



*Iowa Rivers
revival* 

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 ACCOM

Education/Outreach

our mission: to help Iowans restore, protect, and enjoy our rivers

our vision: clean, free-flowing Iowa rivers teeming with life, surrounded by diverse landscapes, and connecting vibrant communities

our history: In March 2006, a coalition of individuals, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations organized the inaugural "Iowa Rivers Revival" conference. There, the need for a statewide organization committed to river advocacy, conservation, and education was affirmed. Following the conference, a dedicated, core group of volunteers continued to meet monthly to develop the mission and vision for a new statewide river organization, including an agenda of programs and priorities to protect and enhance Iowa's rivers. Iowa Rivers Revival was officially incorporated by the state of Iowa as a non-profit organization in November 2006 and received federal non-profit status in March 2009.

our philosophy: Iowa Rivers Revival is a non-profit statewide leader in river education and advocacy and is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources—our rivers and streams. IRR works to engage individuals, organizations, communities, and government leaders in river awareness, responsibility, and enjoyment to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa waterways—ensuring a quality, safe, and lasting resource for future generations.

- ✓ Received the 2014 "Environmental Impact Award" for IRR's work to develop and deliver the Master River Stewards Program. IRR also was recognized for its "exceptional water management practices."
- ✓ Awarded "River Town of the Year" to Decorah, Iowa, and the Upper Iowa River – recognizing this historic river town and scenic river valley as the heart and soul of the community and a focus for recreation, economic development, and environmental stewardship.
- ✓ Delivered IRR's Master River Stewards Program for the third year to 20 participants in the Iowa River Watershed in May and June 2014. The program focuses on river systems paddling and navigating skills, knowledge about restoring aquatic habitat and improving water quality, and understanding policies related to river protection, and restoration.
- ✓ Led IRR's River Rascals program for the sixth year in the Des Moines area in August 2014, offering ten urban youth from the Children and Family Urban Movement a unique river experience, including paddling instruction, water safety, river etiquette, river biology, water quality, and water monitoring.
- ✓ Participated in the Iowa Children's Water Festival in Ankeny, Iowa, for the sixth year, facilitating breakout sessions for five different groups of 5th graders and raising awareness about local water resources and our daily interactions with rivers.
- ✓ Delivered over 35 programs, presentations, or exhibits to increase awareness about IRR and river issues by IRR board members, volunteers, and staff.
- ✓ Increased and diversified IRR's supporter and friends list.
- ✓ Provided public communications and outreach about IRR and river-related news, events and opportunities through IRR's e-News, direct mail, the IRR website, and TV, print, and social media.
- ✓ Expanded low-head dam resources and outreach by producing the REAP CEP funded "Iowa Low-Head Dam Modification Success Stories" booklet and by submitting the Des Moines Register opinion editorial "It's time to fix the 'Drowning Machines,'" printed on December 20, 2014.
- ✓ Continued to generate compelling, science-based resources that support IRR's programs and priorities, including fact sheets about river basics, river restoration, and IOWATER.



2014 River Rascals and their mentors.



Bill Stowe, CEO of Des Moines Water Works, presents the 2014 Environmental Impact Award to Iowa Rivers Revival.

