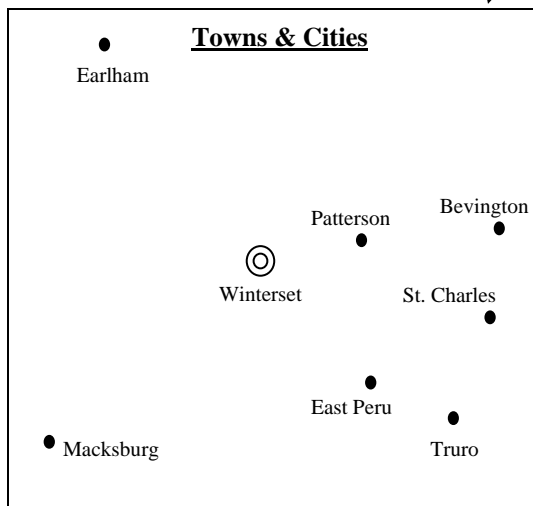
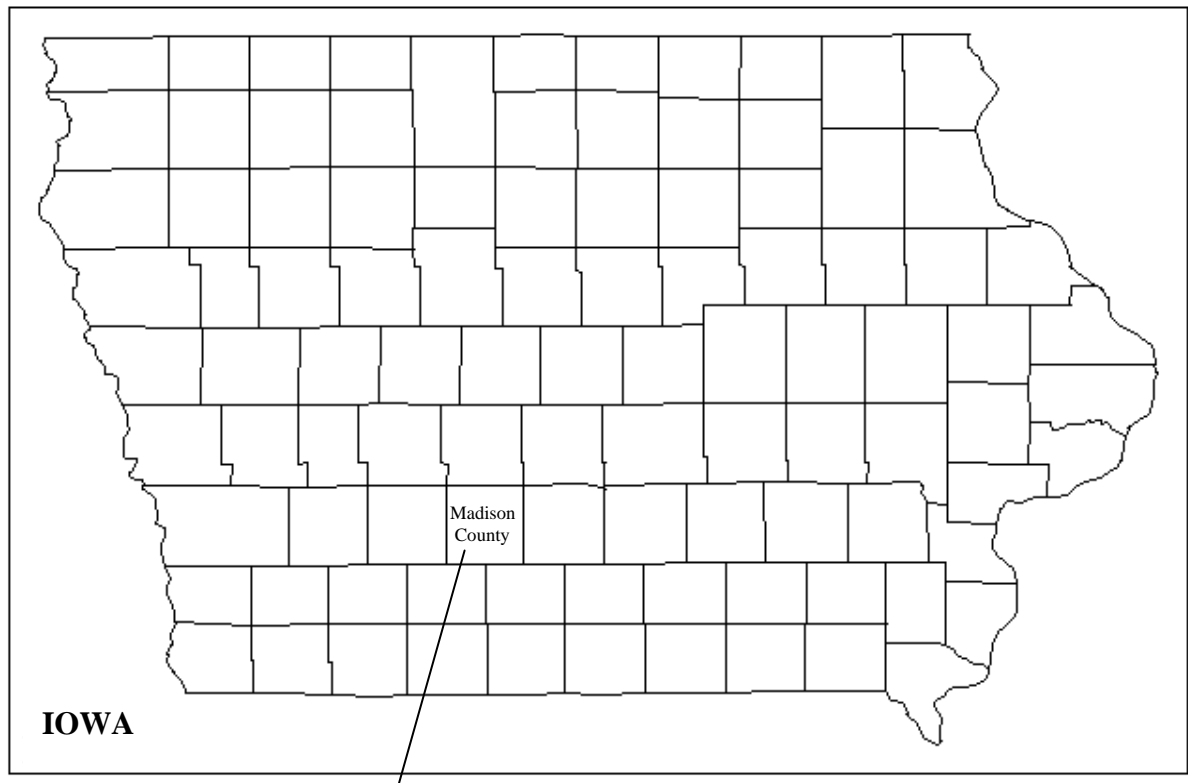


MADISON COUNTY, IOWA

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Plan



LONG RANGE PLAN
Updated 2008

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Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection. It is a program in the State of Iowa that invests in, as its name implies, the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. Iowa is blessed with a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, and REAP is likewise diverse and far-reaching. Depending on the individual programs, REAP provides money for projects through state agency budgets or in the form of grants. Several aspects of REAP also encourage private contributions that help accomplish program objectives.

REAP was originally authorized for \$30 million per year for 10 years. In 1996, the state legislature changed the authorized maximum appropriation from \$30 million to \$20 million per year and extended the program's life to 2021.

