2024 REAP Congress Report

Report to: Governor Kim Reynolds

Iowa Legislature

Natural Resources Commission Department of Natural Resources

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Department of Transportation

Department of Administrative Services





Inquiries 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
Marcus Branstad, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission

As required by Section 455A.17, Code of Iowa, I present you with the report of the 2024 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress which was conducted on January 20, 2024 in the chambers of the House of Representatives.

54 of the 90 delegates attended REAP Congress. Those delegates were elected by 431 lowans in the fall during 19 regional assemblies conducted throughout the state. For the first time, REAP Congress was postponed from its originally scheduled date of January 13, 2024 due to severe winter weather and unsafe travel conditions affecting all of Iowa. Due to postponement, many of the delegation were unable to attend.

lowans 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 2024 REAP 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, eliminate the REAP sunset date and thank the Governor and 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. Public participation, culminating in actions by the Congress, makes it a truly grassroots led program. The delegates thank you for the support you have given and request your continued support of REAP in the future.

Sincerely,

Kayla Lyon, Director Iowa Department of Natural Resources

2024 REAP Congress January 20, 2024 House of Representatives Chambers

Roll Call

55 of the 90 delegates to the REAP Congress attended. The delegates were elected by 431 lowans in the fall of 2023 during 19 regional assemblies conducted throughout the state. A list of the Delegates by County is included at the end of this report (attachment 2).

Opening Remarks

Michelle Wilson, REAP Coordinator, called the Congress to order at 9:45 a.m. and prepared them for their deliberations.



The Department of Natural Resources Director, Kayla Lyon gave the opening welcome including an update on outdoor recreation and its importance to Iowans and the state's economy based on recent data found in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Kevin Beichley with the Department of Transportation Administrative Services Division, Finance Bureau also provided information on the value of REAP on the variety of trail systems throughout the state, REAP license plates, and the vegetative roadside management through the Living Roadway Trust Fund. Since adopted, over 50,000

acres of roadsides have been put back into prairie habitat that provides safety as a natural snow fence, as witnessed during the most recent severe weather, as well as aesthetics during our spring and summer months.

Election of Congress Chair

Rod Marlatt of Fayette County was elected unanimously. Chair Marlatt set his expectations for the day, to have a unified voice and asked the body to keep the conversation and motions germane to the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund. Chair Marlatt chose to not be a voting member of the delegation.

2024 REAP Assembly Report

During September and October 2023, 19 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) assemblies were conducted throughout Iowa. 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. 431 Iowans participated in the REAP assemblies.

In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 81 motions that were forwarded to REAP Congress for consideration at their January 20, 2024 gathering.

Out of those assembled in the fall of 2023, 42% were new to REAP and were attending their first REAP Assembly. A majority of the delegation stood when Michelle Wilson, DNR REAP Coordinator, asked members to stand if they were new to REAP and if it was their first time attending REAP Congress (photo at right).

Individual assembly reports, including specific information addressed in each of the 19 assemblies are included as Attachment 1 at the end of this report.



Action Items by REAP Congress

- 1. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends the elimination of the sunset date for permanent authorization of REAP. Golightly, moved. Horsley, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried
 - a. Discussion on the critical nature of the sunset date. It is currently set to expire in 2026.
- 2. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at \$40 million. Bartelt, moved. Luscombe, second. Vote: Aye: 6, No: 47, NV: 1. Motion failed.
 - a. Discussion that authorizing language currently does not allow for a \$40 million allocation. There needs to be a change in authorizing language to allow for the dollar amounts to change beyond the \$20 million in current law.
- 3. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP at \$20 million. McCarley, moved. Horsley, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends to retain the current REAP formula. Benton, moved. Luscombe, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.
 - a. Discussion on the delegation being open to negotiating on the formula in order to achieve funding for the Natural Resource Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (NRORTF). Recommendation for a separate motion to accomplish this.
- 5. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends increasing the authorizing language for REAP funding from \$20 million to \$40 million. McCarley, moved. Golightly, second. Vote: Aye: 41, No: 12, NV: 1. Motion carried.
 - a. Discussion with the removal of the sunset date to permanent authorization, there is value to also increasing the funding authorization. Other perspectives included removing the specific dollar figure in the authorizing language and adding a statement that funding is based on current rates of inflation.
- 6. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends changing authorizing language for REAP funding to current inflation. Bieret, moved. Golightly, second.

