



March 5, 2015

**STATEMENT:**

Sean McMahon, Executive Director, Iowa Agriculture and Water Alliance (IAWA)

“Today’s announcement by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship about a collaborative effort to improve water quality in a major river and source of drinking water for Des Moines is a positive step forward. IAWA is proud to be a part of this effort.

“Farmers and landowners statewide have invested \$22.5 million in conservation practices within the past year. More than half of that investment, \$13 million, comes from farmers’ own pockets. An additional \$2.8 million will be invested in these three new Water Quality Initiative projects over three years. The cooperation of multiple partners who have been instrumental in implementing successful projects of similar scope will be paramount to success.

“This demonstrates IAWA’s commitment to increase the pace and scale of conservation practices on farms that will best reduce the amount of nutrients entering Iowa’s waterways.

“There are long-term, effective solutions to our water quality challenges. The cities of Storm Lake and Ames are part of two projects, which shows that municipalities and agriculture are working together to improve the water that we all drink.”

The projects are in the following areas:

1. *Elk Run Watershed Water Quality Initiative Project – Sac, Carroll and Calhoun Counties*
2. *Headwaters North Raccoon River – Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties*
3. *Leading a New Collaborative Approach to Improving Water Quality in the Squaw Creek Watershed – Story, Boone and Hamilton Counties*

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/press/2015press/press03052015.asp>

<http://www.iowaagwateralliance.com/>

Contact: Donna Ramaeker Zahn (515) 334-1080 or Sean McMahon (515) 334-1017