REAP funds go into eight different programs based upon a percentages that are specified in the law. These percentages, or what many people call the REAP formula, are shown in the following pie chart.

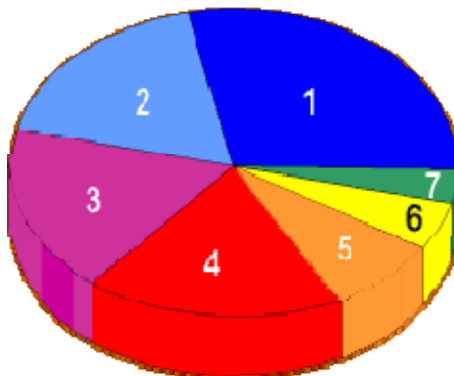


REAP Fund Allocation

First \$350,000 each year goes to Conservation Education.

1% of balance goes for DNR Administration.

This second balance is then divided per the pie chart.



1. DNR Open Space 28%
2. City Parks and Open Space 15%
3. Soil and Water Enhancement 20%
4. County Conservation 20%
5. DNR Land Management 9%
6. Historical Resources 5%
7. Roadside Vegetation

***This page was downloaded from <http://www.iowadnr.com> (Shown under "REAP" Program) April, 2007

BACKGROUND

The state of Iowa has 99.9% of its prairies, 98% of its wetlands, 80% of its woodlands, 50% of its topsoils, and more than one hundred species of wildlife since the early 1800's. The long-term effects are already apparent. Prevention of further loss is therefore imperative to Iowa, as well as Madison County.

PURPOSE

The resource enhancement and protection program and its various elements shall constitute a long-term integrated effort to wisely use and protect Iowa's natural resources through the acquisition and management of environmental education, monitoring, and research; and other environmentally sound means. The resource enhancement program shall strongly encourage Iowans to develop a conservation ethic, and to make necessary changes in our activities to develop and preserve a rich and diverse natural environment.

POLICIES

It is the policy of the state of Iowa to protect its natural resource heritage of air, soils, waters, and wildlife for the benefit of present and future citizens with the establishment of a resource enhancement program. Approximately 99% of the money will be allocated toward open spaces, county conservation, soil and water enhancement, city park and recreation, state land management, historical resources, and the living roadway program. Each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties will have a resource enhancement committee (REC) composed of local elected officials and representatives of farm, conservation, recreation, education, and other interests. The county committees are required to make five-year plans, propose resource enhancement projects, and coordinate the implementation of these projects. Every two year, in even-number years, five delegates from each of the 17 regional assemblies convened by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will be selected to attend a statewide congress to identify opportunities of resource enhancement and protection, and to develop recommendations for REAP projects.

MADISON COUNTY RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Madison County REC is made up of the chairpersons of the board of supervisors, conservation board, commissioners of the soil and water district, and school board of each district in the county. Also on the committee are the mayors from Bevington, Earlham, East Peru, Macksburg, Patterson, St. Charles, Truro, and Winterset; the chairperson from each farm organization in the county, and other groups that have a county organization.

Members of the Madison County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee:

Keith Sparks: Chairperson – March, 2007 **Joan Acela:** Vice Chairperson – March, 2007

Keith Sparks (Chairperson/2007) Joan Acela (Vice-Chair/2007)
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MADISON COUNTY'S HISTORY OF RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP)

The Madison County Soil Conservation District has maintained their policy for the restoration and conservation of the soil and soil resources in the county; and for the control and prevention of soil erosion; and for the prevention of erosion, floodwater and sediment damages, to preserve natural resources; control floods, prevent impairment of farms and reservoirs, assist and maintain the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands and promote health, safety and public welfare of the people of Madison County. The Madison County Conservation Board has always placed natural resource protection and habitat management as a high priority. The Conservation Board in addition to making great strides in achieving their acquisition priorities is concurrently aggressively pursuing a process of facility and recreational development improvements and additions in their overall long-range plan. Each community in Madison County has kept natural resource protection in their development efforts. Several communities have constructed new facilities or made renovations to existing structures. Still others are in their planning stages of enhancing their city park open space facilities. Planning and evaluating have been an ongoing process to assure the communities of quality parks and recreation areas. The goals and objectives of Madison County toward REAP funds are to keep the aforementioned practices in motion, consequently, contributing toward the well-being of the residents of the areas and surrounding region.

