



River Congress Summary

2.15.2010

Seventy delegates attended Iowa Rivers Revival's 2nd River Congress on Saturday, January 23, 2010. Attendees representing 9 of 50 of Iowa's major watersheds (Beaver Creek, Boone River, Cedar River, Des Moines River, Iowa River, Little Grant-Maquoketa River, Middle Des Moines, North Raccoon, Raccoon River, Saylor Creek, South Raccoon and South Skunk) came engaged and ready to share stories – stories about developing relationships in ways that benefit rivers and communities, as well as stories about the work we have to accomplish.

River Congress outcomes presented three major themes for creating and engaging river advocates. These themes will provide direction for IRR and river advocates in developing a plan to connect people who enjoy and care about rivers and people and systems for developing policy and politics that can improve the condition of Iowa's rivers.

- Connect local river groups and individuals who enjoy and care about rivers
 - Encourage activities that connect people with rivers
 - Create opportunities for connecting individuals with river groups and others in their watersheds
 - Encourage organization of river and watershed groups to raise awareness about the value and condition of rivers
- Engage local river advocates
 - Encourage partnerships between communities, river groups, businesses and agencies that raise awareness about rivers and improve condition of rivers and connections to rivers
 - Educate advocates about river friendly and sustainable development and good floodplain zoning decisions
 - Organize events where successes and concerns can be shared
- Engage river advocates in policy, rulemaking and legislative developments
 - Encourage engagement in the political process, e.g., meeting legislators and discussing specific legislation (e.g., the NPDES signage bill)
 - Raise awareness about the process of rulemaking and policy development, the people who set policy and the forums where rules are made and policy is set
 - Offer opportunities to increase impact on political decisions and policy development