

26 JAN THE MIDDLE CEDAR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT: IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY IN IOWA

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Complex environmental problems improving water supplies, promoting economic growth in agriculture, and sustaining our earth's resources require cross-collaboration. Now, moreover, non-profits, businesses, and government are banding together on initiatives that preserve and improve the environment.

This past week, the city of Cedar Rapids and multiple agriculture commodity groups formed an intersector partnership to improve water quality. As part of this partnership,

\$2.2 million in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding was approved for water quality improvement projects on the Middle Cedar River. This intersector collaboration, known as The Middle Cedar Partnership Project (MCCPP), is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and will receive a portion of the \$1 billion in RCPP projects nationwide.

Government funds for the project will be supplemented by an additional \$2.2 million from partner contributions including the City of Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA), Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA), and the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA). Sean McMahon, Executive Director of the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, said that Cedar Rapids is commended for its leadership in partnering with farmers to implement conservation practices.



ABOUT

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SEAN MCMAHON TALKS ABOUT HIS WORK WITH THE IOWA AGRICULTURE WATER ALLIANCE AND SA (FIRST AT 4:30 AND AGAIN AT 10:00) THAT CHOOSING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH HAS BEEN CRITICAL FOR IMPROVING WATER SUPPLIES IN CEDAR RAPIDS.

To measure the success of the initiative, ISA's Environmental Program and Services team, along with other partners, will conduct and complete watershed assessments and planning services within the first year of the project. ISA is in a unique position to contribute data to the project. Before joining the partnership, the organization was collaborating upstream with the Milk River Water Quality Initiative Project to monitor water quality conditions resulting from conservation practices and tile outlets. To the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, "data collected from the project will be used to track improvements at the field and watershed scale, information that will support the MCPP."

TAGS: Environment