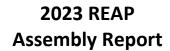
- a. Discussion from many members on what the exact amount of the fund from when the law was enacted in 1989 indexed to inflation today would be. Acknowledgment that this is a good path and maybe the right time, if the authorizing language could be changed to a permanent authorization but it is difficult to get done. Bieret agrees to amending language on the original motion to add clarity.
- b. Amendment: **The 2024 REAP Congress recommends increasing authorizing language for REAP funding to \$50 million based on inflation from 1989.** Golightly, moved. McCarley second. Vote: Aye: 38, No: 13, NV: 3. Motion carried.
- 7. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends fully funding REAP using the state surplus. Hammond, moved. Rust, second.
 - a. Discussion on what this motion is really asking. Concern from the body about determining where funds are coming from. Clarification that recently REAP has been receiving \$12 million, if that is the amount from RIIF again this year, the request would be for the remainder up to full allocation of \$20 million to come from the state surplus. Hammond agrees to amending language on the original motion to add clarity.
 - b. Amendment: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends utilizing the state's surplus to fully fund REAP in 2024. Hammond, moved. McCarley second. Vote: Aye: 46, No: 7, NV: 1. Motion carried.
- 8. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress requests that eminent domain not be used for carbon pipelines that are private enterprises and do not qualify for eminent domain. Shafbauch, moved. Pohlman, second. Vote: Aye: 5, No: 47, NV:2. Motion failed.
 - a. Discussion ensued about the need for this request to move forward as it is not germane to the REAP program. The body wanted to move forward to vote as it does impact farmers and what they can control or not on their lands.
- 9. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends fully funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund through the passage of a 3/8th of a percent increase of lowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact. Benton, moved. Johnson, second.
 - a. Discussion on definition of current formula to mean formula as approved in 2010. Benton agreed to amend the motion to include 2010.
 - b. Amendment: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends 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, keeping the formula intact that was presented to the voting public in 2010. Nelson moved. Benton second. Vote: Aye: 51, No: 0, NV: 3. Motion carried.
- 10. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends that if the Legislature and Governor Reynolds want to change the formula for NRORTF that REAP Congress will have input. Benton, moved. Golightly, second. Vote: Aye: 35, No: 17, NV: 2. Motion carried.
 - a. Discussion ensued about how bringing the voice of REAP Congress delegates to the discussion would work. Recommended that it may be a delegate(s) that can provide input or the REAP Alliance on behalf of the REAP Congress.
- 11. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the Conservation Education Program Board as set in current law. Johnson, moved. Heldt, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.

- 12. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress supports the protection of and adding to public lands in Iowa. Wagner, moved. Maas, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.
- 13. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress supports providing more resources that could be used at the local level to explain what REAP is and how to use it. Golightly, moved. Luscombe, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.
- 14. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress supports funding for wildlife habitat in the state of Iowa. Heldt, motion. Huck, second. Vote: Aye: 53, No: 0, NV: 1. Motion carried.
- 15. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends that the Legislature and administrative offices use all reasonable resources to support water conservation and water quality in light of the drought of recent years. Pohlman, motion. Horsley, second. Vote: Aye: 51, No: 0, NV: 3. Motion carried.
- 16. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends that the Living Roadway Trust Fund administrative board stay intact into the future. Johnson, moved. Bieret, second. Vote: Aye: 50, No: 0, NV: 4. Motion carried.
- 17. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress recommends the reinstatement of the citizen water quality monitoring program as previously funded. Slocum, motion. Rust, second. Vote: Aye: 50, No: 0, NV: 4. Motion carried.
- 18. Motion: The 2024 REAP Congress sends their gratitude and appreciation to Governor Kim Reynolds and members of the Iowa legislature that have supported REAP and ask for support in the future. Benton, moved. Pohlman, second. Vote: Yes: 48, No: 0, NV: 6. Motion carried.

