



2023 REAP Assembly Report

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 Iowa'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 Iowa'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 Iowa. **(1)**
27. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports improving Iowa'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 Iowa's statewide sales tax, including keeping the current formula intact. Vote: Unanimous.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote sustainable conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media/ awareness of public events Keep bird 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More communications with private landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries bringing in speakers Younger people involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding playscapes Devote more time to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve existing canoe launches and trails 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

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 multi-agency 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to document ethnic history • Inventory of historical structures • Collaborative efforts to preserve existing sites and museums • Education opportunities to share history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional field days and expand program offerings • Promote opportunities • Master conservation classes • Provide resources to landowners to learn about conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to look at non-traditional partners for collaboration • More youth and mentor opportunities • Work to better utilize resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication • Improved chemical application • City Council education • Hire roadside staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify more historical sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral board • Outreach to teachers • More funds to schools to help with bus drivers for field trips • Change CEP grant parameters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue education • Continue water testing • Implementing projects such as stormwater runoff • Public access to nitrate levels • Identify water quality projects collaboratively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more planning • Partnerships • Rental conversations • Mountain bike trail additions • Maintenance plan for existing trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued education for landowners • Seek out grant dollars • Focus on urban conservation • Land stewardship and habitat work focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place interpretive panels along river trails • Historic information may fade if funding isn't made available to projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public outreach and education opportunities • Invasive species work with volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education on tree planting • Master matrix for watersheds • Lake Restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the UTV Trail systems • Trail maintenance • Increase trails in wildlife areas • Playgrounds for children • Visioning for hiking and biking trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish habitat improvement • Drone spraying for invasive species • Land acquisition • Get resources back to prairies and wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to coordinate archiving • Public programs sponsored by historical societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More general public education • Ongoing school outreach • Adult/ landowner education re: stewardship • Outdoor classrooms • Programs sponsored by soil commissioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for park expansion• Trail connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize and implement local projects• Implement habitat projects on existing public lands• Conduct species inventories and develop management plans• Ash tree removal and replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring together the local tourism and businesses to the conversation and existing programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Iowa'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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise outside of the state/county • Increase awareness • Transportation improvements • Engage more with rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species plan • More education on resources and planned preservation • More focus on redevelopment and land acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness of preservation needs • Dig deeper into cultural and tribal nation history • Integrate community engaged collection focus • Showcase value of cultural preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have conversations where people gather • Remove barriers for transportation • More workshops and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: Unanimous
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

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score projects with preservation and enhancement higher • Create a honeysuckle program • More public education explaining the "why" • Collaboration and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the parents and adults who make the decisions • Expand environmental education • Use social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active transportation plans • Link with other agencies • Water Trails • GIS on trails • Sidewalk trail improvements • Community outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage matching funds • Agencies working with local • Best practices for preservation • Tell the farm history • Historic structure restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital tourism • Expert naturalist/ outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain young Iowans • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand trails in the county• Coordinate more• Use recreation to bring people outdoors• Look for unique opportunities• Create trail plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create more roadside plans• Create multi-diverse species plans• Inventory and action plans• Expand areas• Assess properties for threatened and endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More hands-on learning• Web learning• Enhanced volunteer program• Signage for education• Increase cooperation between communities and county governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: 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
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

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water testing and long education of kids just starting • Education and action • Add more conservation programs (Save our Streams) • Keep partnerships and resources sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add shooting sports, bird watching, photography • Media coordination • Continue to upkeep and expand trails • Ask for REAP money for more money for smaller communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have work days • Plant more trees • Tree removal and replacement budgets • Restoration and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save historic places • Increase education programs • More funding for revitalization and demonstration • Oral history projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put up REAP Signs and QR codes to promote the program • Expand outdoor recreation opportunities • Increase appreciation for water quality and conservation practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More communication between organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update comprehensive plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadstops for recreation Expand opportunities to use old quarry grounds Collaborate with local businesses to find money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisiting guidelines for reviewing lands before development More collaboration between nature conservation and agriculture conservation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote conservation work Buffer and sediment control work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships between communities and county to develop comprehensive recreation plans Connect bike trails Improve water trail access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with foresters and private contractors Collaborate with partners for programming Reestablishment of prairie Plant more trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archive documents in newspapers, churches Identify historic structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with naturalist programs and schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Iowa's tree canopy post Derecho and Emerald Ash Borer. Vote: Unanimous

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align conservation, soil, water, habitat improvement goals • More outreach, field days, communication • Continue water quality education • Facilitate communication with local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need trails • Boat ramps, fishing and kayak launches • Help local communities • Promotions, education so people know what is available • Partnership with schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships • Timber stand improvements • Invasive species work • Get more recycling and education • Push for more money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more signage • Education and outreach • Incentives to participate • Find ways to reach younger generations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities to make connections • Develop interpretive centers • Better use of Instagram • Youth ambassadors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote IHAP on CRP lands Encourage more groups Expand relationships with bicycle clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies hold joint field days for education Large replanting of trees Continue to protect as much property as possible Work with groups to educate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote integrated efforts Education of the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prairie strip management education Loess Hills preservation education Increase resident involvement Work with developers to educate about the importance of conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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:

