

**Rathbun Lake, Iowa Watershed Initiative Project Quarterly Performance Report**  
**Reporting Period: October to December 2003**

<b>Work Elements</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measures</b>		
		<b>Infrastructural</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
#1	Assign a team of professional staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Alliance and partner organizations identified the need for three professional field staff to be dedicated to the project. Agreements have been developed and entered into between the Alliance and partner organizations to provide the necessary support for, and assign, these three professional staff to the project.</li> <li>2. The Alliance and partner organizations identified and made commitments to address the need for additional professional staff to help perform activities that will lead to the completion of project work elements.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two professional field staff have been assigned by partner organizations to the project. A third staff person will be assigned during the second quarter of 2004. These professionals are responsible for the day-to-day performance activities required to complete the project's work elements.</li> <li>2. In addition to field staff, partner organizations have assigned professional staff to support the completion of project work elements, e.g., provide assistance with geographic information system (GIS) applications and financial management.</li> </ol>	

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#2	Create a project advisory team.	1. An advisory team has been created to assist the Alliance and project staff with all aspects of project implementation. Advisory team members include representatives from the following partner organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation (DSC)</li> <li>• Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</li> <li>• US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)</li> <li>• USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</li> <li>• US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li> </ul>	1. Members of the advisory team have provided ongoing assistance and guidance to the Alliance and project staff through individual contacts, participation in Alliance board meetings, and an advisory team meeting conducted during the reporting period.	

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#3	Complete project technical and administrative reviews and reports.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner organizations have assigned responsibilities to staff and developed the procedures for information collection and analysis that will be required to assist the Alliance with the completion of project reviews and reports.</li> <li>Project staff participated in the 2003 Watershed Initiative Conference during which information and guidance were provided to assist the Alliance with project implementation and management.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alliance members and partner organizations have reviewed the performance of project activities at two meetings of the Alliance's board of directors conducted during the reporting period.</li> <li>The Alliance has prepared this performance report and associated financial reports to provide a record of progress in completing the project's work elements and managing project resources.</li> </ol>	

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#4	Identify, collect, and process information required for GIS analysis.	1. Project staff has identified the information needs and developed collection and processing procedures required to initiate the GIS analysis that will be performed to support the completion of related project work elements.	1. Project staff are collecting and processing information that is required to perform GIS analysis in support of the completion of related work elements, specifically #5, #6, #8, and #10. Information collected and integrated into the GIS includes field boundaries, changes in land use and farming practices, and existing best management practices (BMPs).	1. Activities on this work element are being conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) developed for the project.
#5	Perform GIS analyses to identify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.	1. Partner organizations used the results of the Rathbun Lake watershed assessment together with factors such as farmer interest to identify seven targeted sub-watersheds in which activities related to project work elements would be initiated. A map that identifies the seven targeted sub-watersheds accompanies this report.	1. Project staff has used GIS analysis to identify 8,770 acres of priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds. The analysis incorporated watershed assessment results, soil erosion and sediment delivery estimates, and field-level information to identify this land from which runoff has the greatest relative potential to impair water quality in Rathbun Lake.	1. Activities on this work element are being conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS QAPP developed for the project.

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#5	Perform GIS analyses to identify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contd. Example maps that identify priority land in a targeted sub-watershed accompany this report.</li> </ol>	
#6	Utilize GIS analyses to assist with the selection of BMPs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff has used the maps of priority land in targeted sub-watersheds to identify farmers to contact regarding the application of BMPs that will reduce the potential impact of runoff from this land on water quality in Rathbun Lake.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff has made initial contacts with more than 70 farmers who own and/or operate farming operations with priority land in targeted sub-watersheds to offer them assistance with the planning and application of BMPs.</li> <li>Project staff has used GIS analysis to integrate watershed assessment results, soil erosion and sediment deliver estimates, and expected practice effectiveness to help farmers evaluate the potential reduction in water quality impairment that may result from the application of BMPs for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.</li> </ol>	

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#7	Coordinate sources of assistance for BMP planning and application.	1. The Watershed Initiative has served as a catalyst for the contribution of additional financial resources from partner organizations for activities to complete project work elements as part of a larger effort referred to as the "Rathbun Lake Special Project." This financial support will be used primarily to assist farmers to accelerate the planning and application of BMPs for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. This assistance with also be used to help perform the activities associated with the project's forage and livestock production and outreach and public information work elements.	1. The Alliance has integrated available financial support from partner organizations into an overall budget to facilitate the management of these resources as well as identify the remaining requirements for additional assistance for the "Rathbun Lake Special Project." The Alliance has also developed guidelines for the coordinated use of project funds to assist farmers to accelerate the application of BMPs for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.	

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#8	Assist farmers with BMP planning.	1. The activities completed for project work elements #1, #5, and #6 have supported the Alliance's efforts to provide BMP planning assistance to farmers with priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. These activities included assigning project field staff, initial contacts with farmers, and use of GIS analysis to identify priority land and evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs.	1. Project staff has provided assistance to more than 40 farmers with the planning of BMPs that will reduce the impact on water quality in Rathbun Lake of runoff from priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. This assistance has involved one-on-one contacts between project field staff and farmers that have been completed primarily through a series of on-farm and office visits.	