Closing Remarks

Susan Kozak, Director of Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship thanked the delegation for their work, putting forth 18 motions including the passionate discussion and care for Iowa's natural resources. The work that they just completed as delegates and the ongoing support from the Legislature and Governor Reynolds helps put windbreaks, stormwater management practices and native grasses on the ground. It supports projects with landowners, watershed projects, all for the benefit of Iowa's water quality.

Pohlman motion to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Copper second. Vote: Yes 49, No: 2, NV: 3. Motion carried.



During October 2023, 19 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. 431 Iowans participated in the 2023 REAP Assemblies. In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 81 motions that will be forwarded to the REAP Congress for consideration on January 13, 2024.

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

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. (15)
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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 lowa's statewide sales tax. (12)
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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 lowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact. (12)
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. (7)
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date for permanent authorization. (4)
- 6. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formulas intact. (4)
- 7. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact for the Natural Resources Trust Fund. (3)
- 8. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date. (3)
- 9. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2022 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 maintaining the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact. (1)
- 10. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at \$40 million. (1)
- 11. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at \$20 million or more without changing the formula. (1)
- 12. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP from the state's surplus. (1)
- 13. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports increasing the sales tax by 1 cent to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and other important natural resource programs.
 (1)
- 14. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support fully Funding REAP, or increase it and fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. (1)
- 15. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping REAP Funds as REAP. They should not be included into the Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund Formula. (1)
- 16. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund separate from local option sales tax. (1)
- 17. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports recommending the REAP Sunset date be extended to 2050. (1)
- 18. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports updating the REAP maximum currently at \$20 million to reflect current inflation adjustment for funding REAP. (1)
- 19. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress add small, medium and large categories for the County Conservation grant program. (1)

- 20. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the Conservation Education Program Board as set in current law. (1)
- 21. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports the REAP Conservation Education Board changing grant criteria to allow built infrastructure for educational purposes to be funded with REAP Conservation Education Program funding. (1)
- 22. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support the reinstatement of the citizen water quality monitoring program as previously funded. (1)
- 23. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports providing funding for all Watershed Management Authorities. (1)
- 24. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support the protection of public lands in Iowa and dispose of the concept of eliminating public lands. (1)
- 25. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports no future restrictions on cities, counties and the state's ability to purchase lands for public use. (1)
- 26. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports increased funding for wildlife habitat in the state of lowa. (1)
- 27. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports improving lowa's tree canopy post Derecho and Emerald Ash Borer. (1)
- 28. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports establishing a REAP program for the replacement of ash trees and/or storm damage. (1)
- 29. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports providing more resources that could be used at the local level to explain what REAP is and how to use it. (1)

Additionally, participants at each assembly broke into small groups by county to discuss how their county is meeting the goals of REAP. Each group utilized a template populated with questions to aid discussion. Some of the most common words captured on the templates from discussions were focused around the need for more or improved **partnerships**, **collaboration**, **resource sharing**, **education**, **preservation and planning** while also recognizing the great work counties, communities and regions have done. The following assembly reports contain some of the documented ideas on potential planned actions to REAP Goals moving forward.

Individual Assembly Summary

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

Attendance: 38 New to REAP: 12 Chair: Jenna Pollock Approved Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at \$20 million or more without changing the formula. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date for permanent authorization. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support the reinstatement of the citizen water quality monitoring program as previously funded. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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 lowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Continue to 	 Social media/ 	• More	 Libraries bringing 	• Adding	 Improve existing
promote	awareness of	communications	in speakers	playscapes	canoe launches
sustainable	public events	with private	 Younger people 	 Devote more 	and trails
conservation	Keep bird	landowners	involvement	time to	Work with

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
minded farming practices Well-attended water testing training Meeting people where they are Increase buffer strips Limit CAFOs Water retention structure to retain (drought concerns)	friendly flyways More trails (bike and mountain bike)	 Explore more partnerships involvement in county-wide comprehensive planning Restore the roadside program Revision the CCC Advance clean energy initiatives Rain gardens and bioswales in development areas 	 Externships for history-centered projects Reform the county historic preservation commission Relationships with indigenous people Preserve the story of dissolved communities Digitize historic photos and materials 	education Build connections between conservation and agriculture Educations on subsidies	 influencers Know that today's visitors are tomorrow's residents Mow to monarchs adoption Reduce tiling and move to retention and absorption

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

Attendance: 37 New to REAP: 16

Chair: Margo Underwood Approved Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP from the state's surplus. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date for permanent authorization. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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 maintaining the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact. Vote: Unanimous.

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Public/private partnerships Education and field days Partner with other local watersheds and watershed across county lines Groups need to come together Continued watershed projects Stormwater grants Plant more trees 	 Expand trail development Partnerships for tourism expansion Additional winter trail use opportunities Water trail designations Involve youth in human powered trails 	 Identify high priority areas Establish/repair habitat Roadway planning Update local planning 	 Educational UTV ride to historical locations Show the connections to the land Develop interpretive signage along trails and at nature centers 	 Better multiagency communication More outdoor education Work with underserved groups Use facilities of other organizations for programs 	 Make people want to live where they play Open communication, engage everyone

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
Create fun volunteer opportunities - clean up competition					

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

Attendance: 31 New to REAP: 16 Chair: Will Horsely

Approved Motions: Those assembled made no motions.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

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Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation &	Historic	Conservation Education and	Quality of Life
water quanty	Recreation	Enhancement	Preservation	Stewardship	Quality of Life
Funding for landowner BMPs Reach out to smaller communities to implement practices via SWCD or others Natural filters Improve watersheds Work with neighboring counties and states to improve water quality Plant more trees Continuing public education Oxbow restoration Targeted conservation practices on problem areas	 Additional parks and campgrounds Bike/Water Trails Expand and connect trails More lake access Maintain existing access Improve public areas Purchase new areas when available Shooting ranges 	 Continue prescribed burns or promotion of prescribed burns Continued habitat management Woody vegetation control Advertising success stories More natives and pollinator plants in the roadside, trails and open spaces Low head dam mitigations Work on improving water quality 	Work to document ethnic history Inventory of historical structures Collaborative efforts to preserve existing sites and museums Education opportunities to share history	Additional field days and expand program offerings Promote opportunities Master conservation classes Provide resources to landowners to learn about conservation	 Increase exercise opportunities through outdoor recreation Promote volunteerism More opportunities for outdoor recreation Land stewardship Preserve our history Engage public through awareness Recreational activities to support quality of life and make it attractive for young professionals

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

Attendance: 25 New to REAP: 6 Chair: Brian Stehr Approved Motions:

1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.

- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the Conservation Education Program Board as set in current law. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports the REAP Conservation Education Board changing grant criteria to allow built infrastructure for educational purposes to be funded with REAP Conservation Education Program funding. Vote: Unanimous.

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
Education and outreach Need for more cover crops Revive the county REAP Committees Expand ways to use funds Utilize practices Support nonprofits Continue to support and utilize conservation practices on CCB grounds Look at roadside programs	 Need to look at non-traditional partners for collaboration More youth and mentor opportunities Work to better utilize resources 	Improved communication Improved chemical application City Council education Hire roadside staff	Identify more historical sites	Referral board Outreach to teachers More funds to schools to help with bus drivers for field trips Change CEP grant parameters	 Develop partnerships Unite for community conservations Create lists of partnerships

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

Attendance: 16 New to REAP: 7 Chair: Matt Cosgrove Approved Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date for permanent authorization. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support the protection of public lands in Iowa and dispose of the concept of eliminating public lands. Vote: Unanimous.