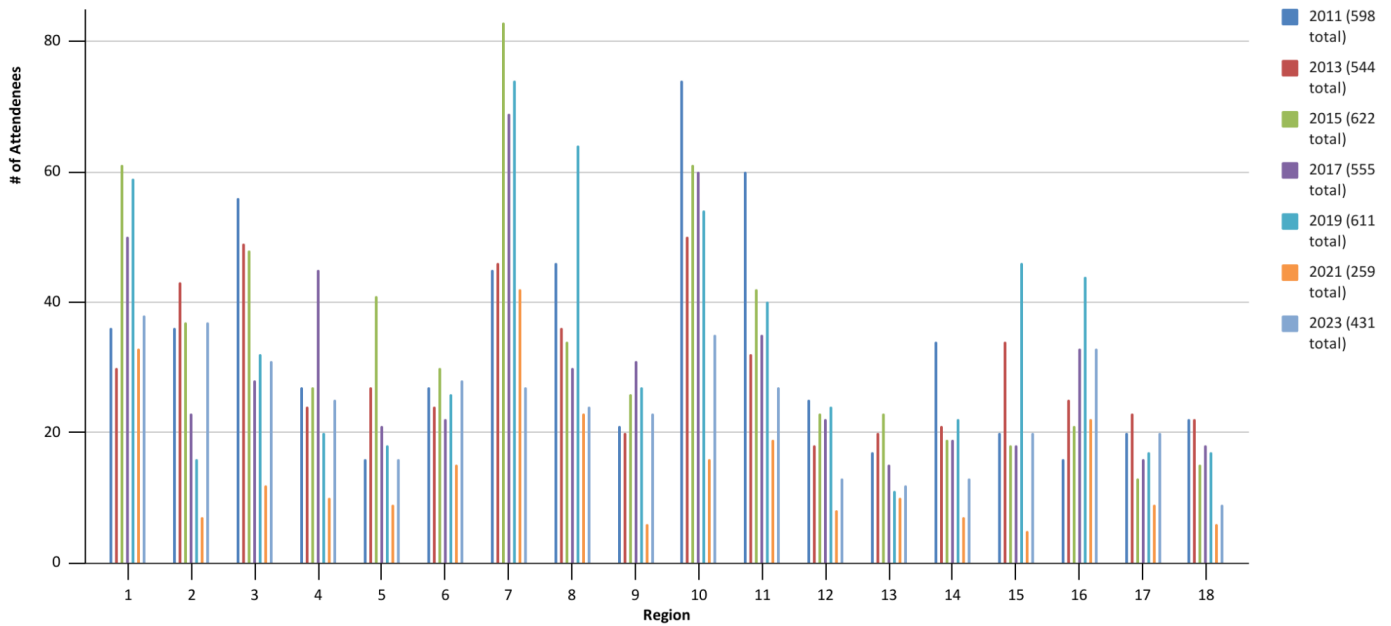
1. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports fully funding REAP. Vote: Unanimous
2. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports keeping the REAP formula intact. Vote: Unanimous
3. This REAP Assembly recommends that the 2024 REAP Congress supports providing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

Small Group County Planned Action Ideas:

Water Quality	Recreation	Resource Preservation & Enhancement	Historic Preservation	Conservation Education and Stewardship	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWCD and NRCS continue to fund soil conservation practices Stormwater practices Stream and wetland mitigation projects Work with absentee landowners Promote programs creatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more public hunting areas Need other amenities besides campgrounds, such as cabins Maintain what is existing Trails plans to connect the counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more roadside planning Work with groups on land management Coordinated maintenance to control the spread of invasives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for digitization Education on process and funding to preserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only existing plan is the 5 year SWCD plan Need for partnering and learning from what is working 	

