



## Shell Rock River WMC Meeting

July 6, 2023

### **Presentation Overview**

Planning Process Updates

Assess Plan Review Process

Finalize and Adopt Goals

Guest Speaker: Neil Shaffer, Howard County SWCD Watershed Coordinator

Input on Implementation Strategy

Questions, Next Steps, and Homework





### **Planning Process** Update







### **Project Schedule**

Mar. 2023 **July 2023** Jan. 2023 Nov. 2023 **Quarterly Meeting Public Scoping Quarterly Meeting Public Open House** Meeting Draft action plan Review full draft plan Draft Ch 5 **Board Meeting Quarterly Meeting Quarterly Meeting** Project kickoff Draft goals Open house planning **Board Meeting** Draft Ch 6-8 Scoping & issues ID Draft Ch 1-4 Adopt final plan Mar. 2023 Apr. 2023 Oct. 2023 Dec. 2023



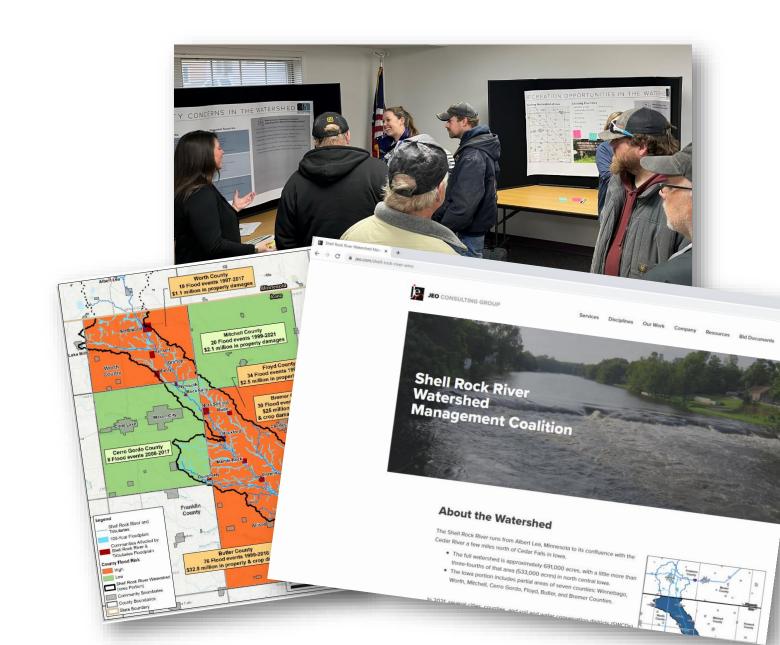
## Overview of Recent Work

Gathering worksheets

Compiling and analyzing data

Drafting of chapters

Thank you for your feedback to-date!





### Status of Watershed Plan Document

Chapter	Status
Executive Summary	Last item to be completed
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Under Review
Chapter 2 – Watershed Inventory	Under Review
Chapter 3 – Current Conditions	Drafting
Chapter 4 – Goals	Under Review
Chapter 5 – Implementation Strategy	Drafting
Chapter 6 – Education Plan	Drafting
Chapter 7 – Action Plan	Drafting
Chapter 8 – Funding	TBD
Appendices	TBD

### Considering splitting into multiple chapters:

- 1. Flooding
- 2. Water Quality
- 3. Recreation



 10 of 16 members have completed

 2 of 11 non-members have completed





### Today's Big Question

## How will the Coalition work together?

- Are your priorities different than the Coalitions? Where do they align?
- What do you need to get out of the plan?
- What are the first steps for the Coalition after completing the plan?
- What can you learn from others on this path?

### COMMUNITY ISSUES AND INPUT SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COALITION (SRRWMC) JEO Project #: 210289.00

SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED Management coalition

3. Is your community/jurisdiction willing to work with others to solve flooding at the watershed scale (work across city and county lines)?

OF THE WATER SHED

Is your community/jurisdiction willing scale (work across city and county lines)?

scale (work across city and county lines)?