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Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life	
 Continue education Continue water testing Implementing projects such as stormwater runoff Public access to nitrate levels Identify water quality projects collaboratively 	 Need more planning Partnerships Rental conversations Mountain bike trail additions Maintenance plan for existing trails 	 Continued education for landowners Seek out grant dollars Focus on urban conservation Land stewardship and habitat work focus 	 Place interpretive panels along river trails Historic information may fade if funding isn't made available to projects 	 More public outreach and education opportunities Invasive species work with volunteers 	 Gather public input Offer wide range of opportunities 	

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

Attendance: 28 New to REAP: 8 Chair: Mark Vavroch

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.

Sinal Group County Flamed Action ideas.							
Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life		
 Education on tree planting Master matrix for watersheds Lake Restoration 	 Work on the UTV Trail systems Trail maintenance Increase trails in wildlife areas Playgrounds for children Visioning for hiking and biking trails 	 Fish habitat improvement Drone spraying for invasive species Land acquisition Get resources back to prairies and wetlands 	 Funding to coordinate archiving Public programs sponsored by historical societies 	 More general public education Ongoing school outreach Adult/ landowner education re: stewardship Outdoor classrooms Programs sponsored by soil commissioners 	 More trail connections Urban trails/ walkability Volunteer opportunities 		

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

Attendance: 27 New to REAP: 6 Chair: Roger White

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress support fully Funding REAP, or increase it and fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports providing funding for all Watershed Management Authorities. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formulas intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports increasing the sales tax by 1 cent to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and other important natural resource programs. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

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Water Quality	Recreation	Preservation & Enhancement	Preservation	Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Funding for watershed management authorities Private landowners implement projects Public managed land acquired is strategic and long-term Communication with smaller communities Work in watersheds Work with home and landowners to help 	 Need for park expansion Trail connections 	 Prioritize and implement local projects Implement habitat projects on existing public lands Conduct species inventories and develop management plans Ash tree removal and replacement 	Bring together the local tourism and businesses to the conversation and existing programming	 Educate policy makers More hands-on, longer time and pre & post activities Engage people where they are kiosks etc. Creek signs along roads and watersheds 	 Inclusive and accessible More engagement with youth

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

Attendance: 24 New to REAP: 0 Chair: Kaytlan Moeller

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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 lowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping REAP Funds as REAP. They should not be included into the Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund Formula. Vote: Unanimous.

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Incentivize implementation Lack of contact with landowners Have landowner ambassadors and hold information sessions More modeling in county/city areas of water quality practices Education enhancements 	 Advertise outside of the state/county Increase awareness Transportation improvements Engage more with rural communities 	 Invasive species plan More education on resources and planned preservation More focus on redevelopment and land acquisition 	 Public awareness of preservation needs Dig deeper into cultural and tribal nation history Integrate community engaged collection focus Showcase value of cultural preservation 	 Have conversations where people gather Remove barriers for transportation More workshops and events 	 Improve access, equipment, money, transportation, disability Education, know what is available in the community/ county Shift core values with education and stewardship

Region 9: Muscatine (Muscatine, Scott)

Attendance: 23 New to REAP: 11 Chair: Roger Kean

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote:
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact for the Natural Resources Trust Fund. Vote: Unanimous

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Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Collaborate water retention with recreation Slow release of water Outside organizations collaborate with private landowners Need for more cover crops Partnerships Education Find more funding 	Find improvements and repairs to existing infrastructure Utilize knowledge and experts Find funding for feasibility and engineering More publicity Need trails and parks planning Improve trails Need public input	 Score projects with preservation and enhancement higher Create a honeysuckle program More public education explaining the "why" Collaboration and education 	 Need for inventory, renovation/ updates and markers Partner with libraries to expand history Have a free and accessible database Need for land acknowledgement Find the stories 	 Educate the parents and adults who make the decisions Expand environmental education Use social media 	 Educate and inform the public Think outside the box with partners, government, public health, nonprofits and education Connectivity to access Need for indoor and outdoor space to recreate Show opportunities

