

The Cedar River Watershed Coalition, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Environmental Law Institute, and University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment

personally invite you to

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Cedar River Basin:

A workshop designed to protect vital wetland and wildlife habitat and promote resilience to flooding in the Cedar River Basin through greater interagency coordination

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Center for Energy and Environmental Education

University of Northern Iowa

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Registration is filling fast!

Development of the workshop is guided by an Advisory Committee of wetland and wildlife managers, floodplain managers, community planners, and hazard planning and emergency managers with years of experience in the Cedar River Basin.*

Please let us know if you can attend or if you have suggestions for other participants. Complete and return the attached registration form to kihslinger@eli.org no later than **May 9, 2012**.

More detailed information and a draft agenda will be provided in advance of the workshop for those planning to attend. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rebecca Kihslinger at (202) 939-3812 or kihslinger@eli.org. Or visit our website at http://www.eli.org/Program_Areas/natural_hazard_mitigation.cfm. We look forward to seeing you in May.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an informative and productive workshop. The goal of the workshop is to identify ways to more efficiently and effectively protect wetland and wildlife habitat and strengthen resilience to flooding in the Cedar River Basin. We will explore how hazard and emergency managers, wetland and wildlife conservation managers, floodplain managers, community planners, and conservation organizations can work more effectively together to meet multiple, and overlapping goals and identify the information needed and funding sources available for joint projects.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Increase awareness among hazard and emergency managers and wetland and wildlife managers about each other's work;
- Identify conservation and flood hazard mitigation goals in the Cedar River Basin;
- Identify the obstacles to collaboration among hazard and emergency managers, floodplain managers, land use planners, and wetland and wildlife managers; and
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and the information and funding sources available for joint projects.

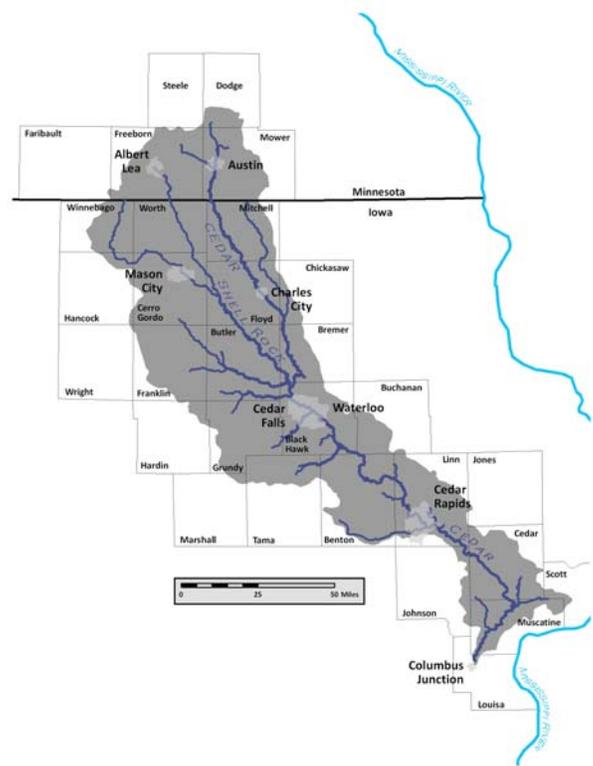


THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Flood Hazards and Conservation Opportunities in the Cedar River Basin

The 2008 floods caused more than \$6 billion in damages in the Basin, which used to be dominated by wetlands and intact floodplains but is now primarily dedicated to agriculture and, increasingly, urban development. The recent floods have also spurred local collaboration to address flood recovery and prevention in the Basin. In 2009, the Environmental Law Institute and the University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment completed a study to identify opportunities for habitat conservation in areas prone to flood hazards. The study found extensive overlap between wetland and wildlife habitats - critically important for protecting water quality and providing flood storage - and flood-prone areas. We also found, however, that hazard planners typically do not coordinate with wetland and wildlife conservation managers, even though they often work on the same issues or in the same areas. ELI, UNC, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation think there is a tremendous untapped opportunity to improve wetland protection and flood hazard mitigation through greater interagency coordination.



Advisory Committee

- Pat Boddy, RDG Planning and Design
- Jennifer Fencl, Environmental Services Director, East Central Iowa Council of Governments
- Vern Fish, Executive Director, Black Hawk County Conservation Board
- Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director, Linn County Conservation
- Susan Judkins Josten, Community Development Specialist, MSA Professional Services
- Jeff Sherman, Environmental Specialist/County Sanitarian, Floyd County Board of Health
- Mary Beth Stevenson, Iowa-Cedar River Basin Coordinator, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources