

JUNE 2020 | Rathbun Regional Water Association

# QUENCH

news by the glassful

## THE BIRDS AND THE BEES — *and the Butterflies!*

IADG A Partner in Rural Development

NRCS Committees Establish Priority  
Areas for Source Water Protection



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on the cover

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**The IRWA Mission:** To provide the highest leadership in the support of Iowa's water and wastewater industries through the provision of technical assistance, training and education, legislative, regulatory and public affairs, and financing activities.

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# IADG

## A Partner in Rural Development

Now, more than ever, we need to unite around the well-being of our rural Iowa communities. Many partners come together to support rural development and vitality. Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is pleased to contribute to this statewide effort. IADG is the business and community development leader for our sponsors and partners, including over 220 rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and independent telecommunications companies throughout the state.

IADG and its partners share a deep commitment to rural Iowa. In addition to safe and reliable electricity and dependable broadband, we recognize that water plays an essential role in ensuring a productive rural economy. In addition to being an essential element for agricultural production, water enables job opportunities in numerous key sectors across rural Iowa, including manufacturing, food processing, and biofuels, to name a few.

IADG and our partners are here to support rural development. Below are the highlights of the services IADG provides.

### SITE AND BUILDING SELECTION

IADG works closely with business, community, and site selection representatives and provides project guidance and assistance in the areas of:

- Identification of available sites and buildings: IADG showcases a statewide inventory of sites, buildings, and community information at [www.IADG.com](http://www.IADG.com). The properties are also listed on the dynamic, nationwide real estate site [LoopNet.com](http://LoopNet.com)
- Prospect proposals, site visits, and follow-up: IADG staff assemble the components necessary for project consideration. This includes available site and building information, photography; mapping of available assets; and creation of a team of local, state, and federal partners to support the overall project.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGING

IADG has assisted its sponsors in securing more USDA rural economic development loans and grants than any state in the nation. Our IADG sponsors have been awarded **347 awards** totaling **\$90 million in pass-through loans** and **\$54 million in grants** to support business and community development projects across rural Iowa. The grants have been leveraged to create **67 utility-sponsored Revolving Loan Funds** totaling over **\$64 million** of ongoing support for local projects.

IADG also identifies and assembles resources at the local, regional, and state level to support projects throughout Iowa.

### Industrial Property Development

As Iowa businesses grow and expand, and new businesses consider Iowa, there is a need for industrial ground. Iowa RECs realize that industrial ready property is vital to economic development in the communities they serve. IADG sponsors have designated, designed, and developed **95 industrial parks** totaling over **7,200 acres** of shovel-ready industrial and commercial property. They have also supported the construction of **75 shell buildings**, making **2.4 million square feet** of industrial space available for business growth.

### Business Recognition

The Iowa Venture Award was established by IADG partners to honor Iowa companies for their entrepreneurial leadership, innovation, and job creation. A listing of all 272 Iowa Venture Award recipients is available in the IADG Venture Award Hall of Fame at [www.IADG.com/](http://www.IADG.com/).

Thank you to rural water for your essential leadership for Iowa's water and wastewater industries, which support job growth and community vitality. IADG is a partner in rural economic development and stands ready to assist as the opportunity arises. Reach out to the IADG team at [www.IADG.com](http://www.IADG.com).



Fairfield Spec Exterior



Spencer Tech South Undeveloped 2018



Trinity Rail



# Rathbun Regional Water Association

16166 HWY J29 CENTERVILLE, IA 52544-8307

641-647-2416 • 1-800-233-8849 • FAX: 641-647-2217 • E-MAIL: RRWAINC@RRWA.NET

## RRWA 43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Membership meeting was held at the RRWA Treatment Plant, 16166 Hwy J29, Centerville, IA on February 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Three directors were re-elected to serve a three-year term on the RRWA Board:

District 2: Dennis Amoss-6040 170<sup>th</sup> Street, Albia, IA 52531.

District 3: Doug Goben-1643 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Corydon, IA 50060.

District 7: Curtis Frank-3591 250<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakville, IA 52646.

RRWA would like to thank all of those members of the nominating committee for their willingness to serve. Members of the nominating committee appointed by the Board of Directors were: Dan Furlin, Jr-Numa, Gary Dustin-Albia, Larry Moore-Bonaparte, Leroy Perkins-Corydon, Darrell Krehbiel-Donnellson, Susan Knapp-Bloomfield, and Bill Hillyard-Burlington.

Other items discussed at the meeting were:

- The 2019 Financial Report of RRWA
- Tour of the Updates to the Original RRWA Treatment Plant
- Tour of the New RRWA Treatment Plant

Rathbun Regional  
Water Association, Inc.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Randy Eddy, *Chairman*

Denny Amoss, *Vice Chairman*

Doug Goben *Secretary & Treas.*

Garry Schiller

Ken Wutrich

Curt Frank

Charla Warner

## 2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT INFORMATION

The Rathbun Regional Water Association, Inc. 2019 Water Quality Reports (CCR) coming soon: Starting July 01, 2020 you will be able to view your RRWA system 2019 Annual Water Quality Report (also known as a Consumer Confidence Report, CCR) online.

If your account number begins with 01 – 30 log on to [https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR\\_Rathbun.pdf](https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR_Rathbun.pdf)

If your account number begins with 33 – 34, 42 – 43, 71 – 72 log on to [https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR\\_FtMadison.pdf](https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR_FtMadison.pdf)

If your account number begins with 35 – 38, 40 – 41, 74 log on to [https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR\\_Burlington.pdf](https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR_Burlington.pdf)

If your account number begins with 39 log on to [https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR\\_MtPleasant.pdf](https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/2019CCR_MtPleasant.pdf)

Your 2019 Consumer Confidence Report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper copy of the CCR mailed to your home or sent as an attachment to an email, please call 641.647.2416 or email [jbuckingham@rrwa.net](mailto:jbuckingham@rrwa.net).

# 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF RRWA

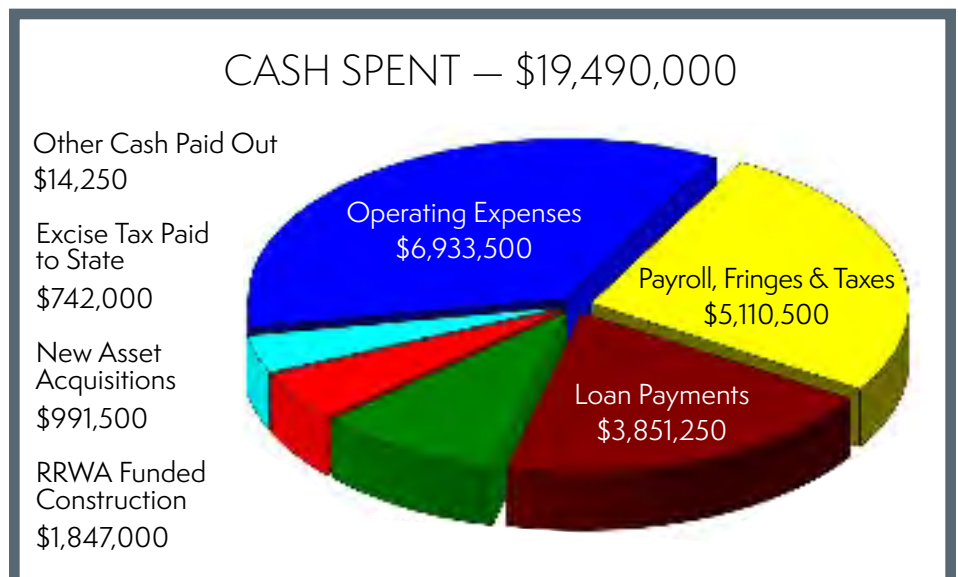
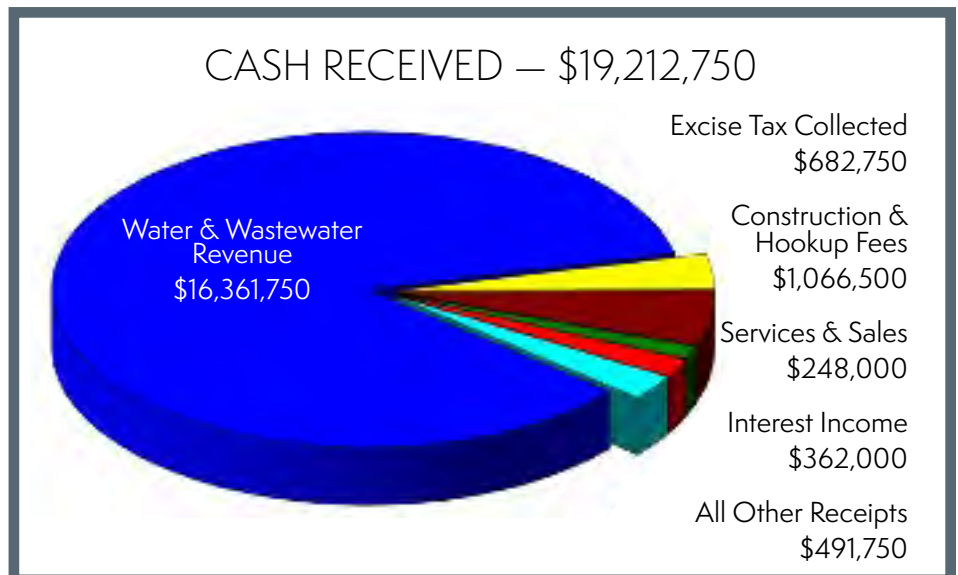
The number of water meters that RRWA customers had in service increased by 100 throughout the year and totaled 20,435 by the end of 2019. Water usage during the year from these meters decreased by 34 million gallons or about 1% from 2018 numbers and totaled 2.9 billion gallons for 2019. This decrease in water usage was primarily due to the wetter weather conditions experienced throughout most of the year (12<sup>th</sup> wettest and 29<sup>th</sup> coldest year on record for Iowa).

The 2.9 billion gallons in water sales generated revenues of almost \$16.1 million for the Association and when combined with \$250,000 collected from 750 Waste Water customers, accounted for almost 85% of the total cash received during 2019. Another \$680,000 in excise tax associated with water sales was collected for the State. A connection fee from the City of Donnellson of \$350,000 was received during 2019 as reimbursement for expenditures required to serve them water and construction income and hookup fees charged for all other new additions to the distribution system brought in \$715,000 while additional construction services and material sales provided to members, customers and other entities added \$250,000. Income from RRWA'S cash investments generated just over \$360,000 in interest income throughout the year and all other cash received from miscellaneous sources during 2019 totaled \$490,000.

Daily operating expenses of the company during 2019 required \$6.9 million in cash and included in this segment was everything from the chemicals and electricity used to purify and pump the water; to the fuel and repair costs associated with RRWA'S trucks and construction equipment; or the office supplies and postage expenditures incurred throughout the year. Operating expenses in this segment increased 2.5% or \$170,000 from the prior year. Another \$5.1 million was spent on salaries, fringe benefits and payroll taxes for the company's 66 full-time employees. The next segment of cash expenditures was loan payments which required \$3.8 million of cash. Interest payments totalled \$1.7 million

on an average loan balance of roughly \$43 million throughout the year with principal payments making up the remaining \$2.1 million. Construction projects and improvements required almost \$1.85 million throughout the year for the funding of costs associated with new individual customer hookups and the infrastructure needed for the connection to Donnellson. New capital purchases required another \$991,500; payments made to the State for excise and sales tax totaled \$742,000; and all other uses of cash totaled \$14,250.

Total cash expenditures for the year added up to \$19,490,000, which when compared with total cash receipts of \$19,212,750, resulted in a negative cash flow during the year of \$277,250. Even with this negative cash flow, the company's balance sheet and financial ratios continued to remain strong in 2019 with the company's net worth or members equity increasing by over \$1 million when compared to numbers reported the previous year while long term debt and liabilities decreased by \$2.2 million.



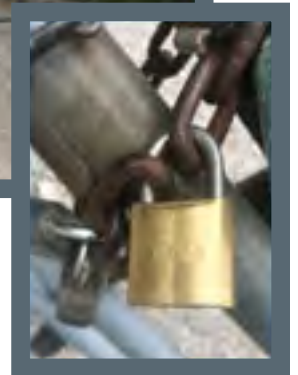
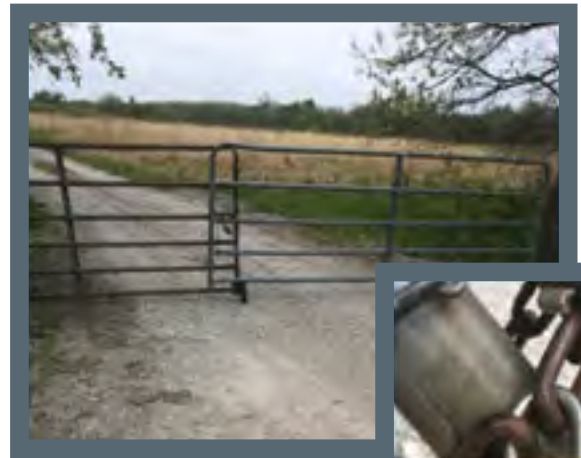


