

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 23, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## **Cedar River Watershed Coalition: 2017 Spring Meeting Announcement**

### ***Meeting will include a visit to a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program wetland***

OSAGE – The Cedar River Watershed Coalition Steering Committee is announcing the Spring 2017 Cedar River Watershed Coalition meeting, scheduled for Friday, March 31 from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm in Osage. The theme of the meeting is “Improving the Upper Cedar Watershed: Challenges & Successes.” The event is free and the public is invited to learn about projects underway to engage farmers in conservation efforts, urban-rural partnerships for conservation, the economic benefits to farmers in reducing soil erosion, and other topics. The meeting is of relevance to farmers, conservationists, policy makers, and any others with an interest in improved water quality and flood risk reduction.

Lunch will be generously provided by Iowa Corn Growers. To register, email [Marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov) or visit <https://goo.gl/forms/jzZSBvpkEXILDPI13>.

The first part of the meeting will take place from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Milton R. Owen Nature Center in Osage (18793 Hwy 9). Several speakers have been invited to share information about projects in the Upper Cedar Watershed:

- Panel presentation on Upper Cedar Watershed improvement activities with representatives from the Upper Cedar Watershed Management Authority, City of Charles City, Rock Creek Watershed farmers, and Minnesota's Cedar River Watershed District
- Presentation from Dr. Rick Cruse, Director of the Iowa Water Center at Iowa State University, on the economic implications of soil loss from farm fields
- Information about the Retain Iowa program, which provides toolkits to farmers to help them better understand nitrogen losses from their fields

After lunch, there will be presentations from IDALS and University of Iowa – IIHR regarding the Slough Creek wetland near Orchard. A site visit will follow (maps to the site will be available at the meeting). The full agenda is provided below.

The Cedar River Watershed Coalition was formed in February, 2010, in response to the Flood of 2008. The Coalition involves elected officials, local and state government representatives, farmers, business owners, conservationists, and other concerned citizens. The Coalition believes that citizens living in the watershed must take the lead to reduce future flood risk, and improve water quality.

**~Improving the Upper Cedar Watershed: Challenges & Successes~**  
**Cedar River Watershed Coalition Spring 2017 Meeting**

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 • 10:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Milton R. Owen Nature Center, 18793 Hwy 9, Osage, IA 50461

**Meeting Agenda**

**10:00 am      Welcome & Introductions**

Coalition Co-Chairs Rob Hogg, State Senator and Vern Fish, Black Hawk County

**10:15 am      Panel: Upper Cedar Watershed Improvement**

Panelists will provide an introduction to current watershed improvement efforts, highlighting their successes, challenges, and overall goals. What will it take to achieve ‘success’ in their project?

- Upper Cedar Watershed Management Authority (*Dennis Carney, Upper Cedar WMA Secretary*)
- Rock Creek Watershed Project (*Wayne Fredericks & Dean Sponheim, Rock Creek farmers*)
- Upper Cedar Urban-Rural Partnership (*Steve Diers, City of Charles City*)
- Upper Cedar Watershed District (*Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD & Cedar River Watershed District, MN*)

**11:00 am      Economic Impacts of Soil Loss to Farmers**

Rick Cruse, Director of the Iowa Water Center at Iowa State University

**11:30 am      Watershed News & Updates**

Upcoming events, meetings, and announcements from partners

**12:00 pm      Lunch (courtesy of Iowa Corn Growers)**

Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers Sustainable Program Manager, will introduce the Retain program and resources for farmers.

**12:30 pm      Prairie Pothole Wetland Restoration**

Overview of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, with a focus on the water quality benefits of the Slough Creek Wetland.

- Judy Krebsbach, Iowa Dep’t of Agriculture & Land Stewardship: CREP Program in Iowa
- Chris Jones, University of Iowa – IIHR: Water Monitoring at Slough Creek Wetland

**1:00 pm      Slough Creek Wetland Site Visit**

Site visit to the Slough Creek Wetland

**2:30 pm      Adjourn**