PLISHMENTS

Advocacy

- ✓ Successfully advocated for a **\$2M appropriation from the "Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)"** for the Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails Program. This was a \$1M increase from previous appropriations.
- ✓ Coordinated and delivered the **Natural River Restoration Policy Workshop** in partnership with the City of Clive and the Iowa Stormwater Education Program in October. National and state experts presented an introduction to natural river restoration benefits and practices to over 70 Iowa policy-makers and community leaders.
- ✓ Developed an **IRR River Restoration program and strategy** to expand river restoration awareness and expertise in Iowa with funds awarded by the McKnight Foundation.
- ✓ Hosted the annual **Legislative Reception** for the seventh year. Over 100 legislative leaders and river supporters gathered to connect about Iowa river issues and experiences. The reception included a program to highlight the recipient of IRR's annual award for River Town of the Year (Decorah).
- ✓ Facilitated **opportunities for members and supporters to meet and contact legislators** to advocate for IRR's 2014 legislative priorities. These included support for an Iowa River Restoration Program, continued funding for the Low-Head Mitigation and Water Trails Program, and sustainable funding to protect and enhance Iowa's natural resources through REAP and the Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- ✓ Represented rivers on the **Water Policy Advisory Council**. WPAC is a legislatively-appointed stakeholder group charged with making water quality recommendations to the Water Resources Coordinating Council. The WRCC is comprised of Iowa state agency and university leaders.
- ✓ Met and continued contact with the Governor and staff to discuss **legislative priorities** for rivers.
- ✓ Met and continued communication with **Iowa DNR leadership** about an array of river issues.
- ✓ Delivered **timely legislative updates** to supporters providing current legislative information and encouraging legislative contact about the importance of rivers and river policy issues.

Capacity

- ✓ Celebrated **75 supporters as 2014 River Champions**, IRR's program that recognizes donors who contribute \$250 or more annually to IRR.
- ✓ Received an **\$80,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation** to expand awareness and expertise for natural river restoration in Iowa, with an emphasis on techniques that reduce nutrient pollution.
- ✓ Awarded a **\$19,690 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP) grant** to develop a "Low-Head Dam Modifications Success Stories" booklet.
- ✓ Received continued support from the **Principal Financial Group of \$2,500** to continue River Rascals and education efforts.
- ✓ Expanded IRR's core team of **volunteers and staff** to achieve organizational goals and priorities.
- ✓ Diversified and broadened **statewide board membership**.



Molly Hanson, IRR Board Member, speaks to Gregg Stark of Cedar Rapids at the Environmental Lobby Day.

IT'S TIME TO FIX THE 'DROWNING MACHINES'

Remove or modify dams to bring safety, recreation to rivers

Des Moines has a world-class riverwalk along the Des Moines River. With riverside trails, a beautiful botanical bridge, renovated botanical garden and a new fishing-themed children's park, the river beckons like never before. Yet a terrifying danger lurks: the recirculating currents called "drowning machines" that form behind low-head dams. The most deadly dam in Iowa, the Center Street Dam, is in the very heart of the Riverwalk. It has claimed 15 lives.

When water flows over a low-head dam, it creates a powerful recirculating current below the dam. Anything trapped in that current is immediately pushed down to the bottom, then back up, back down, and round and round. This deadly current can hold an object (or a person) indefinitely.

Fortunately, we now have ways to make our rivers safer, and it is high time we take action. Fixing our rivers is essential to ensuring the dam and restoring our rivers to their historic character. This has been done elsewhere in Iowa and the U.S. In this scenario, people could boat safely, children could wade and fish and other aquatic life could move freely.

We need to modify the dams to eliminate the recirculating currents. This might mean lowering the top of the dam a few inches or feet and placing a series of large boulders below the dam to block currents.



In this Pulitzer Prize-winning photo from June 2006, a construction worker rescues a woman who fell from a boat into the Des Moines River near the Center Street Dam. The woman's husband drowned.

IOWA VIEW

THE AUTHOR: G. DAVID HURD is former CEO and chairman of the Principal Financial Group and a member of the Principal Financial Group's board of directors. Contact: gphurd@principal.com

ing sufficient water levels to protect intake pipes that draw water for treatment by the Des Moines Water Works for our drinking water. The Center Street Dam, for example, keeps water in the Des Moines River at the height of the dam for several miles upstream. This "pool" assures that water intake pipes near Prospect Park can deliver river water to the Water Works. The pool also assures enough water for boating. While the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers face the Scott Street Dam can wash harmless. Instead, it is deadly: "over people have died there. This dam contains both a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer. It still takes all our voices, it will take standard inclusive leadership, and it will take a significant financial investment in our future. I have come to love rivers, but even as a seasoned rower and paddler, low-head dams scare me great.