# PLEASE DON'T LOCK RRWA OUT!

Some RRWA customers have installed locked gates at driveways or access roads to their properties. In order to provide our customers with the highest quality water and service, RRWA may need access to these properties. This access will allow RRWA employees to properly maintain our water lines and other infrastructure. RRWA also performs meter reading and flushing that require employees to enter customers' properties. In addition, RRWA may need to enter a customer's property to take care of any water system emergencies.

Customers with gated and locked access to their properties will start to notice a padlock stamped with the RRWA logo installed on their chained gates. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this necessary action, please don't hesitate to contact the RRWA office by phone at 800-233-8849 or by email at [rrwainc@rrwa.net](mailto:rrwainc@rrwa.net).

As a reminder, even RRWA customers who do not have locked gates at their driveways or access roads should remember that our employees may need to enter their properties for the reasons described above. RRWA greatly appreciates all of our customers' cooperation and understanding to ensure that the Association's employees can easily access their properties.



## Transfer/Snowbird Fees Increased for First Time

Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) currently has approximately 20,500 active water hookups and another 4,000 non-active or idle accounts. Every year 1,500 of these accounts are activated or transferred into another name. The fee for this service is currently \$40 plus a \$5 membership and has been since 1998. Effective July 1, 2020 that fee will be changing to \$70 plus a \$5 membership. Each time an account changes names an Area Representative is dispatched to the location to get a meter reading.

Once the reading is obtained the present occupant will be billed for the usage up to that date and the new person is issued billing supplies starting with that reading. This fee also applies to accounts that are "snow birds" or those accounts that idle their service for several months. The charge to re-activate those idle accounts will also be \$70 beginning July 1, 2020. If you have elected to install a smart meter you no longer have the option to "snowbird" the account, as there are data charges associated with each meter per month. If you have questions about these charges please don't hesitate to call the office and speak with one of our billing specialists.

# Be Smart About Your Water!

*Call Now for a RRWA Smart Water Meter*

**As a RRWA customer, here are the top five reasons that you should call to ask for a smart water meter.**

- Reason #1 Customers with a smart meter can monitor their water use on a secure website using a computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Reason #2 Customers with a smart meter will be notified by email of water leaks in their systems.
- Reason #3 Customers with a smart meter can sign up for RRWA's auto-pay bill payment option.
- Reason #4 Customers with a smart meter and auto-pay will no longer have to read their remotes, mail in their payments, or worry about paying their water bills on time.
- Reason #5 Customers do not have to pay any additional costs or fees to replace their existing water meter with a new RRWA smart meter.

Customers can sign-up for a smart meter and auto-pay by calling RRWA at 1-800-233-8849, emailing [rrwainc@rrwa.net](mailto:rrwainc@rrwa.net), or visiting our website at [www.rrwa.net](http://www.rrwa.net).



## RRWA Mission Statement

Rathbun Regional Water Association, Inc. strives to improve the quality of life in our region by providing our customers with safe, high quality drinking water and related services.

We believe the success of our organization depends on our commitment to the following values:

- Good communication and cooperation between our customers, employees, management, and board.
- Innovative, dependable, highly trained employees that take pride in their work and are dedicated to serving our customers.
- Responsibility as a team for the efficient and reliable delivery of reasonably priced product and services to our region.
- Equal opportunity for growth and excellence for every employee.
- Proactive involvement with economic growth and environmental stewardship.



# The Birds and the Bees — and the Butterflies!

Author: Lynia Ghormley

It's time for *the talk*. You know the one. Except this time it really is about the birds and the bees, and their friends the butterflies. Let's ease into it with some classic "Did You Know?" questions:

## Did You Know...

**Monarch butterflies have experienced an 80% decrease in population in the last 20 years?** This author remembers growing up among what sometimes seemed like clouds of monarchs at our rural Iowa acreage. Now we are lucky to see three or four a year in our small-town flower garden. There are simply not enough milkweed plants anymore to sustain their larvae. Iowa is in the monarch's Midwest "fly-way" (migration path), so it is very important to provide them with the plants they need to feed their young here.

**Honey Bees lose 40% of their hives annually?** This means not only a decrease in honey, but fewer pollinators for our gardens and crops.

**Native Bee populations continue to suffer steep declines in both populations and habitat?** This spring I stepped outside my back door to find an unexpected swarm of native bees desperately trying to find nesting pockets in the slotted handles of the plastic snow shovels still leaning against our house. These super pollinators don't sting, and let me walk among them unchallenged. It was an amazing experience!

**If you have at least two acres of land, you can help to change these sad facts?** The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund (BBHF) will support you with technical assistance and free seeds. It works with landowners, conservationists, scientists,

and beekeepers, helping to create pollinator habitat that is both healthy and sustainable.

We might think that the world would be a better place without insects that sting us, and that, while butterflies are pretty, they aren't really necessary. We would be dead wrong. According to the BBHF website, "These pollinators are essential to life as we know it. In fact, about one-third of global food production and billions in agriculture are dependent on pollinators to some degree – honey bees and other insects pollinate 80 percent of flowering plants worldwide. In addition, honey bees are vital to agriculture and pollinate most of the fruit and vegetable crops humans (and that's not considering the impact on livestock!) consume every day – 90 different crops, making up 1/3 of our food supply!" In short, pollinators like bees and butterflies are very important to the success of our agricultural endeavors in Iowa.

Elsa Gallagher, Missouri-based Biologist for BBHF, says that although the BBHF helps establish special habitat for pollinators that will sustain them, this habitat benefits farmers, too. Even soybean fields, which don't technically require pollination via insects, have shown improved crop yields when bees are present.

BBHF's *Seed A Legacy* program, supported by many corporate sponsors, has six main objectives:

- Establish high-quality pollinator habitat using innovation and new technology.
- Work to establish the habitat in the regions of the country that are the most critical to pollinator health and habitat.
- Demonstrate how high-quality habitat can be designed and established in a manner that is more cost-effective, establishes quickly, and provides superior weed control aspects. [Appropriate density growth of native plants, especially the clover loved by bees, discourages weeds.]
- Designing pollinator habitat projects that will work in a wide range of situations and require less intense management activities in the future.
- Demonstrate how pollinator habitat can provide benefits for a wide range of important considerations like water quality [Gallagher says native plants with deeper roots provide infiltration and stop erosion from water flowing overland], soil health, grassland songbirds [in case you were wondering where the birds fit into this talk; Pheasants Forever also cooperates with BBHF], honey production, etc.
- Work with land managers using tools and options that work with agriculture to provide clear benefits for both the farm and pollinator habit.





© Peter Berthelsen, Conservation Blueprint, LLC.

### How does the program work?

Landowners in twelve Midwestern states having at least two acres to dedicate to the program may fill out an online application. If it is approved — and BBHF wants to approve as many as possible in Iowa — they will sign a five-year contract and be educated in how to prepare the land for sowing the native seeds. Gallagher says sites must be fully devoid of vegetation before planting can occur, and BBHF’s “Gold Plan” is the best way to achieve this result. This involves planting Roundup-ready soybeans on the land the year prior to planting the habitat. It lays down a good nitrogen base, and the field is free of grass. The herbicide on the beans will not negatively affect the new crop of native plants.

When the land has been properly prepared, BBHF provides and delivers specialized seed mixes free of charge to projects of up to 25 acres. (Larger projects may require the landowner to pay a small percentage of the seed cost.) Half of the acreage must be planted in *Honey Bee Mix*, which is mostly clovers, and the other half in *Iowa Monarch Butterfly Mix*, which includes four types of milkweed in addition to 66 flowering plants. Seed mixes will be designed especially for the location and type of soil, to ensure maximum hardiness and growth. The seeds can be planted using a no-till grass drill with multiple seed boxes, or in the case of a smaller area, broadcast by hand.

BBHF specifies that fields used for habitat are “open to haying, shredding, mowing and grazing activities except for the dates of April 1 to September 30 of each year of the contract.” It is critical that flowering plants are available in the spring (season 1) and autumn (season 3), so mixes are designed to ensure that seeds for those periods are especially well represented.

