

# Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP)

Friday June 24, 2022 · 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Zoom joining info

Video call link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83036603939?pwd=SWhwWTFvamJDVXI3a0Y0TXRRU1U4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 830 3660 3939

Passcode: cFa7=3

Dial by your location: 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 830 3660 3939

Passcode: 862230



**All are welcome to attend the entire public meeting.** Grant applicants are highly encouraged to attend via Zoom or on the phone during the Review of Proposals at 1 pm to answer any questions the REAP CEP Board may have for the project.

## Agenda Topics

9:30 AM - Welcome and introductions of new REAP CEP Board Members -Michelle Wilson

Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2021

REAP CEP Coordinator Updates - Michelle Wilson

- Status of Active Grants
- Request for Extension Grant #21-09, Izaak Walton League of America, Expanding the Save Our Streams Program in Iowa
- 2022 REAP CEP Board Meetings
  - September 29, 2022 Board Business Meeting 2 hours
  - November 1, 2022 Application Deadline
    - Deadline to review grants applications
    - December 15, 2022 business meeting and/or grant selection
- DNR Conservation & Recreation Grant Rule Updates - Michelle Wilson

REAP CEP Board Member Updates

General Discussion

Lunch Break

1:00 PM - Welcome & Video Meeting Tutorial - Michelle Wilson

Introductions - REAP CEP Chairperson

REAP CEP Coordinator Updates - Michelle Wilson

- Request for comment on improvements to SlideRoom for application submission

Process for Reviewing Proposals - REAP CEP Chairperson

Review of Proposals – Mini-Grant Applications for Funding

Review of Proposals – Standard-Grant Applications for Funding

Adjourn

Optional – Review of Remaining Applications for Improvement with Applicants

**Funding**

Available REAP CEP FY 23 Funds \$561,200

**Mini Grant** – Proposed order of discussion based on the average score of the REAP CEP Board independent scoring.

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>REAP Request</b>
Pottawattamie Conservation	A Land Ethic Workshop	\$3,000
River Action Inc.	Environmental Education, Public Access and Safety at Crow Creek WMA	\$3,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,500</b>

**Standard Grant** – Proposed order of discussion based on the average score of the REAP CEP Board independent scoring.

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>REAP Request</b>
BioEco Research & Monitoring Center	Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists Workshops	\$74,500
The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium	Rivers to the Sea 2.0 - Conservation, Education, Interpretation	\$21,305
Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation	Read Across Iowa	\$18,000
Iowa Organic Association	Growing Organic Expertise in Colleges Across Iowa with New Partners	\$35,647
University of Northern Iowa/Green Iowa AmeriCorps	Green Iowa AmeriCorps Stream Stewards Program	\$9,088
Blank Park Zoo	Plant.Grow.Fly. Junior Pilot Program	\$79,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$237,540</b>

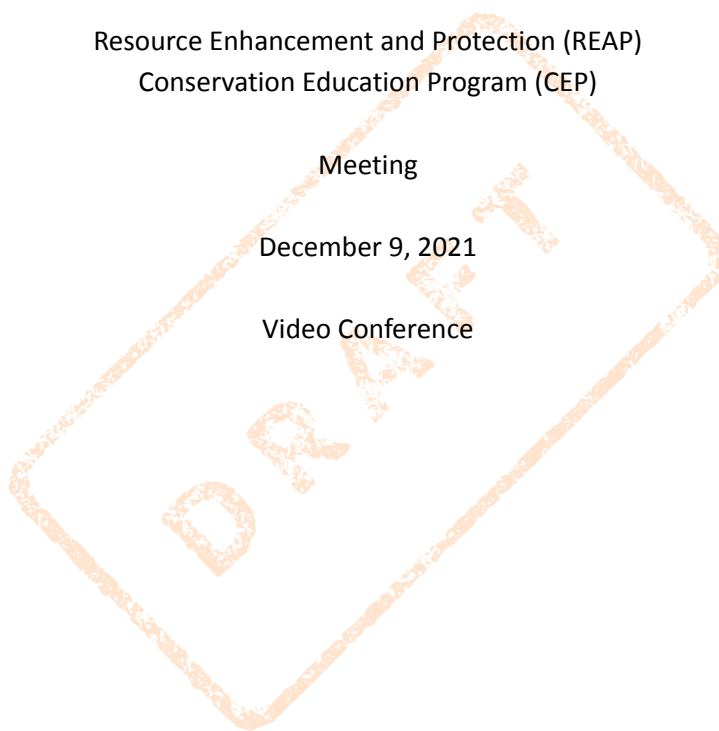
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Filename: ADM 1-1-1

Sender's initial: \_\_\_jzs\_\_\_

Board Approved: \_tbd\_

Minutes of the  
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)  
Conservation Education Program (CEP)  
Meeting  
December 9, 2021  
Video Conference



## Call to Order

The meeting of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP) was called to order by Board Administrator Jerah Sheets at 9:30 a.m. on December 9, 2021 via video conference.

