislation, so that it can continue. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports funding the NRORTF and using the formula in Code. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20M. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP distribution stays the same. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Public hunting ● Land Acquisition ● Facility updates ● Trails & water trails ● Parks & recreation ● Protecting habitats ● Wildlife improvement ● Facilitations health & wellness ● Economic Development ● Quality of life ● Water Quality	● Funding Curriculum Development, Funds for materials ● Development of nature centers/education centers ● EE employment ● Teacher resources and trainings ● Publications ● Land improvements ● Why it matters: Allows us to change/adapt to new standards and teaching.	● Downtown Burlington has benefited significantly ● Several train deposits (Keokuk most recently) ● Museums (Phelps House, Des Moines County Historical) ● Digitization of records, surveys ● Nominations of historical properties to National Register ● Old Threshers	● Natural Resources Conservation/Water Quality ● Purchased Recreation ground/Habitat ● Upkeep on existing recreation acres ● Complete ground improvements (Big Hollow)

	● Bring opportunities for new audiences ● Brings people to areas ● Helps inspire people to protect U care for our supplements ● Existing funds, Funds for change		● Watershed improvement projects (Buffers, Riparian, etc.) ● Purchasing Hwon Flats ● REAP has provided a stable funding source for tree planting, timber stand improvement, etc.
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● More places to recreate ● Quality of life ● New types of activities ● Environmental Education ● Economic/tourism/health ● Protection of hunting heritage Negative: ● Lack of funding ● Rule breakers ● Taking land off tax roll	Negative: ● Become reliant on funds that can change ● example: Naturalists salary funded/partially Positive: ● Funds materials buses, displays, classroom programs, some naturalist ● Changes to existing programs, structures	Negative: ● Spent money on things that shouldn't be kept or can't be sustained (ongoing maintenance) ● Lots more positives than negatives ● So many needs, not enough funding ● Historical needs that is being met that other funds are not available for ● Building rehab and digitization, for example.	● No Negative Impact ● Positives - trail systems, tree planting, timber stand improvements, etc.
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● FULLY FUND REAP ● Fund IWILL - The Trust ● Make more people aware ● Promote REAP Education ● Another idea for additional funding like License plates ● Better coordination of DNR & CCBs, other agencies Pf, Turkey Fed, TNC & others	● Teach, Experience, Re-enforce--Hands on learning ● Habitat Development Matching curriculum with classroom standards	● More funding for historic preservation ● But fully funding REAP could also accomplish this ● Leopold Childhood home ● Zion School -presentation of one-room school ● Virginia Grove School ● Burlington Depot	● More funding ● Encourage groups to work together (Ag/urban) ● More water quality emphasis ● More public education about water quality ● FUND THE TRUST

Region 17: Council Bluffs (Cass, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby)

Attendance: 17
Chair: Bob Zimmerman
Motions:

1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends removing the sunset from REAP. Vote: Unanimous
2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that conservation education funds be increased and remain taken off the top. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous

4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress supports a sales tax increase of ⅜ of a cent that would fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Trust Fund (IWiLL), that will continue the REAP program with the current formula. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Adult Education ● Increase understanding of natural systems & land managements ● Increased outdoor usage	●	● Helped protect historic resources ● Increased public awareness of historic resource ● Provided money that aren't otherwise available	● Land acquisition for prevention and conservation ● Important for habitat and soil conservation ● Water quality (by product) or good habitat restoration
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive/Negative: ● Matching difficulty ● Local Economics ● Local Coordination ● Help bring tourist from out of state ● Improve quality of life through outdoor recreation ● Target specific user groups that hasn't been targeted before.		Positive: ● Protected resources ● Assists diverse groups, private, non-profit & government Negative: ● Not enough funding to address needs	● Helped build a trail network in Council Bluffs -- biking in Iowa ● Manage urban forest ● Prairie Rose -- accessible fishing ● Not enough money - or maintain what we used to get. ● Clear there are unmet needs
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
●	● Public Perception/ Education ● Media Relations: Local/State ● Focus on Landforms ● Special Allocation of Funds ● More money for staff/project administration ● More local partner cost share/match ● Split DNR	● Fully fund REAP ● Don't change the formula ● Fund I Will	● Fully fund at $20 million ● Trail maintenance is not eligible, but some of these trails are 20+ years old and funding ● Is needed to maintain/preserve investments. But know that will have to come from somewhere else. ● Match requirements?