IRR donor and river advocate Dave Hurd authored this December 20, 2014 Des Moines Register op-ed to raise awareness about low-head dam issues, resources, and opportunities.

"Each year we work hard, with you and our policy team, to educate the Governor and Iowa legislators about the importance of river programs and funding."

— JERRY PECKUMN
IRR board chair

RIVER RES

Iowa Rivers Revival is leading the charge to raise awareness, increase expertise, and expand natural river restoration practices across Iowa. Natural stream restoration helps to reconnect river systems, reduce nutrient pollution, restore natural habitats, protect critical urban and rural infrastructure, and prevent flooding in our Iowa waterways.

Funding from the McKnight Foundation has provided substantial support to develop resources, identify key stakeholders, and raise awareness about natural river restoration and its many benefits.

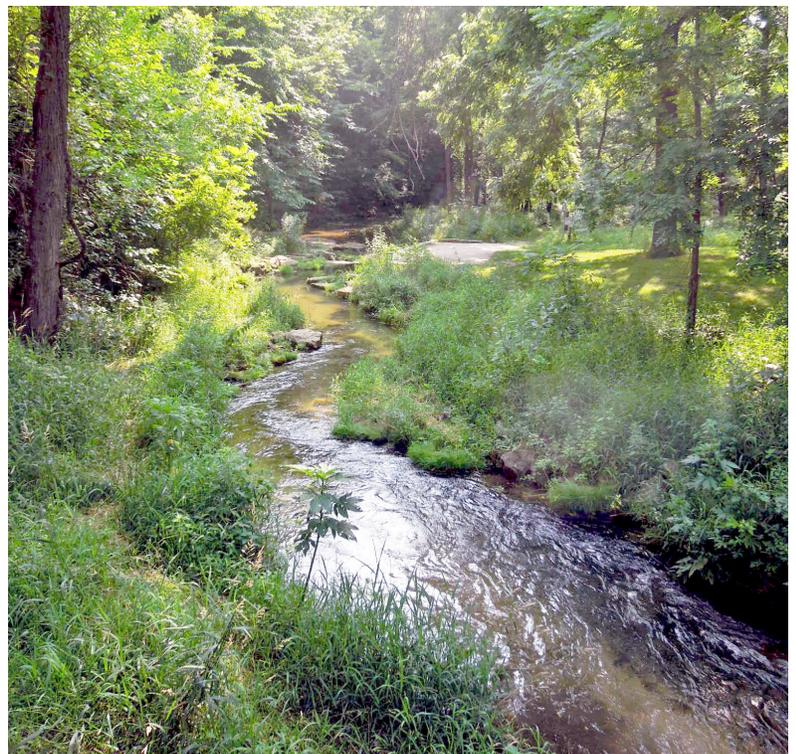


Left: The Center Street Dam, the deadliest low-head dam in Iowa, is responsible for 15 fatalities. IRR works to educate about low-head dam mitigation—the elimination of dam-related problems that also improves safety, minimizes financial costs, enhances recreational opportunities, and restores river connectivity and habitat.

Right: A variety of stream restoration techniques have been used on Spring Branch Creek in Delaware County, including bank stabilization, vegetation management, and in-stream habitat improvements in the form of bank hides, half logs, vortex weirs, and j-hooks vanes.

“Iowa Rivers Revival advocates for clean water and healthy rivers. Natural river restoration provides so many benefits to people and the environment – it’s a win-win for Iowans and our rivers and streams.”