That's a tough question.



# **Assess Plan Review Process**







### **Plan Review Process**



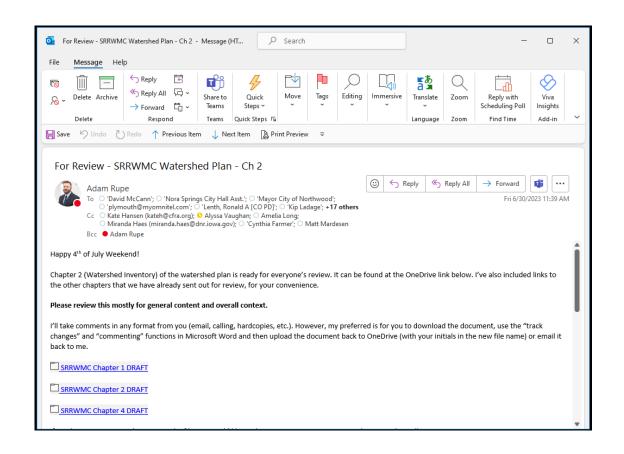
- ✓ Iterative review process edits incorporated into future drafts
- ✓ More manageable review process (verses review of 1 big document)
- ✓ Progress can be tracked



### Plan Review Check-In

#### Is everyone receiving emails?

- Ch 1
- Ch 4
- Ch 1, 2, and 4



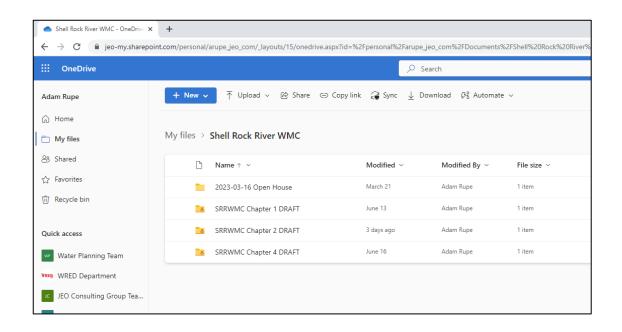


### **Files Shared Online**

Access via Microsoft OneDrive

Link to each chapter emailed

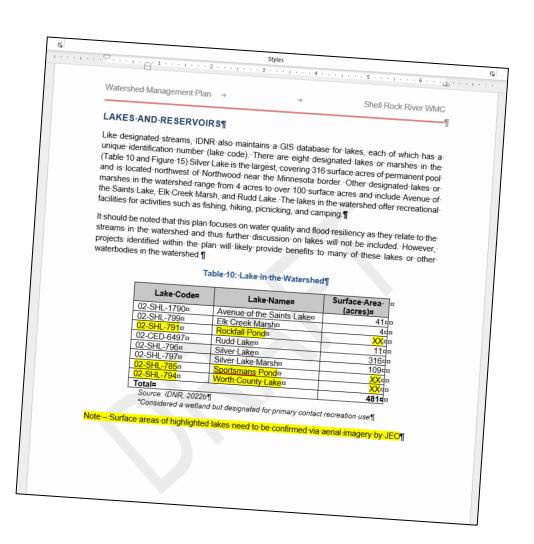
Are there any issues with access?