There is no requirement to allow visitors into the fields, but landowners must post two signs at each site, provided by BBHF, which indicate to passersby that this is a BBHF program field

**Continued on page 10.**





Ashley Hazen and her family have started a bbhf program at their acreage. She was gracious enough to answer some questions about their project:

**Q: Ashley, I understand you have put acres into Bee and Butterfly Habitat. Could you please tell me a little bit about yourself, and what inspired you to do this?**

A: My husband is a Behavior Specialist for Council Bluffs Community School District, and I am a Senior Recruiter for Travel Nurse Across America. We have two children: Leota, 4, and Julian, 1. We love spending time outside and teaching our kids how to take care of themselves and appreciate the land. We bought a small fixer-upper on an acreage where we converted six acres of corn field to the Bee and Butterfly habitat. We wanted to make something beautiful for our family to enjoy while helping the BBHF. We don't farm, so we wanted to do something useful with the land.

**Q: How did you prepare your land for the project?**

A: We had to disc up the corn field a few dozen times. Then once the seed arrived, I actually sat on the back of the four-wheeler with a hand broadcaster while my husband drove in rows. It was definitely a makeshift application,

but we got it done before a huge rainstorm came in. We were lucky that summer, because there was a lot of rain to help it grow!

**Q: Where is your property, and what part of it did you use for the project?**

A: We're located in Glenwood, Iowa about five miles north of town in the thick of the Loess Hills. The acreage was pretty beaten down, used by a farmer who left us with half a cornfield when we bought it. It was a giant unattended crop field that we've loved and nurtured to turn it into something useful.

**Q: Do you think your project is a success? If so, why?**

A: Definitely! We have so many butterflies and bees! If you walk into the field and actually stop to look around, it's pretty amazing how much life there is out there. The bees are so natural in their element, there isn't even a fear of getting stung. It's like they're too busy living to even notice you. The butterflies just drive my 4-year-old daughter wild; she thinks she's one of them!

**Q: Is your project near an apiary [honey bee hives]?**

A: There is an apiary about 1.5 miles away. We had to locate them when we applied for the seed grant. Down the road we plan on starting one ourselves. [Note: Gallagher says that actually having an apiary nearby is not a requirement for application.]

**Q: Do you plan to continue your project beyond the five years required in your contract?**

A: We definitely plan on continuing it. I don't see a better way to use the rolling Loess Hills at this point.

**Q: Would you recommend this project to other rural lowans?**

A: Yes! Seeing the bees and butterflies work has been so educational for our kids, and we feel like we're making a small difference in a society that sometimes acts as if life and land are disposable.

Ashley and her family had unused acreage to plant for the project, but farmers can also utilize odd pieces of pasture or crop fields, field edges, buffer zones, etc., if together they total at least two acres.

I asked Gallagher what those of us with fewer than two acres could do to promote pollinator habitat in our yards, either in or out of town. She said that the BBHF would sell the seed mix in one-acre packages to those who want to use their special blends in a smaller area. She also

recommended adding swamp milkweed into our landscaping. It is an attractive pink-flowering perennial that can survive in partly shady areas, and does not broadly seed itself like the common milkweed that many consider undesirable in a cultivated flowerbed. Monarchs love it, and will lay their eggs on it. It may be eaten down by the caterpillars at the end of the summer, but you will be rewarded with a beautiful crop of monarch butterflies when they metamorphose into adults.

This may not have been exactly "the talk" you expected when you read the title of this article, but Gallagher and Hazen hope you will be inspired by it to follow in their footsteps and create something of beauty in rural Iowa, while at the same time encouraging birds, bees — and yes, butterflies! — to come live and prosper on your extra bits of land. You will be doing Iowa a favor, and creating a natural wonderland your children and grandchildren will never forget!

[For an application, go to the BBHF website <https://beeandbutterflyfund.org> and click on the Seed a Legacy Program button.]

Sources: <https://beeandbutterflyfund.org> • <https://projectapism.org> • <https://monarchjointventure.org>

*Lynia Ghormley is a freelance writer and copy editor of magazines, educational publications, trade journals, and short fiction set in rural Iowa. She lives in Colfax, Iowa, with her husband, two sons, three cats, and a Shetland Sheepdog named Trooper.*

# NRCS Committees Establish Priority Areas for Source Water Protection

Aaron Schroeder – Iowa Rural Water Association Source Water Protection Specialist

The 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act or “Farm Bill” was the first of its kind to include provisions specifically for source water protection. It requires that at least 10% of Farm Bill conservation program funding be directed toward source water protection. Shortly after the 2018 farm bill passed, committees in Iowa began working to identify priority areas and practices to utilize the new provisions as efficiently as possible.