— ROSALYN LEHMAN
Executive Director



TORATION

2014 Program Efforts

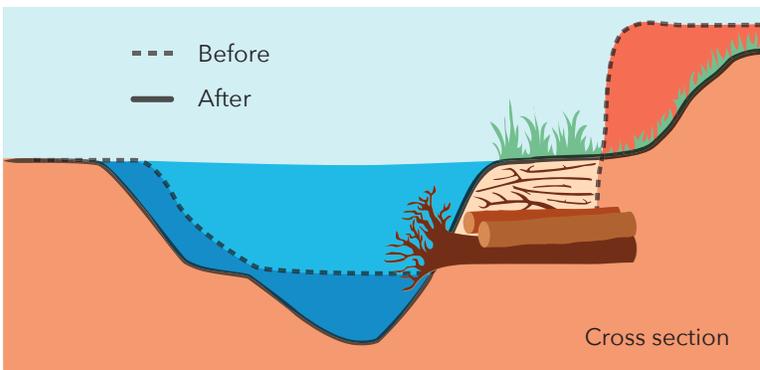
Iowa Rivers Revival staff and board of directors conducted the following river restoration outreach and education efforts:

- Researched and developed river restoration outreach materials.
- Coordinated and promoted river restoration-related training opportunities.
- Identified stakeholders to help expand river restoration knowledge base and supporter base.
- Started river restoration database of projects in Iowa (proposed, new, in-progress, complete, and failed projects).
- Visited over a dozen project sites in Iowa to view a range of river restoration projects; expanded stakeholder connection and method awareness.
- Planned and convened regular committee meetings to develop an agenda to carry out program goals and projects.
- Developed a successful fundraising appeal in June 2014 to raise awareness about the grant award and match funds opportunity. \$10,000 was raised to meet the match 2014 challenge.
- General correspondence with stakeholders, restoration experts, IRR supporters and local communities interested in natural river restoration.



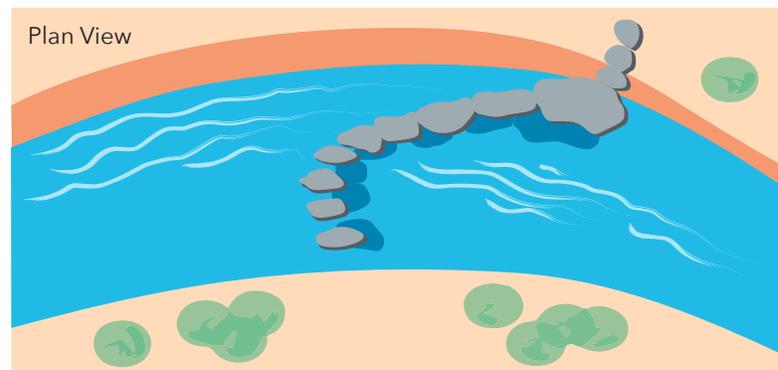
Top: Stream restoration project on Dry Run Creek on the University of Northern Iowa campus, incorporating sloped banks, bank “hides” for fish habitat, and native prairie. The creek withstood the massive rains and floods of 2008, among other high flows. Photos courtesy of Rebecca Kauten.

Bottom: Diagrams depicting examples of river restoration techniques, which appeared in Iowa Rivers Revival’s “River Basics” fact sheet.



Toe Wood-Sod Mat

- Stabilizes the toe, or base, of steep and high streambanks
- A low flat bench is formed at the bottom of the streambank with materials such as logs, branches, roots and soil, known as a bankfull bench
- These materials are topped with sod mats of native vegetation at the bankfull elevation