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

Attendance: 35 New to REAP: 23 Chair: Shelby Williams

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP at \$40 million. Vote: Unanimous
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the formula as voted on by the citizens of Iowa intact for the Natural Resources Trust Fund. Vote: Unanimous.
- 6. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund separate from local option sales tax. Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Water quality outreach and education Wetland creation and restoration Leverage agencies knowledge and funds Promote awareness of what is going on Cooperate more with roadways - open communication Agency transparency Remove invasives Prairie management on private and public lands 	 Active transportation plans Link with other agencies Water Trails GIS on trails Sidewalk trail improvements Community outreach 	 Speakers at communities and clubs Matching funds more reasonable Promote the benefits to people Work with schools and homeowners Herbicide and lead reduction Land acquisition 	 Leverage matching funds Agencies working with local Best practices for preservation Tell the farm history Historic structure restoration 	Digital tourism Expert naturalist/ outreach	 Retain young lowans Utilize all resources Trail connections

Region 11: Grimes & Monroe (Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren)

Attendance: 27 New to REAP: 12

Chair: Kerri Van Zante and Mike Cox

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports recommending the REAP Sunset date be extended to 2050. Vote Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formulas intact. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Private/public partnerships Advocacy for funding County wide improvements WMA participation Work with contractors on local water quality problems Work with farmers on edge of field options Storm sewer improvements 	 Expand trails in the county Coordinate more Use recreation to bring people outdoors Look for unique opportunities Create trail plans 	 Create more roadside plans Create multidiverse species plans Inventory and action plans Expand areas Assess properties for threatened and endangered species 	 Restoration of CCC buildings to be used by the public Establish endowment funds for long term maintenance and planning More historic preservation projects Assess historic structures and tribal nation mounts 	 More hands-on learning Web learning Enhanced volunteer program Signage for education Increase cooperation between communities and county governments 	Plant more trees Promote the value of natural areas, trails to local governments

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

Attendance: 13 New to REAP: 2 Chair: Fred Long Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date. Vote:
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formulas intact. Vote: Unanimous
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports updating the REAP maximum currently at \$20 million to reflect current inflation adjustment for funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Water testing and long education of kids just starting Education and action Add more conservation programs (Save our Streams) Keep partnerships and resources sharing 	 Add shooting sports, bird watching, photography Media coordination Continue to upkeep and expand trails Ask for REAP money for more money for smaller communities 	 Have work days Plant more trees Tree removal and replacement budgets Restoration and education 	 Save historic places Increase education programs More funding for revitalization and demonstration Oral history projects 	 Put up REAP Signs and QR codes to promote the program Expand outdoor recreation opportunities Increase appreciation for water quality and conservation practices 	 Reinvigorate REAP in the community Communicate and lift each other up Share resources

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

Attendance: 12 New to REAP: 8 Chair: Patrick Schwab Approved Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress add small, medium and large categories for the County Conservation grant program. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
More communication	More communication between organizations	Collaborate on like projects			

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

Attendance: 13 New to REAP: 5 Chair: Doug Jones

Motions:

- 1) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous
- 3) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date for permanent authorization. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
Update comprehensive plans	 Roadstops for recreation Expand opportunities to use old quarry grounds Collaborate with local businesses to find money 	 Revisiting guidelines for reviewing lands before development More collaboration between nature conservation and agriculture conservation 		Volunteer opportunities to get communities involved	

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

Attendance: 20 New to REAP: 15 Chair: Rick Tebbs Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports removing the REAP sunset date. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Continue to promote conservation work Buffer and sediment control work 	 Partnerships between communities and county to develop comprehensive recreation plans Connect bike trails Improve water trail access 	 Work with foresters and private contractors Collaborate with partners for programming Reestablishment of prairie Plant more trees 	 Archive documents in newspapers, churches Identify historic structures 	Work with naturalist programs and schools	 Community visioning More family oriented activities Volunteer activities Promote locally Advertise and use new methods to get reach larger audiences