## Board Members Present

Victoria De Vos, Iowa Association of Naturalist (IAN)  
Patrice Petersen-Keys, Iowa Association of County Conservation System (IACCS)  
A Jay Winter, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

## Commissioners Absent

Vacant Seat, Department of Education (DOE)  
Craig Edmondson, Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC)

## Welcome & Video Meeting Tutorial

Jerah Sheets, REAP CEP Coordinator, welcomed the Board members and guests present.  
A tutorial of the Google Meet video conference platform was provided.

## Approval of Minutes

*Motion was made by A Jay Winter to approve the June 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Victoria De Vos. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously. Approved as Presented*

## Time Extension Request

*Motion was made by A Jay Winter to approve the 1 year time extension request for Polk County Conservation #21-10 grant. Seconded by Victoria De Vos. A roll call vote was conducted. Patrice Petersen-Keys abstained. Motion carried unanimously.*

## Quorum and Voting

DNR General Counsel, Tamara McIntosh

The Conservation Education Program Board is created by Iowa Code section 455A.21, and the Board has promulgated some rules in 571 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 12 (Part I). Per statute, the CEP Board is composed of five members. The statute and the rules are silent on the number required to have a quorum and the number required to take action; thus, it is reasonable to rely on the baseline standard for each in Robert's Rules of Order. Accordingly, we're assuming a quorum is a majority of the Board, or at least 3 members. It is also reasonable to assume that a majority of the quorum must vote YES in order for the Board to take action. As such, the Board's defacto rules of business are as follows:

At least 3 members must be present at all meetings in order for the Board to conduct any business.

If 3 members are present (threshold quorum), 2 members must vote YES.

If 4 members are present, then 3 members must vote YES.

If 5 members are present, then 4 members must vote YES.

## REAP CEP Coordinator Updates

**Open Seat for Department of Education** - Eric Hall has left the DOE for the university. DOE is exploring the options in filling the vacant seat.

**Status of Active Grants** - Jerah Sheets provided an update on grants that were active during physical distancing requirements and their projected project completion. The Board provided feedback on how to approach time extension requests greater than 1 year for grants impacted by physical distancing.

#### **2022 REAP CEP Board Meetings**

- o Thursday, March 24, 2022 from 8:30-10:30 am Board Business Meeting
- o Monday, May 16, 2022 Application Deadline
  - Friday, June 10, 2022 Deadline for Board members to review grants applications
  - Friday, June 24, 2022 from 9 am - 4 pm Business meeting and grant selection
- o Thursday, September 29, 2022 from 8:30-10:30 am Board Business Meeting
- o Tuesday, November 1, 2022 Application Deadline
  - Wednesday, November 30, 2022 Deadline for Board members to review grants applications
  - Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 9 am - 4 pm Business meeting and grant selection

**SlideRoom Experiences** - Each Board member provided their experience with utilizing SlideRoom to evaluate grant applications through the online system and provided suggestions for improvement.

#### REAP CEP Board Member Updates

**Victoria De Vos**, Iowa Association of Naturalist (IAN) – Share her experiences with her approach for marketing and advertising the REAP programs through her association.

**Craig Edmondson**, Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) – Absent

**Vacant Seat**, Department of Education (DOE) – NA

**Patrice Petersen-Keys**, Iowa Association of County Conservation System (IACCS) – Encouraged board members to publicize the Winterfest event January 25-27, 2022 in Coralville.

**A Jay Winter**, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – No report

#### General Discussion

Upcoming Chairperson AJay Winter reviewed logistics for moderating the afternoon grant application review.

#### Break 11:30 am - 1 pm

#### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Tutorial & Introductions

Jerah Sheets, Board Administrator, welcomed the attendees and provided a tutorial of the Google Meet video conference platform.

According to the Board's policy, chairpersons serve in alphabetical order. AJay Winter announced his role as chair to facilitate the meeting.

Board members introduced themselves and the organization they represent. Guests also had an opportunity to introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

#### REAP CEP Coordinator Updates

Welcome REAP Coordinator - Michelle Wilson introduced herself and provided a summary of the transition with Tammie Krausman. She also provided a summary of the REAP Assemblies.

Jerah Sheets provided an update for the vacant Department of Education board seat. A reminder was provided a majority of votes are required to pass motion.

Jerah Sheets summarized the last legislative session appropriated \$12 million to the REAP fund and extended the sunset of REAP to 2026.

Chairperson AJAy Winter summarized the process for the review of grants.