MADISON COUNTY'S REC PLANNING PROCESS

The duties of the Madison County Resource Enhancement Committee is to coordinate the resource enhancement program, plan, and proposed projects developed by cities, county conservation board, and soil and water conservation district commissioners for funding under this program. The county committee shall review and comment upon all grant projects before they are submitted for funding (See Attachment A – review comments). The county committee shall maintain a long range plan that will include a one-year estimated/proposed expenditure plan and submit it to the department (See Attachment B – committee rules). The chairperson of the Board of Supervisors shall call the initial meeting of the REC. The chairperson shall give written notice of the date, time, and location of the first meeting. The county committee shall meet at least annually to organize by selecting a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. The Board of Supervisors shall provide a meeting room and the necessary secretarial and clerical assistance for the REC. The expenses shall be paid from the county general fund. The members of the REC are not entitled to compensation of expenses related to their duties of office.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REAP PROGRAMS

Upon receipt of any revenue, the director shall deposit the monies in the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection fund. The first \$350,000 of the funds received for deposit in the fund annually shall be allocated to the conservation education board. One percent of the revenue receipts shall be deducted and transferred to the administration fund. All of the remaining receipts shall be allocated to the following programs:

- Open Spaces Account – 28%
At least 10% of the allocations to the account shall be made available to match private funds for open space projects on the cost-share basis of not less than 25% private funds. Five Percent of the funds allocated to the open spaces account shall be used to fund the protected waters program. The department to implement the statewide open space acquisition, protection, and development programs shall use this account. The total cost of an open spaces project shall not exceed \$2,000,000 unless a public hearing is held on the project in the area of the state affected by the project.
- County Conservation Account – 20%
Thirty percent of the allocation to the county conservation account annually shall be allocated to each county equally, 30% shall be allocated to each county on a per capita basis, and 40% shall be held in an account in the state treasury for the natural resource commission to award to counties on a competitive grant basis by a project selection committee. Funds allocated may be used for land easements or acquisitions, capital improvements, stabilization, and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. Funds allocated on the per capita basis and competitive grant system shall only be allocated to counties dedicating property tax revenue at least equal to 22 cents per \$1000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county-to-county conservation purposes.
- Soil and Water Enhancement Account – 20%
The monies shall be used to carry out soil and water enhancement programs including reforestation, woodland protection and enhancement, wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement, protection of highly erodible soils, and clean water programs. Annually, 50% of the soil and water enhancement account funds, not to exceed \$1,000,000, shall be allocated to the water quality protection projects account. The balance of the funds shall be allocated to the water protection practices account.
- City Parks and Open Spaces Account – 15%
The monies allocated may be used to fund competitive grants to cities to acquire, establish, and maintain natural parks, preserves, and open spaces. The grants may include expenditures for multipurpose trails, restroom facilities, shelter houses, and picnic facilities, but expenditures for single or multipurpose athletic fields, baseball or softball diamonds, tennis courts, golf courses, and other group or organized sport facilities requiring specialized equipment are excluded. The rules shall provide for three categories of cities based on population within the cities shall compete for grants. These three categories are; (1) cities of less than 2,000, (2) cities between 2,000 and 25,000 (3) cities larger than 25,000
- State Land Management Account – 9%
The monies allocated to this account may be used for maintenance and expansion of state lands and facilities. The authority to expand state lands and facilities is limited to expansion of the state lands and facilities already owned by the state.
- Historical Resource Grant and Loan Fund – 5%
The department of cultural affairs shall use the monies allocated to this fund to implement historical resource development programs.
- Living Roadway Trust Fund – 3%
Funds allocated may be used for the development and implementation of integrated roadside vegetation.

RESOURCE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN MADISON COUNTY

The protection and wise use of natural resources is critical to the future of Madison County.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES

SOIL

The soil is Madison County's greatest natural resource and should be used wisely in order to insure its greatest potential and continued productivity. There are two principal soil associations located in Madison County, each of which contains one or more major soils and at least two minor soils. The major soil types most suitable for cropland in Madison County are Macksburg, Sharpsburg, Winterset, Lamoni, Shelby, Zook, Wabash, and Nodaway. The Shelby-Sharpsburg-Macksburg (SSM) covers approximately 82% of the county and the remaining 18% lies within the Lindley-Keswick-Weller (LKW) association.

It is necessary to point out that various set aside programs and the Conservation Reserve Program directed a soil conservation practices need to continue to emphasize permanent vegetative alternatives and attempt to discourage previous poor management practices on marginal ground once the set-aside or CRP term agreement expire. Permanent cover such as warm season grasses, and shrub and woodland plantings not only provide a sound alternative, but actually demonstrate economic benefits which is the only viable means to insure sound conservation practices into future decades.