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

Attendance: 33 New to REAP: 24 Chair: Chris Lee Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund formulas intact. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports increased funding for wildlife habitat in the state of Iowa. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports improving lowa's tree canopy post Derecho and Emerald Ash Borer. Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Align conservation, soil, water, habitat improvement goals More outreach, field days, communication Continue water quality education Facilitate communication with local communities 	 Need trails Boat ramps, fishing and kayak launches Help local communities Promotions, education so people know what is available Partnership with schools 	 Partnerships Timber stand improvements Invasive species work Get more recycling and education Push for more money 	 Need more signage Education and outreach Incentives to participate Find ways to reach younger generations 	 Work with communities to make connections Develop interpretive centers Better use of Instagram Youth ambassadors 	 Newsletter topics for adult education Improve communication and collaboration Request more funds Try to change the way people feel about natural resources, ownership of areas

Region 17: Woodbine (Cass, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby)

Attendance: 20 New to REAP: 10 Chair: Scott Nelson

Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports establishing a REAP program for the replacement of ash trees and/or storm damage. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 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. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2022 REAP Congress supports the Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation placing signs on every bridge in Iowa to denote the stream name. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2022 REAP Congress supports the continuation of the timber reserve status law as currently written. Vote: Unanimous.
- 6. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2022 REAP Congress support the investigation of a private lands program for unique areas such as the Loess bluffs, fens, endangered species habitat or landforms and remnant prairies. Vote: Unanimous.

Siman Group County	Planneu Action lue	<u></u>			,
Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 Promote SWCD and NRCS practices (cover crops, no-till) Keep our water quality issues in front of elected officials Talk to our local citizens Collaboration with Google Continue to pursue permanent land protections 	 Promote IHAP on CRP lands Encourage more groups Expand relationships with bicycle clubs 	 Agencies hold joint field days for education Large replanting of trees Continue to protect as much property as possible Work with groups to educate 	 Promote integrated efforts Education of the public 	 Prairie strip management education Loess Hills preservation education Increase resident involvement Work with developers to educate about the importance of conservation 	 Work together to educate citizens and youth Public events Contact elected officials

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

Attendance: 9 New to REAP: 1 Chair: Skylar Hobbs

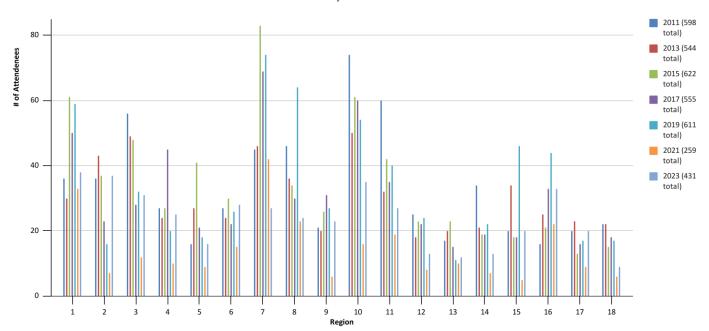
Motions:

- 1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
- 2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous
- 3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports providing more resources that could be used at the local level to explain what REAP is and how to use it. Vote: Unanimous

	Plainled Action Ide	Resource		Conservation	
Water Quality	Recreation	Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
 SWCD and NRCS continue to fund soil conservation practices Stormwater practices Stream and wetland mitigation projects Work with absentee landowners Promote programs creatively 	 Need more public hunting areas Need other amenities besides campgrounds, such as cabins Maintain what is existing Trails plans to connect the counties 	 Need more roadside planning Work with groups on land management Coordinated maintenance to control the spread of invasives 	 Need for digitization Education on process and funding to preserve 	 Only existing plan is the 5 year SWCD plan Need for partnering and learning from what is working 	