J-Hook Vanes

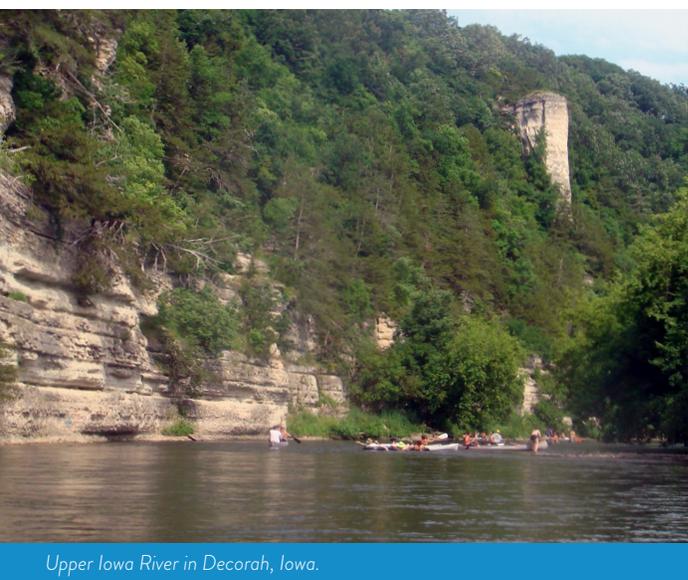
- Shifts the most erosive thalweg flows away from the outside bend bank, reducing bank erosion
- A series of boulders are designed and placed across two-thirds of the channel bottom and along one side of the bank
- Scours form a pool in the center of the channel bottom, providing fish and insects with favorable habitat

River City of the Year

www.iowarivers.org



Andy Nimrod, Parks and Recreation Director, Mayor Don Arendt, Bob Brammer, IRR board member, and Steve Matter, Decorah Fish Hatchery



Upper Iowa River in Decorah, Iowa.

RIVER TOWN OF THE YEAR

Decorah, Iowa

Decorah is making the Upper Iowa River the heart and soul of the community and a focus for recreation, economic development, and environmental stewardship. The people of this historic river town are passionate about preserving their legacy for future generations, and do so with a number of key projects.

Trout Run Trail. The 11-mile, four-season trail is the newest gem of many attractions centering on the river. It connects the city to the Decorah Fish Hatchery, with several miles running parallel to the river or Trout Run. The Trail is a superb recreational resource, and it also helps protect the river and Trout Run coldwater stream from erosion or heavy development.

An impressive park system, and hiking and mountain bike trails. People of the city and Oneota valley have always valued outstanding community parks and public lands.

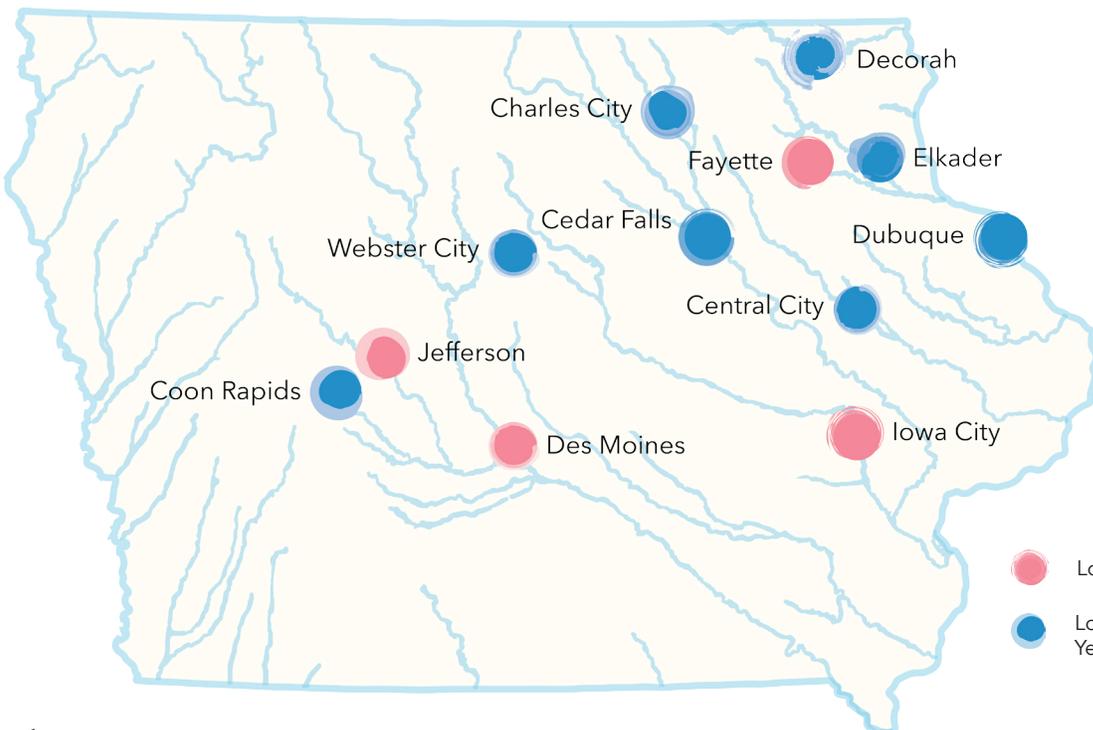
Decorah celebrates the river and makes it the center of life. Nordic Fest features the “Elvelopet” river run and “Kanalopet” river race. Outfitters and others organize regular river clean-up events. School students have many learning activities focused on the river.