DRAINAGE AND WATERSHED

Madison County has adequate surface water potential, but underground supplies are limited. Surface water drainage in Madison County is brought about by the Middle River, North River, and South River and their tributaries. The Middle and North Rivers drain a major portion of the county. The Middle River, with its tributaries, drains a large portion of northern Madison County. In addition, Clanton Creek, with its tributaries, drains the majority of the southern portion of the county. Grand River flows through the southwest corner of Madison County and drains about 5% of the area. Cedar Lake is the one major water impoundment in Madison County. Drainage patterns and the resulting watershed areas are very important in determining additional major recreational development in Madison County.

Water will be the key resource well into the 21st century. It will remain the common denominator for all future development and expansion. All public entities should place clean water at the top of their priorities. Madison County is in need of addition major impoundments that can be utilized for rural water supplies, as well as addressing water quality for the County's many rivers and streams by filtering soil sediments and agricultural oriented impurities. All the communities within the county must develop a comprehensive plan for water conservation, quality improvement, and supply that integrates the needs of this region.

VEGETATION AND WOODLANDS

Woodlands, as a natural resource, are relatively scattered in Madison County since most of the land has been cleared for agricultural purposes. There are 25,484 acres in woodland in Madison County. The wooded areas that still exist are found mainly in the central and southeast portion of the county along the Middle River, North Rivers, Clanton Creek and their tributaries. Forestation is important for protecting watersheds and flood plains from erosion, as well as providing a pleasant environment for recreational activities.

Establishment of permanent cover is the key element in addressing the water quality problems referred to previously. Reforestation of Iowa, as well as Madison County, has become a top priority of conservation professionals. By returning marginal agricultural acres to permanent cover such as timber or warm season grasses, we can begin to address the problems of soil conservation and water quality improvement. Permanent vegetation is a must in order to keep the soils intact and prevent runoff into our water resources. The Madison County Conservation Board, in conjunction with NRCS habitat cost-share programs, has established a private landowner habitat management program that instructs landowners of proper native habitat management practices. The Board will be expanding this program annually. The key element is to be able to education the public as to the immediate need of suggested alternative land management practices.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

There are 3,000 + public acres of wildlife and recreation land. Wildlife lands can be added quickly by putting odd areas and farmstead windbreak areas into suitable cover.

Madison County is blessed with a variety of wildlife species that are primarily classified as upland. Wetland wildlife specie diversity is lacking due to small quantities of wetland type habitat. Game species populations can be considered good to excellent. Non-game species found in Madison County are typical of Midwest region indigenous species. The Department of Natural Resources and the Madison County Conservation Board through their annual programming will attempt to address the needs of wildlife in Madison County. Madison County is lacking an adequate number of lake type fisheries. Angling, according to recent SCORP surveys, is considered to be one of the top recreational priorities of Iowans, and thus, needs to be addressed in our resource plan. River fisheries can be considered adequate, as well as farm-pond fisheries. Consequently, it will be necessary to establish a number of reservoirs in Madison County which will provide multiple benefits to the environment, the least of which but no less important than recreation.

PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE

Existing recreational facilities within the planning areas of Madison County include state, county, community, and private recreational development. These various organizations provide a diversity of recreational opportunities from day-use to longer periods of use. Leisure time continues to increase in our society, and it has become a very important aspect in assessing the quality of life for every Iowan.

POPULATION

Madison County's population increased from 11,558 in 1970 to 12,597 in 1980, which is a net change of #9.0%. Between 1980 and 1986 the county's population decreased from 12,597 to 12,400, which is a net change of -1.6%. Changes in an area's population are dependent upon three major components: 1) births, 2) deaths, and 3) migration. Between 1980 and 1986 Madison County experienced 1000 birth, 900 deaths, and a net migration of -300. Although the data shows Madison County losing population, Winterset has emerged as a grown center. Between 1970 and 1986, Winterset's population increased from 3,654 to 3770, which is a net change of +3.2%. Population projections for Madison County have been calculated from the 1987-1988 Statistical Profile of Iowa. The data shows Madison County's population to grow to 12,600 in 1990 and to 12,800 by the year 2000. This projected growth in the county is largely based upon the city of Winterset emerging as a growth center. In addition, Madison County is expected to experience a migration from the Des Moines/metro area residents relocating to smaller, but stable, county seat communities, such as Winterset. Currently, Madison County is one of the fastest growing counties in Iowa.