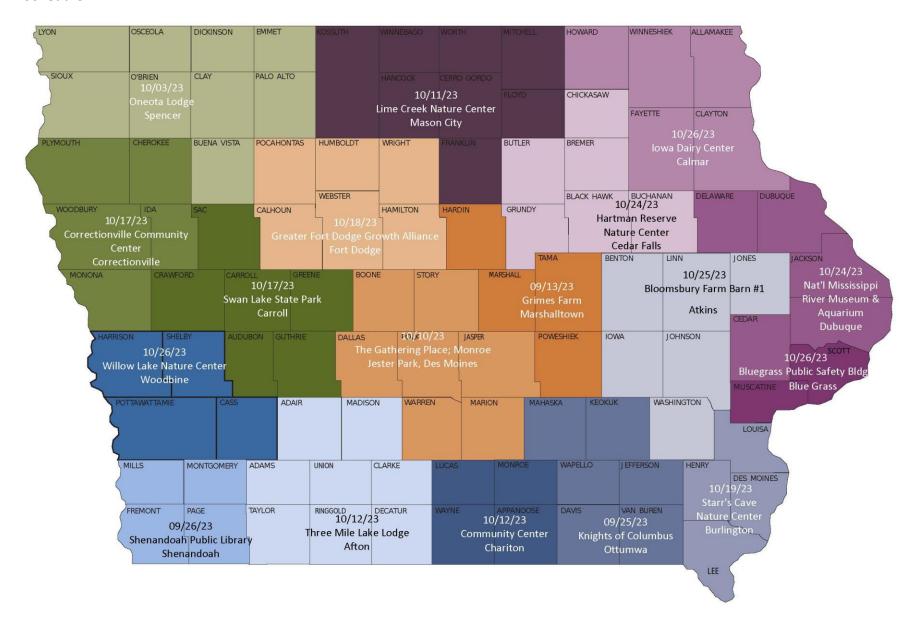
Recent REAP Assembly Attendance:

REAP Assembly Attendance 2011-2023



- In 2023 a team of representatives from each region assisted the REAP Coordinator in determining the right location and time of day to host the assembly. An extra assembly time in region 11 was added to offer options for citizens on the eastern side of the region.
- 42% of Attendees in 2023 attended a REAP Assembly for the first time.

REAP Schedule







REAP BUILDS COMMUNITIES

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BUILD YOURS?

COUNTY NAME: ______ NOVY DO TOO VVAIVI TO DOTA



Attachment 2: List of Congress Delegates and County

Delegate	County
Rob Allen	Palo Alto
Paul Bartelt	Winnebago
Robert Benton	Fremont
Kristen Bieret	Carroll
Steven Bieret	Carroll
Frank Boyer	Lee
Chris Clingan	Mahaska
John Copper	Webster
Richard Daugherty	Van Buren
Anna Golightly	Madison
Jill Grunwald	Scott
Kati Hammond	Muscatine
Rick Heldt	Boone
Claire Helmke	Woodbury
Mike Hendrickson	Black Hawk
Skylar Hobbs	Warren
Andrew Hockenson	Bremer
Alycia Horras	Keokuk
Will Horsley	Clay
Megan Huck	Linn
Greg Johnson	Buena Vista
Colin Johnson	Sac
Laura Jones	Cherokee
Lakota Kirst	Mitchell
Karl Kozak	Black Hawk
Kay Luscombe	Ida

Delegate	County
Michael Maas	Buchanan
Rod Marlatt	Fayette
Sara Martinez	Louisa
Rebecca McCarley	Linn
Charles Moore	Appanoose
Tylor Nelson	Poweshiek
James Nelson	Monroe
John Newman	Pottawattamie
Tim Palmer	Madison
Kit Paper	Hamilton
John Pohlman	Story
Gene Rathje	Wapello
Robert Ritcher	Benton
Jan Rolston	Sioux
Cole Rozendaal	Mahaska
Brenda Rust	Hancock
Barbara Sanders	Black Hawk
Jill Schaben	Harrison
Leo Schlunz	Lucas
Al Shafbauch	Tama
Neil Shaffer	Howard
Kenny Slocum	Clayton
Nate Steele	Cedar
Mankato Stonebrook	Polk
Brian Stroner	Hamilton

Delegate	County
Tim Wagner	Winneshiek
Amy Warnke	Madison
Caleb Waters	Henry
Ryan Wilcke	Cerro Gordo