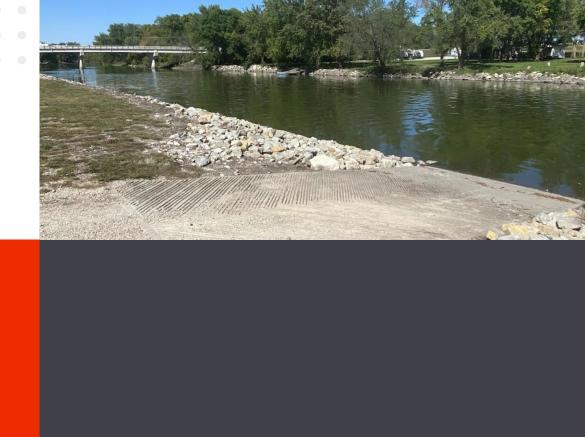
### **Reviewer Notes**

- ✓ Formatting, spacing, figure numbers, etc. will be finalized in full draft
- Grammatical review will be completed in full draft, before public draft
- ✓ Highlighted text = question or note for you
- √ "Tracked changes" preferred method of receiving comments, but will accept any format
- ✓ Please focus your review on general content and overall context:
  - Does this make sense to you?
  - ✓ Is this what you are expecting?
  - ✓ Is this what SRRWMC needs?
- ✓ Any initial questions/comments today?



# Finalize and Adopt Goals







### Goal Setting within the Plan

Mission

Goals

Objectives / Indicators

Strategies / BMPs

Action

Items &

**Priority** 

Areas



### **Goals for Adoption**

### See Chapter 4

- Mission Statement: To assess and reduce flooding risks; repair, improve, and enhance the quality, appearance and recreational use of the Shell Rock River Watershed by encouraging municipal, public and private support and participation through education, conservation practices, and volunteering.
- **Goal 1:** Flood resiliency will be improved at the individual, community, and watershed level to prevent loss of life, reduce property losses, and avoid damage to infrastructure.
- **Goal 2:** Improve water quality to support all uses and ensure it meets state standards and goals.
- **Goal 3:** Utilize recreation on the river to enhance local communities and connect the public with the watershed.
- **Goal 4:** Create an informed, educated, and passionate public that works towards improving watershed management.



### Goal 1 (Flooding) – draft objectives

Goal 1

Flood resiliency will be improved at the individual, community, and watershed level to prevent loss of life, reduce property losses, and avoid damage to infrastructure.

Objective 1.1

Complete a study to better understand flood risks and identify specific mitigation actions by the end of 2027.

Objective 1.2

Integrate the watershed plan with each local county hazard mitigation plan by the end of 2024.



### Goal 2 (Water Quality) – draft objectives

Goal 2

Improve water quality to support all uses and ensure it meets state standards and goals.

**Objective 1.1** 

Reduce annual median nitrate levels by 41%, from 4.95 mg/L to 2.92 mg/L, by 2035, based on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, through soil health, fertilizer, and drainage management practices.

Objective 1.2

Reduce annual median total phosphorus levels by 29%, from 0.17 mg/L to 0.12 mg/L, by 2035, based on the lowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, through erosion and manure management practices.

Objective 1.3

Maintain or reduce current annual levels of sediment loading\* to streams by 10% from 28.0 mg/L to 25.2 mg/L, through reducing field and stream erosion.

Reduce E. coli bacteria loads by 12% to ensure the seasonal

\*Sediment loading rates currently measured by TSS sampling

geometric mean is maintained below 126 organisms/100mL, and to reduce the number of samples exceeding 235 organisms/100mL, through manure management practices.

Objective 1.5

Objective 1.4

By the end of 2024, expand water quality sampling throughout the watershed, by adding 4 sites at county lines.



### Goal 3 (Recreation) – draft objectives

Goal 3

Utilize recreation on the river to enhance local communities and connect the public with the watershed.

Objective 3.1

Complete a Water Trail Plan by the end of 2027.

Objective 3.2

Install signage about the watershed and related educational information at each river access point by 2028.

Objective 3.3

Install stream name signs at major road crossings for tributaries within the watershed by the end of 2024.

Objective 3.4

Hold an annual "Shell Rock River Rock Fest" or other similar river focused event, to bring awareness, beginning in 2025.



### Goal 4 (Education) – draft objectives

Goal 4

Create an informed, educated, and passionate public that works towards improving watershed management.

Objective 4.1

Expand the coalition membership to all eligible cities, counties, and SWCDs by the end of 2024, utilizing a strategy that shows how each community is affected by, or affects, the Shell Rock River.

Objective 4.2

By the end of 2025, develop materials and begin implementing a strategy to educate the public on water quality conditions and where that data can be accessed.