When determining priority areas, parameters considered included geologic susceptibility, nitrate concentration in finished water, type of public water supply, population, and land use type within the designated capture zone. Utilities that met the necessary criteria which also have completed a watershed management plan or source water protection plan (Phase 2) were given the designation of “priority”, those which met the criteria but do not currently have a Phase 2 plan were given the designation of “eligible”. Locations of these areas can be seen in figures 1 and 2. More detailed information on these locations can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/technical/92c50ae7-4264-4ffc-a63c-260ae12c5784/>.

Eligible practices through the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) include those from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) that are known to have a positive effect source water quality. Landowners in priority areas will be eligible for 75 percent financial assistance toward these practices.

Following the 2018 Farm Bill, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has been encouraging and promoting source water protection efforts at the local level. When asked to provide some background on the source water protection program in Iowa, IDNR Source Water Protection Program Coordinator Jessica Montana stated, “The

quality of a source of water can be influenced by both natural and human activities. So, the concept of source water protection is to manage areas where water travels and the activities that occur on the land in an effort to protect the quality of the water resource including preventing contaminants from affecting a public water supply. Additionally, protection efforts may save a community money by requiring less treatment and prolonging use of a drinking water well.” Jessica, along with other IDNR personnel assisted in establishing the source water protection priority areas following the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Rathbun Lake Watershed was one of the areas identified as eligible for farm bill source water protection funding. Within the Rathbun Lake Watershed, several subwatersheds were identified as priority areas. Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) has taken an active role in source water protection. “A successful source water protection effort requires drinking water utilities to collaborate with landowners, businesses, agencies, and organizations. These partners have the expertise and resources that, together with those of water utilities, can be effective at protecting sources of drinking water.” said Marty Braster, Support Services Officer with RRWA. Marty has been working diligently on source water protection within the Rathbun Lake Watershed. Marty views the 2018 Farm Bill as “An unprecedented opportunity to protect Iowa’s ground and surface drinking water sources” and encourages water utilities to reach out to their local NRCS field offices and soil and water conservation districts.

As an employee of the Iowa Rural Water Association (IRWA), I am excited about the increased buzz surrounding source water protection the 2018 Farm Bill has generated. The increased buzz has allowed IRWA to make additional connections and partnerships related to drinking water quality. With the help of these partners, utilities, landowners, and the public we look forward to continuing to assist in source water protection efforts statewide.



Fig. 1 “Ground Water Source Water Protection Priority Areas”; NRCS Iowa, Feb 4 2020, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/technical>



Fig. 2 “Surface Water Source Water Protection Priority Areas”; NRCS Iowa, Feb 4 2020, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/technical>



Newly constructed terraces in the Rathbun Lake Watershed in Southern Iowa



A farmer planting into a cover crop in the Rathbun Lake Watershed in Southern Iowa



Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Montezuma, IA  
Permit No. 30

Rathbun Regional Water Association, Inc.  
16166 Hwy J29  
Centerville, IA 52544

# Iowa Rural Water Charitable Foundation Announces 2020 Scholarship Awards

2020 has been a banner year for the Iowa Rural Water Charitable Foundation's scholarship program. The Foundation awarded 13 scholarships totaling \$14,500. This represents both a record number of scholarships and a record amount of scholarship funds awarded during a year.

In the earlier years of the scholarship program, typically two or three \$250 scholarships were awarded each year. Donations to the fund have significantly increased in recent years, particularly due to many rural water systems in Iowa participating in the CoBank Sharing Success Program. The CoBank program matches, dollar-for-dollar, the donations from the rural water systems.

The Iowa Rural Water Charitable Foundation Board of Directors evaluates the scholarship applications.

Children of employees from Iowa Rural Water Association (IRWA) member communities and rural systems are eligible to receive these scholarships. Priority is given to students pursuing a career in the water industry. Since the program began, 66 scholarships, totaling \$59,500, have been awarded to college-bound students.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is very appreciative of the strong support from rural systems and would like to recognize CoBank for providing matching funds that has made the scholarship program such a success. The Board would like to extend an invitation to all IRWA members to make a financial contribution to the Foundation's scholarship program and help students realize their educational goals.

