

Dubuque County News Release

Ed Raber Project Coordinator Ed.Raber@dubuquecountyiowa.gov 563-587-4899

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUBJECT: April 5 Watershed Public Open House Meeting

Dubuque, Iowa. March 20, 2023 – Dubuque County officials and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a public open house meeting to provide an update on the Northern Dubuque County Flood Risk Reduction Plan and proposed projects. The drop-in meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Dubuque Shooting Society, 10376 Route 3 between Dubuque and Sageville. All are welcome to attend and provide comments or ask questions to project staff and county officials. No formal presentation will be made, and attendees may drop-in anytime.

Dubuque County has partnered with the NRCS to develop the Northern Dubuque County Watershed Work Plan – Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). The Plan-EA will be used to help document existing flooding problems within the watershed and evaluate new strategies for reducing flood risks and damages. The April 5 public meeting will provide an update on the planning process and review the proposed projects.

The project study area covers the northern half of Dubuque County, encompassing the Little Maquoketa River Watershed, and portions of the Headwaters of the North Fork Maquoketa River Watershed in the Hewitt Creek and Coffee Creak area. JEO Consulting Group (JEO) has been retained by the County to assist in developing the Plan-EA. Current planning efforts started in fall 2021 and are anticipated to be complete in 2024.

The Plan-EA will also fulfill National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities pertaining to federal financial assistance received through the NRCS's Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program. Part of this project includes an evaluation of environmental resources and impacts. All information gathered during the public meeting will help guide the planning process.

A website with a project overview is available at https://bit.ly/NDubCoWatershed. For more information, please contact Eric Schmechel, Dubuque County Watershed Program Director, at 920.327.0908 or Eric.Schmechel@dubuquecountyjowa.gov.

###