Objective 4.3

By the end of 2025, hold at least one outreach and education event in each county per year through partnerships with surrounding WMAs and other partners.

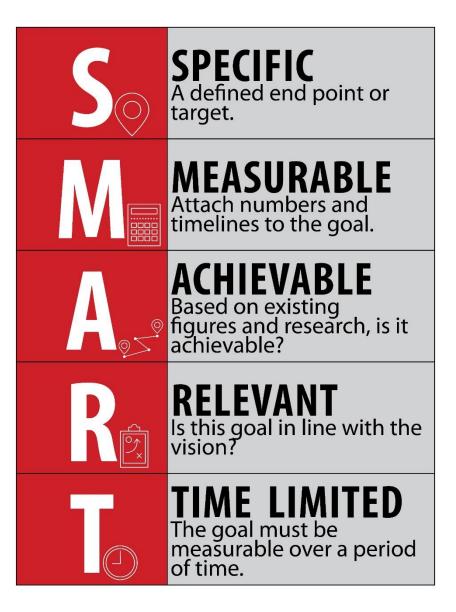
Objective 4.4

Form an education and outreach committee by the end of 2024. This committee will work with partners to implement the education plan and action items.



### **Next Steps on Goals**

- Update, based on today's feedback – send out for review
- 2. Review and/or adopt at next meeting
- 3. Continue to develop and identify:
  - 1. Objectives/indicators
  - 2. Strategies/BMPs
  - 3. Action Items/projects
- 4. Ensure goals are SMART





### **Guest Speaker**



**Neil Shaffer** 

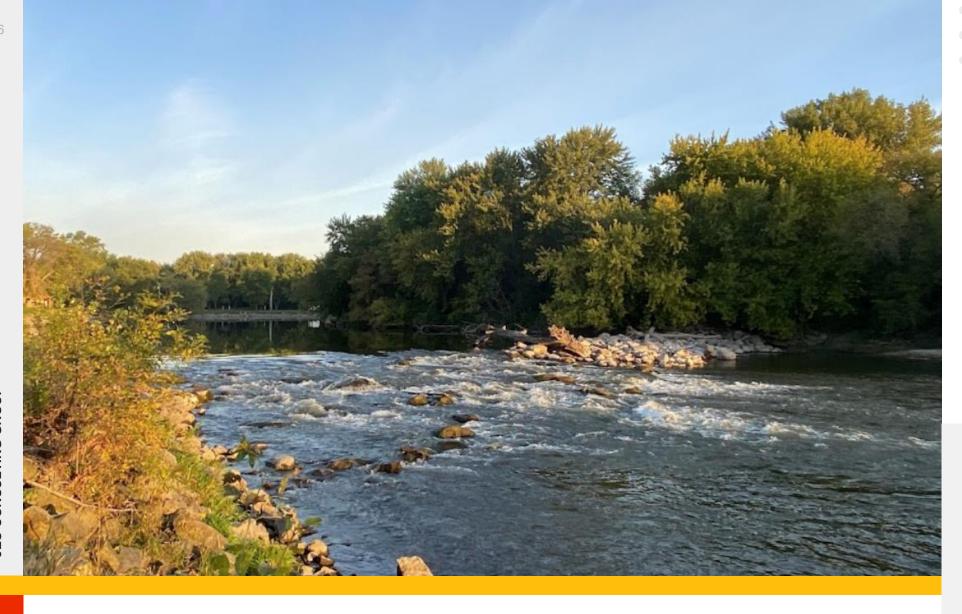
Watershed Coordinator

Howard County SWCD









### **Next Steps**



### **Next Steps**

#### Next meeting agenda (tentative)

- Highlights from Chapters 5-7
- Review draft executive summary poster and getting started page
- Prep for public open house meeting
- Working session: Finalize draft implementation strategies
- Learning moment: Any requests?

#### **Homework Reminder**

- Review draft chapters by July 31
- Newspaper clippings requested
- Watershed pictures requested



### Thank You!!





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