TRENDS IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Water supplies are a precious resource in southern Iowa and will increase in importance as the demand for water increases. Reforestation, wetland establishment and protection, and native grassland establishment and protection are all considered as a major factors in Madison County's conservation efforts. As a recreational resource and as an element of scenic beauty, our remaining native habitats and natural resource areas for wildlife should be preserved and protected, and additional areas created where possible. The major concern in the future will be to conserve prime agricultural land, prevent the spoiling of nature areas and to protect the county's valuable natural resources.

Natural resource trends in Madison County have exhibited diminishing upland native habitat and water resources. Recent agricultural set-aside and CRP programs have increased the amount of vegetative cover replacing marginal and highly erodible row crop acres, but the permanency and quality of this cover is questionable.

EXISTING AND PROJECTED RESOURCE NEEDS

In order to provide adequate recreational opportunities in Madison County, the following should be considered: 1) Bike paths and walkways, 2) Local parks and school districts should coordinate development of school and recreational facilities, 3) Architecturally significant and scenic areas should be preserved, and 4) Emphasis should be placed on local communities to provide adequate recreation for their anticipated future population. Wind and water erosion is a particularly major problem in Madison County. In addition, sediment produced by the water erosion is the number one pollutant by volume. Reestablishment of native habitats should be considered as part of the areas conservation efforts. For example, the U.S. Forest Service has determined that Iowa's commercial forestland base has declined by 44% since the 1954 survey. This compounds potential erosion problems and reduces chances for improving many kinds of outdoor recreation opportunities.

The primary existing and projected need in Madison County is water quality and supply. The secondary need is the assurance of adequate open space to provide for resource improvements and public enjoyment. Water quality within the watersheds can be addressed by providing additional pond structures and permanent vegetative cover on marginal acres in the upper reaches of the watershed, and stream bank stabilization and stream bank buffer strips within the flood plain of the watershed. These practices will serve to stabilize soils, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitats and populations, and improve the overall quality of life for Madison county residents. Permanent water supplies can be accomplished by providing needed reservoirs that can be utilized primarily for rural water and secondarily for resource enhancement and recreation. The acquisition of additional natural resource acres will be determined by quality of the resource, quality of site, location of site, and the need to acquire in order to provide adequate protection of the resource.

ISSUES IN MADISON COUNTY

RESOURCE BASED

The Madison County Soil Conservation District has established practices to control high volume sheet and gully erosion as a high priority. Practices such as conservation tillage, crop rotation, contouring, and strip cropping are being promoted to prevent further depletion of soil resources. High priority lands for terracing are those areas with good fertility and those that the aforementioned practices will not adequately control erosion. A terracing priority guideline has been adopted. Practices to encourage the seeding of marginal lands receive high priority. Madison County has several acres of marginal grassland that can be brought to life with proper management practices. These are addressed through pasture management promotion and full-season grazing programs. Cities within Madison County list part developments and maintenance as high priority projects to provide the residents, as well as visitors and travelers, and environmental part resource for the general population. The Madison County Conservation Board has always considered natural resource protection and habitat management as high priorities. Both acquisition and habitat development have been included in this plan in building up and enhancing the county's natural resource inventories.

POPULATION BASED

Recent census data shows that Madison County is growing in population while several counties bordering Madison County have been losing population over the past decade. Madison County is currently the second fastest growing County in Iowa, and that trend is expected to continue well into the future. This trend indicates that the county will have continued user growth to support further natural resource enhancement and protection and outdoor recreation development. The main reason for this population growth is the residential migration from the Des Moines metropolitan area. The City of Winterset is emerging as a growth center. More drastically, and with possibly greater impact on natural resource protection issues, rural areas bordering the Interstate 80 and Interstate 35 corridors (north half and southeast quarters of the County) are quickly becoming inundated with rural housing developments. Recreation and open space areas, which provide quality of life attractions, are very important to the lifestyles of Iowans. Data shows that Iowans are valuing more time spent toward recreational activities. Madison County is continuing to acquire and develop areas of importance to the county's environment. Soil and water protection and enhancement have been and continues to be a priority of the residents of Madison County. The county population has a tremendous amount of time and effort invested in resource protection and enhancement, and a continued goal is to take advantage of the REAP program to further facilitate the issues and needs of the residents of Madison County.