The “Keep it Clean, Keep it Fun” campaign in the corridor is the strongest one in Iowa. It’s an effort to educate river users to eliminate litter and respect landowner rights.

The Upper Iowa River Watershed Project is an alliance that has achieved documented decreases in nitrogen and phosphorous in the river, and increased clarity. (That accomplishment is rare and may be unique for a major Iowa river.) The City and partners monitor water quality at 29 sites in the 640,000-acre watershed.

Projects always have a focus on protecting the environment as well as enhancing recreation. For example, Trout Run Trail and parks with native grasses provide buffer strips that reduce silt and chemical pollution.

Strong efforts are under way to engage all stakeholders in mapping plans for the future of the river corridor. Meetings bring together land-owners, land-managers, public agencies, livery operators, and other organizations and citizens to create a good future and a “culture of respect” for the river and property in the valley.



RIVER CHAMPIONS

River Champions are supporters who contribute \$250 a year or more to IRR or raise \$250 from others. Being a "River Champion" means that you strongly support IRR efforts to mobilize Iowans to defend, protect, restore, and celebrate our rivers and streams. It's a strong commitment to very important work.

\$10,000 +

The McKnight Foundation

\$5,000 +

Growing Green Communities
Charlotte and Fred Hubbell

\$2,500 +

Iowa Foundation for Education and the Arts
Principal Financial Group
Raccoon River Watershed Association
Mary Skopec*

\$1,000 +

Lisa and Andy Bean
Robert and Susan Fleming
Robin Fortney
Elizabeth Garst and Darwin Pierce
Rachel Garst
REAP CEP
Mike Smith and Susan Seitz
Dennis Woodruff

\$500 +

Mark and Susan Ackelson
Linda Appelgate
John and Jane Baty
Harry Bookey and Pamela Bass Bookey
Richard Dietz and Carol Hansell
Kate Garst
Larry Gullett
Michael and Debbie Hubbell

David and Trudy Hurd

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Katherine McCarville
John and Naomi McCormick

Ned and Marcie McPartland

Kay Meyer and Rusty Martin
David Oliver

Jerry Peckum
Alan Rausch

Robert and Kay Riley

Lynette Seigley
Michael and Marne Woods

\$250 +

Cecelia Arnold
Steve and Rachel Ballenger
Margo and Don Blumenthal
Pat Boddy and Robert Davis
Joseph Bolkcom
Robert Brammer and Marti Anderson
Central Iowa Paddlers
Hugh Clatterbuck
Phillip Delafeld
Mike Delaney and Dell Radcliffe
David and Kathy Dorff
Mark Engelbrecht
Kamyar Enshayan and Laura Jackson
James and Cheryl Erb
Mark and Theresa Feldmann