Region 18: Chariton (Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe, Wayne)

Attendance: 17
Chair: Jim Nelson
Motions:

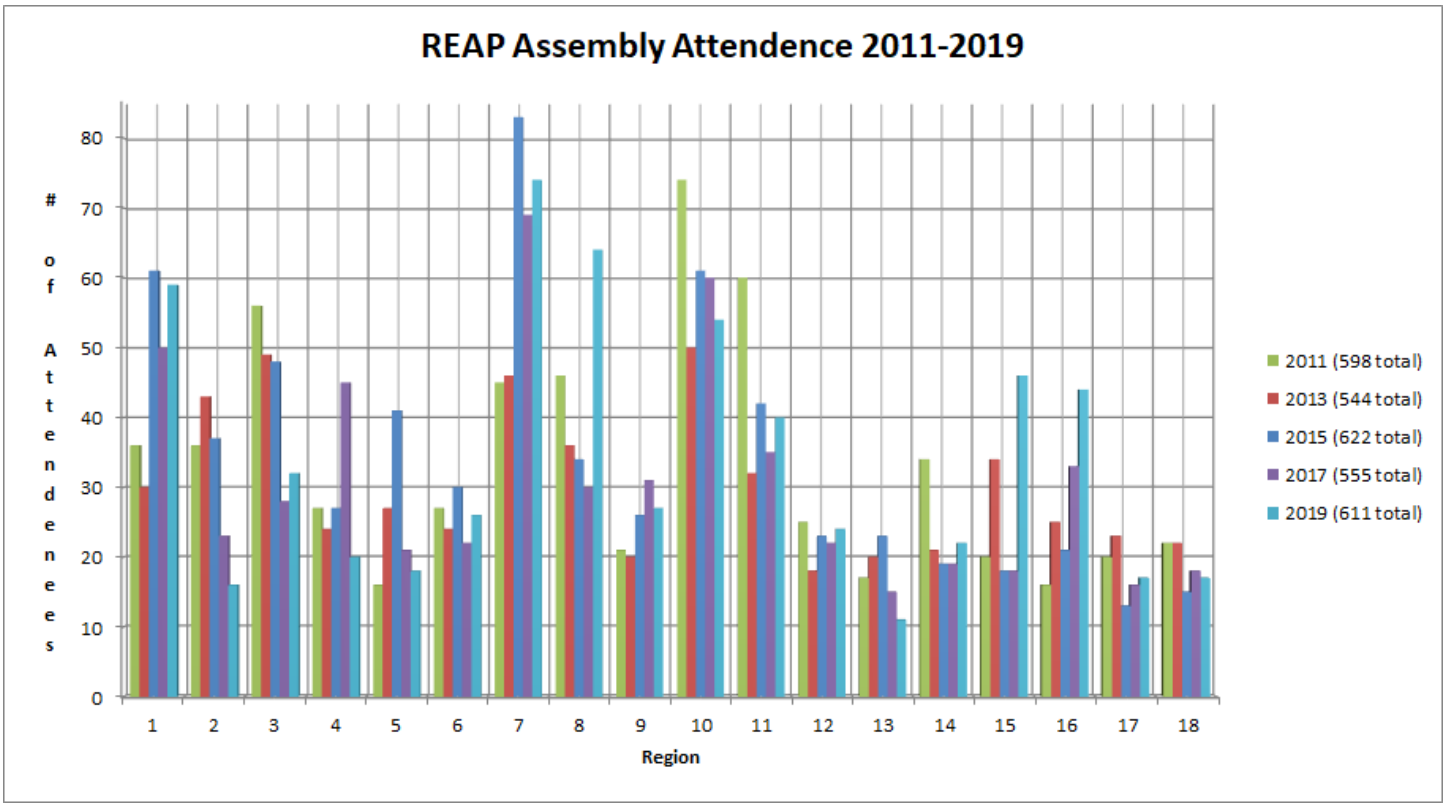
1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress fully supports and pass a sales tax with current formula from 2010. Vote: Unanimous

2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the Iowa Legislature and Governor Reynolds fully funding REAP at $20 Million. Vote: Unanimous
3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous
4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2020 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP sunset be extended to 2036. Vote: Unanimous