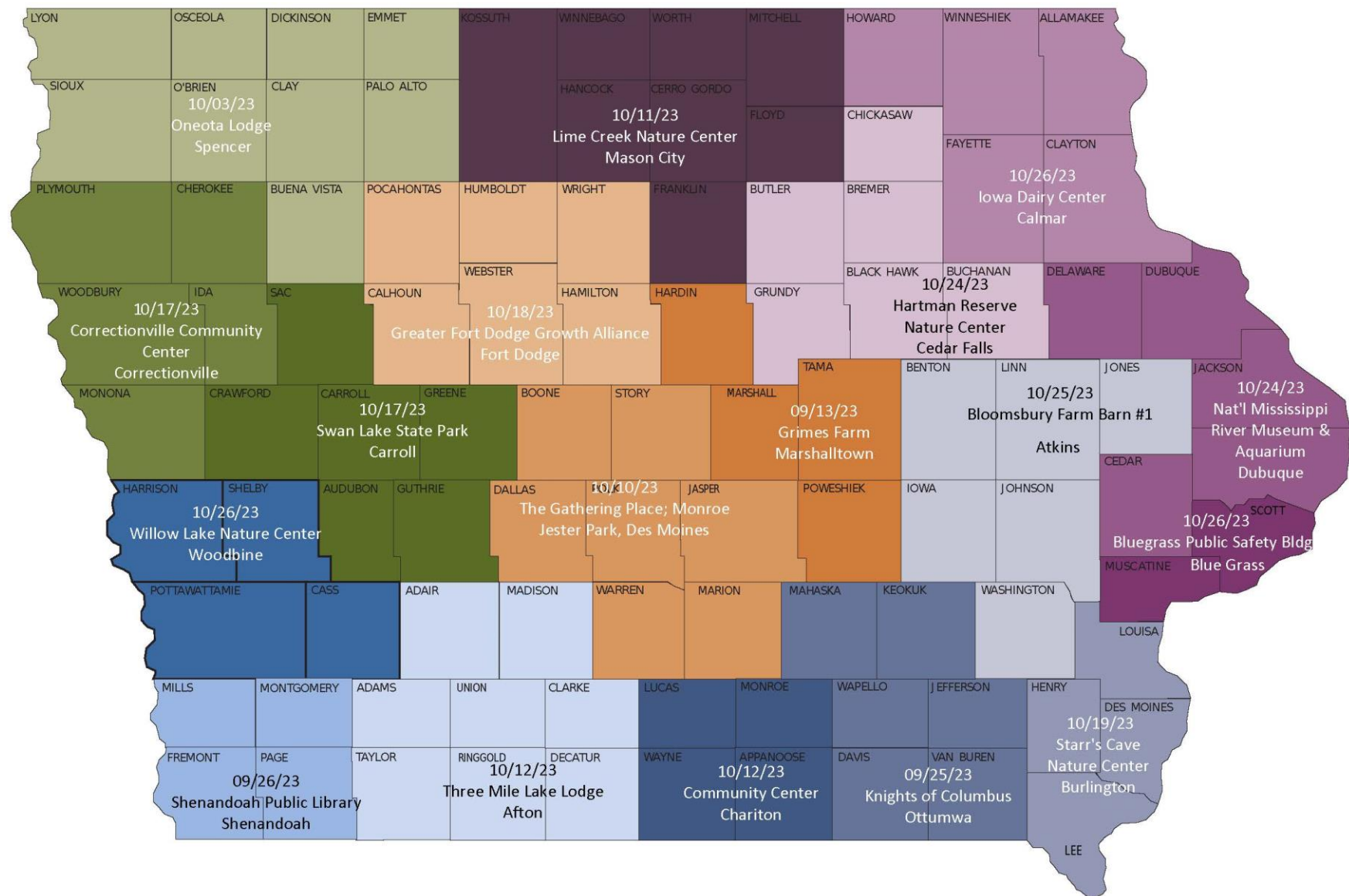
Recent REAP Assembly Attendance:

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?

QUALITY OF LIFE



Healthy, vibrant and sustainable resources enrich the lives of Iowans.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP



Increase knowledge on the importance of Iowa's natural and cultural resources while developing the skills, abilities and understanding of Iowan's role in protection, conservation and management.

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION



Preserve, protect, improve and enhance Iowa's natural resources in parks, roadsides, forests, prairies, wetlands, lakes and rivers.



RECREATION



Provide a wide variety outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences giving Iowans a reason to play and stay.



WATER QUALITY



Protect the state's surface and groundwater from point and nonpoint sources of contamination through watershed improvement projects and the installation of water protection practices by individual landowners.

HISTORIC PROTECTION



Foster pride and sense of connection to a community's heritage through the preservation, conservation and enhancement of Iowa's cultural and historic resources.





REAP BUILDS COMMUNITIES

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BUILD YOURS?

COUNTY NAME: _____



WATER QUALITY

What is our county doing to advance this goal?

What are the main threats our county faces when it comes to the quality of our water?

What am I doing to help improve water quality in my county?

Are there opportunities for collaboration that haven't been explored before?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



RECREATION

What is our county doing to advance this goal?

Are there a wide variety of opportunities for our residents to explore the outdoors?

What types of recreational experiences are missing in our county?

Are there opportunities for collaboration that haven't been explored before?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

What is our county doing to advance this goal?

What are the main concerns about the natural resources in our county?

Are there opportunities for collaboration that haven't been explored before?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

What is our county doing to advance this goal?

What historical resources do we value in our community?

What stories haven't been told or haven't been preserved? How are we documenting that?

Are there opportunities for collaboration that haven't been explored before?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

What is our county doing to advance this goal?

What are the critical messages in our county? How are we sharing that and engaging with our residents?

Are there opportunities for collaboration that haven't been explored before?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



QUALITY OF LIFE

How can we contribute to a healthier environment in our county, for Iowa?

How do we strengthen our community, sense of place?

How do we leverage partnerships to accomplish all of this?

Planned Actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.