

Watershed Management Authority Status
31-Oct-12

	Middle-South Raccoon River WMA (Dallas County)	Squaw Creek WMA (Story County)	Turkey River WMA (Clayton County)	Upper Cedar WMA (Floyd County)	Catfish Creek WMA (City of Dubuque)	Indian Creek WMA (City of Marion)	
1	What WMA do you represent?						
2	Have you filed the 28E Agreement with the Secretary of State? If yes, when or if no, when do you anticipate filing?	No, by the end of the year.	Yes	Yes, June 29, 2012	Yes, July 2, 2012	Yes, Late June 2012	Yes, August 16, 2012*
3	How many partners are signed onto the Agreement?	None to date	11	35	23	6	Six of the seven eligible partners signed the agreement – Marion, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Robins, Linn County, and Linn SWCD.
4	Are you continuing to pursue additional partners	We will eventually	Yes	Not at this time. The partners felt that it was important to set a deadline for participation and this decision ultimately resulted in more upfront participation than would have occurred had they not set a deadline.	Yes	Although we don't have any more political jurisdiction groups in the area as all have signed on, we are constantly adding to our citizen / technical advisory group.	Yes, only the City of Alburnett did not sign, but we are keeping them informed about our meetings & activities in the hopes that they will eventually sign/join.
5	What are the benefits, whether organizationally or for the watershed have you seen since the formation of the WMA?	The primary benefit we see to date is the ongoing conversation between the County Supervisors. Their willingness to put a WMA in place that will benefit the watershed while at the same time being responsive to constituents concerns.	Bringing different jurisdictions to the table for discussion	(See Tab 2 Below)	More relationships have been developed and information shared, resulting in new project ideas, new funding opportunities, and a sense that the group is serving in a pioneering leadership role for the rest of the state on an important initiative.	We have seen an increase in both our WMA board and citizens alike taking interest in the watershed and are very excited about the project.	Increased communication among the ICWMA members is the first and most noticeable benefit. The ICWMA board is mostly staff members responsible for storm water issues in their respective jurisdictions and they have already had a few good exchanges of information in just a few meetings. In addition, the forming of the ICWMA has provided a focus for some efforts that were already underway and seems to be generating momentum and raising awareness about our watershed.

<p>6</p> <p>What were the obstacles you found or are finding in forming the WMA?</p>	<p>Language in the 28E Agreement has come under a great deal of scrutiny. Trust seems to be a big issue in our discussions and something the County Supervisors are working through.</p>	<p>Participation numbers at the meetings have not been great.</p>	<p>(See Tab 2 Below)</p>	<p>There are differing attorney opinions regarding the appropriate language in the 28E agreement. To date, at least two potential partners have decided to wait to join the agreement as a result. The federal disaster funding granted by the state to assist in organizing the WMA groups has been very beneficial, but it may have been almost impossible to get the group off the ground without that assistance. Time and travel commitments are a potential difficulty for a watershed that encompasses parts of seven counties, but so far the partners have remained committed to trying to participate in meetings in person.</p>	<p>We really had no obstacles at all, other than some initial questions regarding political and taxing authority.</p>	<p>We did not encounter any major obstacles. The City of Alburnett was not able to participate in all of the organizational meetings (lack of staff) and was therefore reluctant to join. They wanted more information about what the ICWMA was going to do before committing. The ICWMA is excited to have been awarded a planning grant and is eager to begin our watershed assessment and planning process.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Anything else you would like to share?</p>	<p>We don't really have anything to add at this time, since we are still just trying to get a 28E Agreement in place so we can move forward with the WMA.</p>	<p>We were informed yesterday that our grant application for Phase II was not successful. We have a meeting in November and we will need to figure out where to go from here.</p>	<p>Not at this time.</p>	<p>The UCWMA has found it beneficial to involve the Iowa Soybean Association as an active partner, and to invite other agricultural stakeholder groups and local farmers to participate in the formation process. They will continue to be important partners as the group moves into the planning phase.</p>	<p>It was a pleasure putting this WMA together and we are excited about pushing forward to develop a watershed management plan.</p>	<p>The ICWMA is excited to have been awarded a planning grant and is eager to begin our watershed assessment and planning process.</p>

* We are the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (ICWMA). The ICWMA formed as an intergovernmental agreement and not as a separate legal entity. The ICWMA must rely on one of its members to apply for, contract with, etc.