Julie Fischer
Vern Fish

James and Allison Fleming

Brent and Nancy Green

WC Hamilton
Calvin and Kathleen

Hansen
Susan and Richard

Heathcote
Richard Howard

Martha James and Michael

Myszewski
Diane Krell

Rosalyn Lehman and Dana

Lacquement
Chuck and Terri

McNeley
Peter Moore

James and Cindy Pease

Jim Autry and Sally Pederson

Cindy Reitz
Sheila and Scott

Riggs
Ann Y. Robinson

John and Janis Ruan

Richard and Diana Sloan

Thom and Cheryl Tuttle

Tom and Dina Varilek

Steve and Teri Veysey

Mimi Wagner
Donald and Kay

Wall
Kevin and Chris

Wilbeck
Karen and Gary

Youngberg
Dean Zimmerman

*MRSP facilitation

\$100 +

Robert Baker and Charlotte Shivers

Randy and Karly Beavers

David Brenner

J.C. Brenton

Sue Caley

James Carney

Richard and Joyce

Chapman

Jane Clark

James and Karen

Colbert

Bill Covington and

Connie Struve

Lyle and Linda

Danielson

Barbara Eckstein

Mark Edwards

Patti Jo Edwardson

and George Naylor

Dr. Kathy Elsner and

Dr. Steve Adelman

Charles and Marilyn

Farr

Kevin Griggs

Molly Hanson

Muffy and Henry

Harmon

Lisa Hein

Christina Henning

David and Judith

Hoffman

Randy Holl

John Jordan

Cliff Kessler

Linda Kinman

Mike and Jane LaMair

William Leonard

Jim Liechty

Thomas and Lorraine May

Nicholas McNeley

Mike Murphy

Connie and Robert

Mutel

Gerry Rowland and

MC Scott

Doug Seyb

Thomas Skadow

Al Sturgeon

Carol Sweeting

James Throgmorton

Terry Tikovitsch

Tim Urban

Gregory Vitale

Wayne and Phyllis

Wasta

Larry and Dixie

Wilson

David and Priscilla

Witke

Up to \$100

Roy Adolphson

Janet Bannister

James Barnhart

Daryl Beall

Allen Bonini

Don Brazelton and

Sandy Taylor

Dennis Caneff

Dan Cohen

Tim and Lea DeLong

Jennifer and Gregory

Dreier

Dennis Goemaat

William Graham and

Phyllis Goodman

Bernard Hoyer

Jeff Hughes

Paul and Patricia Johnson

Art Kern

Ellen King and Curtis

Sytsma

Erwin Klaas

Pat Knueven

Nathan Lein

Richard Leopold

Sandy Lint

Michael Lundby

Sherman Lundy

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Amahia Mallea

Judith McClure

Patricia McKee

Steve and Kathy

Melby

Mark and Kathy

Metelman

James and Mary

Norton

Ryan Peterson

KJ and Dan Rebarcak

Michael Richards

Daniel Rottenberg

Michael Russell

Duane Sand

Mark and Barb

Schmidt

Robert Sessions

Skunk River Paddlers

Larry and Margaret

Stone

Robert Summerfelt

James Todd

James Urban

Jon and Margaret

Vernon

Richard and Jane

Worm

Financial Summary

IRR's funds have been used carefully and efficiently and are essential to our growing effectiveness and impact.

Total Income 2014	\$103,610.00
Total Expenses 2014	\$82,987.60
Balance end of 2014	\$20,622.40

Iowa Rivers Revival
PO Box 72
Des Moines, Iowa 50301

Board

Jerry Peckumn, Chair
Molly Hanson, Vice Chair
Robin Fortney, Secretary
Mike Smith, Treasurer
Mark Ackelson
Linda Appelgate
Robert Brammer
Susan Heathcote
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Kata McCarville
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Advisors

Pat Boddy
Kate Garst
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Steve Veysey
Mimi Wagner
David Williamson

Staff

Rosalyn Lehman, Executive Director
Jenn Dreier, Executive Assistant
Erica Blair, Graphic Designer



The growth and success of Iowa Rivers Revival is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of its supporters and volunteers. Together we can ensure cleaner rivers for future generations.

Iowa Rivers Revival
PO Box 72
Des Moines, Iowa 50301

515.724.4093
rlehman@iowarivers.org

For more information about Iowa Rivers Revival,
visit us at www.iowarivers.org