



Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority

Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

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December 2024

FY26 Budget Request- Dyersville

The Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority (MR WMA) formed in late 2017 and now consists of 34 Cities, Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and one Lake District in Eastern Iowa. All members work to address water quality, water quantity (flooding), as well as other issues associated with the Maquoketa River watershed area.

Per the 28E Agreement and governing By-Laws, every member of the MR WMA is allowed one representative to serve on the Board of Directors. **Your representative to the MR WMA Board is, Mick Michel.**

In Sept 2023, the MR WMA was awarded \$250,000 as a subaward from the Iowa DNR for the Farmer-to-Farmer Grant. This project will continue until FY 27 to provide farmers in the watershed a cost share for installing cover crops on their land. The watershed coordinator worked with Practical Farmers of Iowa to receive a match of an additional \$10/acre totaling over \$40/acre of cost-share that is able to be offered to historically underserved farmers going forward. This year we opened the application in April 2024 for the cost share and have over 13 farmers who are part of the program totaling more than 1200 acres our first year of the program. In the next two years we hope to cover over 7000 acres of the Maquoketa Watershed in cover crops helping to improve water quality in the watershed.

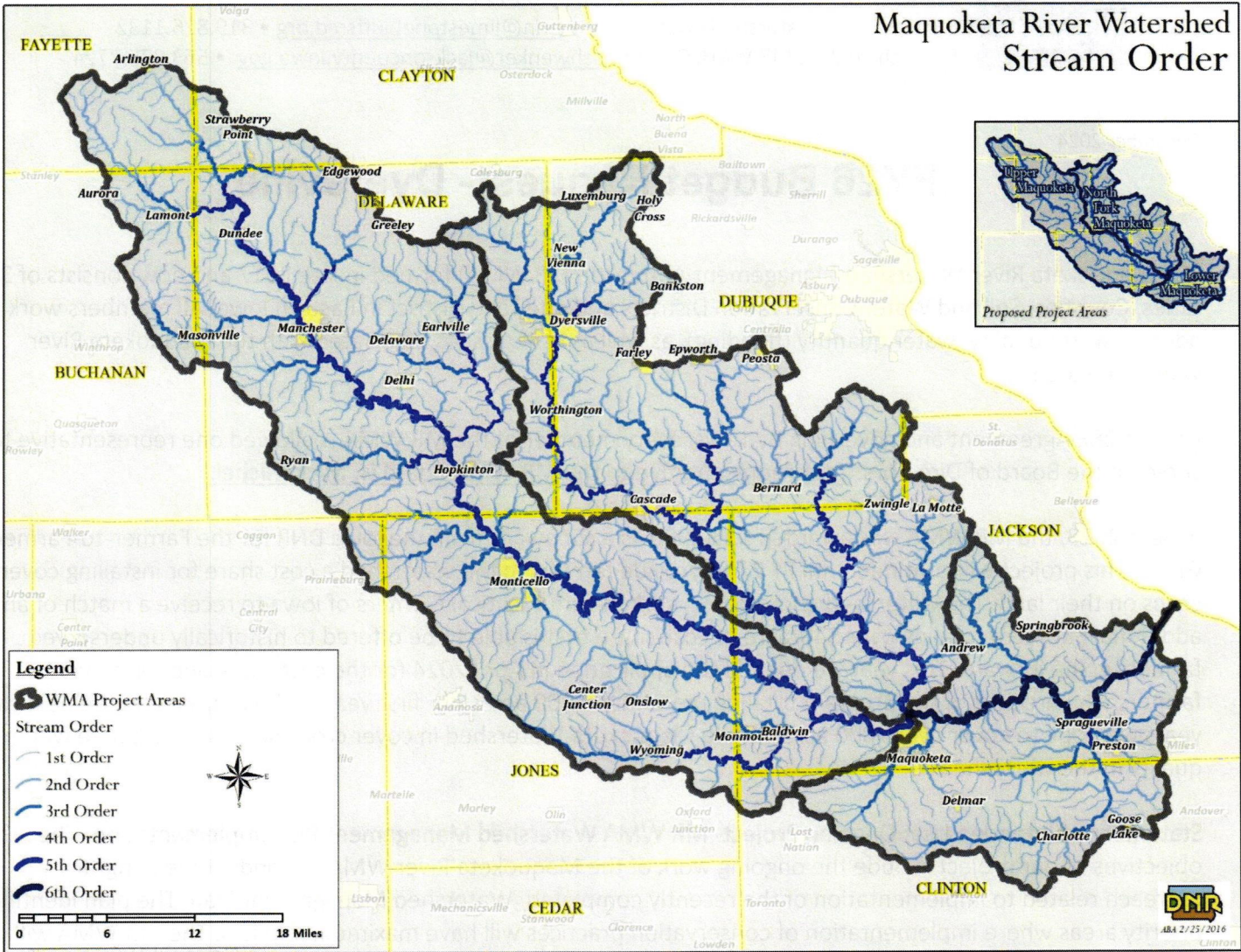
Statement of Intended Use: Ongoing Project- MR WMA Watershed Management Plan Implementation- The objectives of our project include the ongoing work of the Maquoketa River WMA to conduct meaningful outreach related to implementation of the recently completed, Watershed Management Plan. The plan identifies priority areas where implementation of conservation practices will have maximum impacts. The MR WMA will also continue a water monitoring program with the testing of 45 sites across the watershed, provide match funding for grant opportunities, delivery of educational events on watershed related issues in member communities and active support of conservation efforts within the watershed area. To see past projects/ events from 2024 visit our [website](#). To accomplish this work, the MR WMA needs the sustained efforts of a dedicated watershed coordinator and support from LB RC&D.