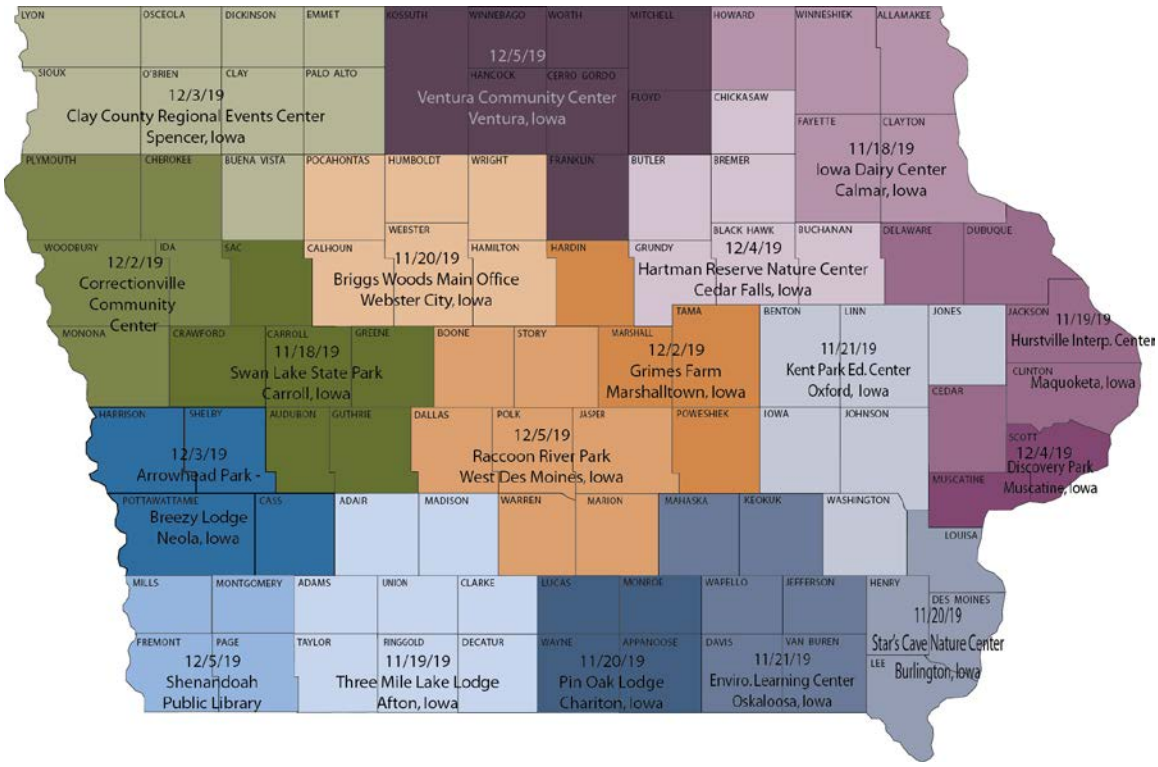
Small Group Responses:

Outdoor Recreation	Conservation Education	Historic Preservation	Natural Resources Conservation
Most significant things REAP has done and why are these important to the place you live and the state?			
● Great trails ● Local match toward projects ● Improvements to the community	●	● Monroe Co. Theatre ● Hotel Chariton rehabilitation ● Supplemental money received for larger projects ● Museum funding ● Collections expansion ● Microfilming ● Historical preservation ● Genealogy	● Terraces-controlling surface water ● Educate on what REAP does ● Water quality-watershed improvement ● Native grass plantings offered ● Improved recreation ● Increased tourism ● Supports standard ag practices
Positive and negative impacts of REAP projects in your community?			
Positive: ● Provides some opportunity Negative: ● Too competitive/challenging to obtain grant ● Committee make up needs to be more flexible-no one from Wayne Co ● REAP funds offset county funding opportunities ● Number of people required to be on the committee-low population in county prevents formation ● No committee=no grant	Positive: ● Allocations to CCB's for programming and staff ● Environmental education (teaches lifelong learning) ● Public outreach through Naturalist Negative: ● Grant review process-unfair competition ● Less population impacts small counties	Positive: ● Economic development through tourism Negative: ● Applications are a lot of work and not user-friendly ● People don't know funding is available	Positive: ● Funding for native grass and forestry practices ● Supports more recreation-based landowners ● Can be used for urban needs ● Water quality improvements Negative: ● Unfortunate funding is decreasing
Vision for next 5 years: changes or eliminations?			
● Change make up of committee to match current population dynamics ● Reauthorize REAP ● Increase amenities and outdoor activities in rural counties ● Sacrifice roadside vegetation ● Remove historical preservation and water quality/nutrient reduction from REAP ● Fund IWILL	● Fully fund REAP ● Encourage younger generation to get involved in outdoor conservation programs	● Marking mining towns, historical post offices and routes of travel ● Building to preserve for communities, school and public use	● Diversify support for more modern conservation practices ● Support forage based/small grain-based systems ● Increase support for forestry and timber stand improvement ● Continue REAP ● Fully fund REAP

Recent REAP Assembly Attendance:



- **32% of Attendees in 2019 attended a REAP Assembly for the first time.**

2019 REAP Assembly Schedule

- All meetings 6:30-8:00 p.m.