



To Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority Board Members:  
City of Independence

RE: Fiscal Year 2026 Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA donation request

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2015, 32 political Cities, Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed came together as a board to reduce the risks of flooding and to improve and protect water quality in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Since that time, dozens of projects have been implemented across the watershed to move toward these goals. As a part of the State-wide Iowa Watershed Approach Project, we helped the Iowa Flood Center prove their flood prevention models in the entire watershed, while at the same time proving to ourselves that implementation of private and public structures in a watershed can reduce flooding.

The UWRWMA Board stresses the need for coordination and technical assistance to guide and inform the efforts of our multijurisdictional group. Northeast Iowa RC&D has provided exceptional coordination and technical assistance in the past. As a nonprofit, the RC&D was able to provide coordination and technical assistance that help us secure project funding by writing and helping us write state, federal and private grants. Thanks to previous WMA Member donations, last year coordinators were able to apply for an additional 25.25 million dollars in grants to support watershed improvements (grants still pending). Applied grant funding is often used for project implementation and doesn't include coordination, therefore, funding to support coordination efforts will expire at the end of fiscal year 2025.

The UWRWMA Board feels that continued *coordination and technical assistance is vital for several reasons*. 1) In Iowa, state and federal partners and funders recognize the importance of the WMAs and are discussing continued allocation of dedicated funding to *active* WMAs. At the same time, they are also discussing that WMAs will need to demonstrate local support. Several WMAs now pay for ongoing coordination and technical assistance through voluntary member contributions. 2) The UWRWMA Board has engaged in a learning process since its formation and as a result has become one of the most respected and knowledgeable group of watershed advocates in Iowa. 3) Without coordination and technical assistance, we are unlikely to develop new projects and secure future grants.

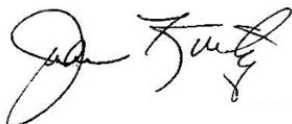
The UWRWMA Board unanimously agreed to ask each UWRWMA city, county and soil and water conservation district member for an annual *voluntary* financial contribution. In order for the UWRWMA to reach our annual goal, we are asking the members to *voluntarily* contribute **\$4000** for coordination and technical assistance from the RC&D. This amount is based on a new funding formula adopted by the board in 2024. The new funding formula equals \$0.65 per capita living within the Upper Wapsipinicon Watershed and your jurisdictional boundary. Population was calculated based on the 2020 Census. For more information about how your entities donation request was calculated see the backside of this letter. Our goal is to, raise **\$25,000/year** for continued coordination from Northeast Iowa RC&D. This funding will allow the RC&D to have dedicated funding to pay a part-time UWRWMA Coordinator to conduct grant writing services for member entities, water quality monitoring, and to facilitate WMA meetings. Previously City of Independence has made a donation of \$5000.

We are sending you this letter because we want to remind your board to consider donating to the Upper Wapsi WMA for FY2026. We truly appreciate your donation in any amount, and your general participation and support in our continued effort in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. If you would like to talk to an existing Board member about the role your entity plays in the WMA, about the role Northeast Iowa RC&D currently plays, or about the Upper Wapsi WMA in general feel free to contact any of the people below.

John Kurtz, Buchanan County Supervisor, WMA Board Chair	Tori Nimrod or Ross Evelsizer, Northeast Iowa RC&D, Upper Wapsi WMA Coordinators
Email: <a href="mailto:JKurtz@co.buchanan.ia.us">JKurtz@co.buchanan.ia.us</a> Phone: 319-240-1937	Email: <a href="mailto:tori@northeastiowarcd.org">tori@northeastiowarcd.org</a> <a href="mailto:ross@northeastiowarcd.org">ross@northeastiowarcd.org</a> Phone: 563-864-7112

You may send your financial contribution to Northeast Iowa RC&D at PO Box 916 Postville, IA 52162 or your representative may deliver your contribution to the UWRWMA Board at the next WMA meeting. If you need to be invoiced, please contact RC&D.

Sincerely,



John Kurtz, UWRWMA Board Chair

## Funding Formula Continued:

### Member Counties

- 2020 Census Population minus populations of WMA member Cities = Total rural County population
- Total Rural County Population times the Percent land in Watershed = Population in the Watershed
- Population in the Watershed times \$0.65 = Donation Request

### Member Cities

2020 Census population X \$0.65 = Donation Request

### Member SWCD's

Number of Water Sampling Sites X \$200.00 (minimum donation request of \$250)

*If you have questions or concerns about the calculations please contact Tori Nimrod, Northeast Iowa RC&D*