The MR WMA is requesting a funding investment for the Dyersville is \$6877: \$1.50 per capita for FY26 for areas located within the defined watershed area. With an additional \$162 for 3 water sampling sites at \$18/each. Invoice to be sent in July 2025.

Thank you for your support!

Maquoketa River Watershed Boundary

Maquoketa River Watershed Stream Order



Tricia Maiers

From: Erin Erickson <erin@limestonebluffsrd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 1:45 PM
To: Tricia Maiers
Cc: Mick Michel
Subject: FY26 Budget Letter Maquoketa River WMA
Attachments: MRWMA_Budget Request_Dyersville FY_26.pdf

**** This Message originated from outside [External Email] Be Very Aware Links and Attachments. ****

Greetings Dyersville,

Please see the attached for your FY2026 Budget Letter for the Maquoketa River WMA. We appreciate your support!

I wanted to take this time to share some important updates with you of things happening in the Maquoketa River Watershed.

- *In November, we hosted a screening of the regenerative ag documentary, Common Ground at the Castle Theatre in Manchester. Over 175 farmers and watershed community members joined us and heard from four farmers in a panel discussion after the film. Read more about the evening [here](#). We are hoping to help plan more showings in other counties of the watershed. Stay tuned for more details.*
- *As part of The University of Iowa's Iowa Flood Center's \$1 million award through Congress's Community Project Funding, the Maquoketa River Watershed had hydro sensors added to six counties expanding its ability to monitor future flooding and droughts. The funding also provided in-depth modeling of the entire watershed that took over a year to complete. We were just sent the [FINAL REPORT](#). This will aid in future project grants and help us determine areas to focus our work.*
- *A stream sensor was installed on the main stem of the Maquoketa River at the Bridge Port Access off of HWY 62 in April 2024. This sensor was put in by the IIHR team at the University of Iowa with operation and maintenance paid for by a \$15,000 grant from the Clif Family Foundation we received in 2023. Data from the sensor is uploaded every 15 minutes monitoring nitrates, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and turbidity. The data can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/WMAstreamsensor>*
- *Attending many community events this year, the Watershed Coordinator was able to engage younger generations about the importance of a watershed with an interactive watershed model. Using a spray bottle to have kids "make it rain" the coordinator taps sprinkles on the landscape acting as fertilizers and*

other inputs which demonstrates runoff. The coordinator plans to continue attending summer events around the watershed in FY26.

- Our Cover Crop Cost Share is Open will reopen for 2025 in April. This offers up to \$40/ acre to underserved farmers and ranchers in the watershed. This includes WOMEN landowners! More information can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/MRWMA>
- Check out our recent [newsletter](#) for more updates. We have all of our past editions of our newsletter archived on our website [here](#).
- As a reminder our [Watershed Management Plan Phase I & II](#) are now available on our website and downloadable. Don't miss the interactive map showing land characteristics below the WMP.

Support of the Maquoketa River WMA will ensure the Farmer-to-Farmer project and future projects will be successful in the entire watershed to further address water quality issues and flooding along the Maquoketa River and tributaries.

Thank you again for your support of the WMA! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful Holiday season!

Kindly,

Erin Erickson

Watershed Coordinator

Maquoketa River WMA

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Check out our latest newsletter: <https://bit.ly/Dec24wma>