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#9	Assist farmers with BMP application.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities completed for project work elements #1, #5, #6, and #8 have supported the Alliance's efforts to assist farmers with the application of BMPs. In addition to these activities that facilitated BMP planning assistance for farmers, the cost share funds provided by partner organizations, work element #7, will enable farmers to apply BMPs.</li> <li>The Alliance and partner organizations have assembled a team of professionals to assist project staff to plan and conduct the integrated crop management (ICM) practice component of the project. Team members include representatives of Iowa State University (ISU), NRCS, and farmers in the watershed.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff has provided assistance to 12 farmers to initiate the application of BMPs to reduce the impact on water quality of runoff from priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds. BMPs to be applied include terrace systems, grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, and pasture and hayland planting.</li> <li>Representatives of partner organizations and project staff have initiated development of specific plans to implement the ICM component of the project. It is anticipated that these activities will be carried out with the assistance of ISU Extension specialists through a cooperative agreement between the Alliance and local extension councils.</li> </ol>	

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#10	Evaluate the impact of BMPs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The activities completed for project work elements #5 and #6 will support the use of GIS to evaluate BMP effectiveness in terms of the estimated reduction in the impact that runoff from priority land in targeted sub-watersheds has on water quality in Rathbun Lake.</li> <li>2. The Alliance and partner organizations have completed water quality monitoring activities for 2003. The agreements and associated work plan are being developed that will provide support for and guide continued water quality monitoring activities in 2004 which will include the entering of data into STORET.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project staff is collecting the information that will be required to perform the GIS analysis to estimate the impact of BMPs on water quality in Rathbun Lake. This information will consist of the type and location of BMPs applied including any associated changes in farming practices and land use. As BMPs are applied, the results of the analysis will be presented in future performance reports.</li> <li>2. The Alliance's partner organizations have initiated the process of interpreting the results of water quality monitoring activities performed during 2003. These results will be presented in a separate written report later in 2004. In addition, water quality monitoring data from 2003 activities will be entered into STORET.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Activities on this work element are being conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS QAPP developed for the project.</li> <li>2. Water quality monitoring activities are performed according to the quality assurance procedures established by the ACOE and ISU, the two Alliance partners primarily responsible for these activities.</li> </ol>

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#11	Design the watershed protection enhancement agreements and associated activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff has initiated the process of obtaining the input required to develop guidelines that will be used to most effectively implement the watershed protection enhancement agreements component of the project. This input has been gathered during meetings and discussions with the Alliance's board of directors, members of the project advisory team, representatives of partner organizations, and farmers in the watershed.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff plans to present draft proposed guidelines for the watershed protection enhancement agreements component of the project for review and comment during meetings with the Alliance board of directors, advisory team, and partner organizations during the next reporting period.</li> </ol>	
#12	Develop and implement watershed protection enhancement agreements and associated activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please refer to the measures reported for work element #11 above.</li> </ol>		

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#13	Establish and manage the forage and livestock production demonstrations.	1. The Alliance and partner organizations have assembled a team of professionals to assist project staff to plan and conduct the forage and livestock production demonstration component of the project including the associated field days and workshops. Team members include representatives of ISU, NRCS, and farmers in the watershed.	1. Partner organizations and project staff have initiated development of specific plans to implement the project's forage and livestock production demonstrations, field days, and workshops. It is anticipated that these activities will be carried out with the assistance of ISU Extension specialists through a cooperative agreement between the Alliance and local extension councils.	
#14	Plan and conduct forage and livestock production field days and workshops.	1. Please refer to the measures reported for work element #13 above.		

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#15	Conduct outreach activities directed at farmers in targeted sub-watersheds.	1. The activities completed for project work elements #1, #5, and #6 have supported Alliance efforts to conduct outreach activities directed at farmers in the watershed. These activities include assigning project field staff, using GIS analysis to identify priority land, and making initial contacts with farmers.	1. The Alliance and project staff have relied primarily on field visits with farmers who own and operate priority land in targeted sub-watersheds to inform and educate them about the project and water quality protection efforts in the watershed. Please refer to measures reported for work elements #6, #8, and #9.  2. In addition, project staff has provided farmers with information about the project as part of three meetings conducted during the reporting period concerning related water quality protection activities underway in the watershed, i.e., the Rathbun Lake Section 206 project with the ACOE. Approximately 100 farmers from the watershed took part in these meetings.	

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#16	Perform public information activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Alliance developed and submitted an application to the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's (IFBF) Challenge Grant Program for financial support to help perform the project's public information activities. The application requested funds to develop and post information about the project and related water quality protection efforts in the watershed on the Alliance's Internet site and for publication of the project's final report.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IFBF has approved the Alliance's application for financial support to assist with the project's public information activities. Project staff has initiated activities to incorporate information about the project and additional water quality protection efforts into the Alliance's Internet site.</li> <li>In addition, the Alliance has hosted project related visits including field tours for representatives of the Upper White River Basin Foundation and Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams. Plans are being made for a visit and tour from representatives of the North Fork Project in Missouri.</li> </ol>	

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#16	Perform public information activities.		3. The Alliance also made a project related presentation at one of the Iowa Water Quality Summit's Public Meetings (October 2003) and has been asked to make similar presentations at the Iowa Watersheds' Annual Meeting (January 2004), and Iowa Rural Water Association's Annual Conference (February 2004).	