### Review of Proposals – Mini-Grant Applications

Recipient	Grant Title	REAP Request	Funded	IACCS	ICEC	IAN	DED	DNR
University of Northern Iowa	Updating Iowa Groundwater Act Guidance for Middle Schools - Planning Grant	\$3,500	\$3,500	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes
Metro Waste Authority	Community Collaboration and Water Quality Monitoring Through Interactive Kiosks	\$3,106	\$3,106	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes

### Review of Proposals – Standard-Grant Applications

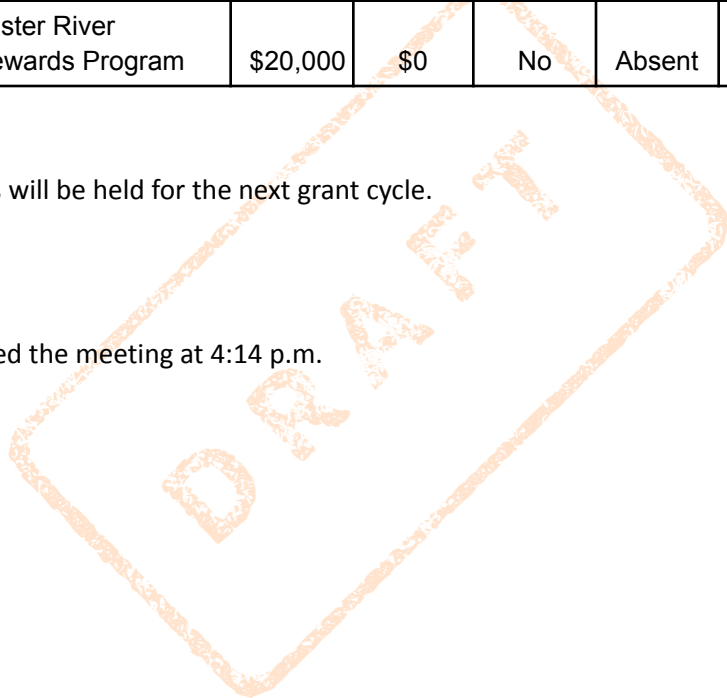
Recipient	Grant Title	REAP Request	Funded	IACCS	ICEC	IAN	DED	DNR
Iowa State University Office of Biotechnology	Innovative Practices Workshop Series	\$24,975	\$24,975	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes
Bremer County Conservation Board	Traveling Teacher Ecotour: Mussels & Coal Mining and the Environmental Impacts	\$10,450	\$10,450	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes
Cultivating Hope Farms, Inc	Creating Biodiverse Conservation Custodians	\$47,108	\$0	No	Absent	No	Vacant	No
Seed Savers Exchange	A Working Seed Preservation Farm: Signage to Enhance the Visitor Experience	\$9,546	\$9,546	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes
Great Outdoors Foundation (GOF)	Advancing Upstream/Downstream Water Quality Partnerships in Iowa	\$25,000	\$0	Yes	Absent	No	Vacant	No
Bird Friendly Iowa, care of Trees Forever	Bird Friendly Iowa Communities Facilitator	\$40,162	\$40,162	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition	Developing community champions to address climate change	\$22,159	\$22,159	Yes	Absent	Yes	Vacant	Yes
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H	P3: Pollinators, Plants and People	\$38,153	\$0	No	Absent	Yes	Vacant	No
Harrison County Conservation Board	Conceptual Design/Curriculum Supplement Willow Lake Nature Center Exhibits	\$10,000	\$0	No	Absent	No	Vacant	Yes
Sac County Conservation	Winter Skills Equipment	\$10,148	\$0	No	Absent	No	Vacant	Yes
Iowa Rivers Revival	Master River Stewards Program	\$20,000	\$0	No	Absent	No	Vacant	No

The remaining \$61,856 funds will be held for the next grant cycle.

Adjourn

Jerah Sheets adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.



**REAP Education Grant #: 21-09, Expanding the Save Our Streams Program in Iowa**

**Formal Request for Extension through 12/31/22**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To: CEP Board,

The Izaak Walton League is formally requesting a grant extension for REAP Education grant #21-09, Expanding the Save Our Streams Program in Iowa through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The delay in programming is primarily due to a vacancy in staffing, since Zach Moss left his role as the IA SOS Coordinator in July of 2021. Now that vacancy has finally been filled and the new SOS Coordinator Heather Wilson will be continuing IA SOS programming. We expect to complete grant deliverables in the fall of 2022, completing activities and spending by 12/31/22. Please read on for an interim report on Grant #21-09 deliverables and budget items.



Samantha Briggs  
Clean Water Program Director, Izaak Walton League of America  
[sbriggs@iwla.org](mailto:sbriggs@iwla.org), 301-548-0150 x222

**Updated Budget with Spending 1/1/21-5/31/22:**

Category	Budgeted	Spent as of 5/31/22	Remaining
Personnel	11,972.00	6,824.00	5,148.00
Travel	4,000.00	67.00	3,933.00
Supplies	7,000.00	1,288.00	5,712.00
Technology	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Other	2,597.00	717.00	1,880.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,569.00</b>	<b>8,896.00</b>	<b>19,673.00</b>



**Progress on IA DNR REAP grant “Expanding the Save Our Streams Program in Iowa”**

Milestone Objectives/Action steps as listed in the grant application	Percent completed as of midterm report (7.15.21)	Percent completed now (6.10.22)
<p>Hold 10 SOS trainings, attended by 100-250 people</p>	<p><b>90%/50%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 SOS trainings at 5 locations</li> <li>- 48 attendees</li> </ul> <p>We hoped to see a higher attendance rate at trainings following COVID vaccinations, but lingering hesitancy to do in-person activities and a short window for planning and outreach resulted in fewer attendees per training than we had hoped.</p>	<p><b>100%/69%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11 SOS trainings</li> <li>- 69 attendees</li> </ul> <p>There have been two SOS trainings in 2022 thus far – Des Moines 5.6.22 (9) and Cedar Falls 5.13.22 (12) There is another training scheduled for 6.18.22 in Des Moines - number of attendees is TBD.</p>
<p>5 new volunteer trainers, certified and equipped with SOS training equipment</p>	<p><b>0%</b></p> <p>Identified some potential candidates to be volunteer trainers out of our current pool of volunteers and partner organizations.</p> <p>In order to focus on training volunteer monitors, we planned to move the Train-the-Trainer to the fall. However, with the SOS Coordinator resigning, this will likely prove difficult unless the position is filled quickly.</p>	<p><b>80%</b></p> <p>Four new SOS trainers were trained on June 9, 2022. There are two additional individuals who have completed the virtual trainer training and only need to attend the in-person training to become certified.</p>
<p>Volunteer trainers host at least 1 training event each</p>	<p><b>0%</b></p> <p>This will require volunteer trainers to be trained, certified, and equipped first.</p>	<p><b>0%</b></p> <p>Trainers are just now being certified and have not had the opportunity to host trainings yet. Trainers should begin to host their own trainings in fall of 2022.</p>

<p>Data gathered in the Clean Water Hub at at least 200 more sites in Iowa</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16.5%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 33 new sites in Iowa so far in 2021</li> </ul> <p>Increased access to water quality monitoring equipment with the implementation of our equipment loan program will boost participation and lead to more sites with new data on the Clean Water Hub. Supplies for the equipment loan stations are in hand.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>42.5%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 42 new sites added in 2021</li> <li>- 43 new sites so far in 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o This makes a total of 85 added since 1.1.21</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 109 total sites surveyed so far in 2021-2022</li> </ul>
<p>15 outreach and education events reaching at least 300 people</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>60%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Iowa Water Conference Booth</li> <li>- Dubuque Master Conservationist Class</li> <li>- 3 webinars with Iowa speakers</li> <li>- 339 people reached</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>60%</b></p> <p>No new outreach events thus far. The new SOS Coordinator in Iowa has only been in place since April 18, 2022.</p>

**Dear REAP-CEP Committee Members,**

Polk County Conservation's (PCC) "Growing River Literacy" grant project involves creating educational and informational video tours of five Des Moines area metro rivers. These videos will serve as a resource for paddlers who are exploring these water trails, increasing their literacy about river flora, fauna, geology, history, safety, and ethics. One of the rivers in the original project scope was the Raccoon River, from Walnut Woods to Water Works Park.

PCC recently learned the Raccoon River along this section is impassable due to a bridge replacement project over the river along highway 28 (63<sup>rd</sup> street) in West Des Moines. According to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) website, and through email correspondences with DOT staff, the project is not anticipated to be completed until the fall of 2022. That is, if there are no setbacks or delays.

PCC will closely monitor this situation and remain hopeful the river will reopen in time to complete the grant by the fall of 2022. However, if there are delays in the project, and the river remains blocked, it may be spring/summer of 2023 before access to this section becomes available. If this is the case, PCC will likely need to request a second extension to complete the grant.

An alternative to this situation would be to change the scope of the project excluding the Raccoon River, and instead, include the Skunk River Oxbows at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. Although technically not a river, the oxbows offer a unique, high quality, one of kind experience for all level of paddlers.

**PCC is seeking recommendation from the committee members on their preference moving forward with this grant project.**

**Option 1:** Move forward with the original scope, hoping the bridge project finishes on time and the river opens. However, if not, anticipate a request for a second extension.

**Option 2:** Change the original project scope to exclude the Raccoon River and instead, include the Skunk River Oxbows at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt and complete the grant on time.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter. The board's flexibility and understanding is greatly appreciated.

With Respect,

Lewis Major, Naturalist

Polk County Conservation

Growing River Literacy - Project Manager