FINANCIAL BASED

The 1989 per capita for Madison County is \$10,523. Although this figure is about the average of the 99 Iowa counties, many small communities do not have the financial stability to develop park areas or make land acquisitions for open space. The County Conservation Board and Soil Conservation District have made resource enhancement funding plans according to the amount of revenues they will receive. The small communities do not have the tax base or the revenues for resource protection and park space development. This situation causes the municipalities to

look toward outside funding sources for their resource enhancement projects. Several communities are looking for REAP funds to develop or rehabilitate as their communities only park/recreation resource. The Conservation Board, Soil Conservation District, and communities are determined to make great contributions toward the enhancement of the resources in Madison County and have addressed this plan to their goals.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN MADISON COUNTY

Each agency in Madison County is vested with roles and responsibilities in the protection and enhancement of Iowa's resources.

CITY

Each municipality in Madison County is vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and protection. These roles and responsibilities are vested with the City Councils of Bevington, Earlham, East Peru, Macksburg, Patterson, St. Charles, Truro, and Winterset. Each of these councils is responsible for identifying possible REAP projects within each community. These projects shall be addressed during regular council meetings to inform the community of the city's position in natural resource enhancement and protection. The council shall support all citizen involvement and prioritize watch of these activities.

COUNTY

Madison County is vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and protection. These roles and responsibilities are vested with the Madison County Conservation Board, the Madison county Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Madison County Board of Supervisors. These county entities are responsible for identifying all activities necessary for protection of Madison County's natural resources, estimate the resources needed to accomplish each of these activities, and listing these activities in order of priority so that cost-effective decisions can be made concerning REAP funds.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Each school district in Madison County is vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and protection. These roles and responsibilities are vested with the Earlham School District and the Winterset School District. Each school district is responsible for identifying and presenting conservation programs and activities within the regular curriculum programs. The programs may be, but are not limited to, a conservation education class, field trips, slide presentations, or research projects. Conservation education programs have been, and are continuing to be, important to Iowa's educational system.

STATE/FEDERAL

Both state and federal agencies are vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and protection. These roles and responsibilities are vested with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Department of cultural Affairs, and the Department of Transportation. Each of these agencies will be responsible for the administration and assistance of each of the REAP programs. The agencies are the primary source of information regarding these funding programs. The REAP Act brings these agencies together in working to promote the protection and enhancement of Iowa's natural resources.

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

The regional planning agency in Area XIV is vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and protection. These roles and responsibilities are vested with the Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG). SICOG is responsible for providing technical assistance and grantsmanship, and supplying data and information to Madison County and the respective communities.

PRIVATE

Each private entity in Madison County is vested with various roles and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting resource enhancement and businesses, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Each private agency is responsible for assurance that private ownership of real estate property protects the open space values of that property. In addition, private entities shall demonstrate adequate and responsible environmental conservation activities to protect Madison County's natural resources.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

Each private entity in Madison County is vested with various roles and responsibilities of working in coordination with other agencies toward resource enhancement and protection. REAP program applications award additional point for projects that show coordination between two or more agencies. The REAP Act demonstrates the need for local government, county agencies, and private agencies to cooperate in finding effective and equitable solutions to common environmental problems. By working collectively, each agency in Madison County can share professional assistance and resources that they could not normally afford to meet the challenges of resource enhancement and protection.

LONG RANGE ACTION PROJECTS IN MADISON COUNTY

By Entity:

- **Madison County Conservation Board:** See addendum, p. 1a
Presented by: Jim Liechty
- **Winterset Parks & Recreation:** See addendum, p. 2a, 2b, 2c
Presented by: John Pletchette
- **Madison County Historical Society:** See addendum, p. 3a
Presented by: Wendell Spencer
- **City of Bevington:**
- **City of Earlham:**
- **City of East Peru:**
- **City of Macksburg:**
- **City of Patterson:**
- **City of St. Charles:**
- **City of Truro:** See addendum p. 4a, 4b
Presented by: Heidi Burhans
- **City of Winterset:**

ESTIMATED ONE-YEAR SPENDING PLAN

1. Madison County Conservation Board (fiscal 2007/2008):	
Environmental Education Programming:	\$4,000.00
Capital Development:	\$????
Acquisition Grants:	<u>\$????</u>
Total:	\$4,000.00

METHOD OF UPDATING THE PLAN AND BUDGET

Updated plans and one-year spending budgets shall be formulated by the last business day of March. The Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, plus 5 members selected by the Resource Enhancement committee will finalize and accept the updated plans no later than April 15th, and forward on to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by May 1st. Each year, the committee will be responsible for the reviewing and amending the long range plan and preparing the county's annual estimated expenditure proposals.