



## **Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Timeline**

**2006:** The Iowa Legislature appointed the Sustainable Funding Advisory Committee to begin an in-depth analysis and report back to the General Assembly and the Governor.

**2007:** The Committee provided their initial report and the legislature proposed language to create a constitutionally protected trust fund, recommended a funding mechanism (sales tax increase of 3/8<sup>th</sup> of a cent) and determined an allocation formula.

**2008 and 2009:** Per Iowa law, the language had to pass through two different general assemblies, which it did with over 90% of the vote.

**2010:** 63% of Iowa voters voted to create the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund with a dedicated funding source.

**2019:** A diverse coalition including farmers, sportsmen and women, and business owners are coming together to fund the trust.

## **Facts about the Development of the Trust Fund**

### **1. The Sustainable Funding Advisory Committee was bipartisan and diverse.**

- Mark Ackelson, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Jane Clark, Sierra Club-Iowa Chapter
- Dan Cohen, IA Assc. of County Conservation Boards
- Dick Dearden, Iowa Senate- Democrat
- Barbara Finch, Iowa Farm Bureau
- Tammi Kircher, Ducks Unlimited
- Richard Leopold, Iowa Environmental Council
- Lola Lopes, The Nature Conservancy
- Mary Lundby, Iowa Senate- Republican
- Pauline Novotny, Izaak Walton League of Iowa
- Henry Rayhons, Iowa House of Representatives- Republican
- Deb Ryun, Conservation Districts of Iowa
- Marvin Shirley, Farmers Union
- Owen Shunkwiler, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
- Ken Tow, Secretary of Agriculture
- Dave Van Waus, Pheasants Forever
- John Whitaker, Iowa House of Representatives- Democrat

### **2. Water Quality was always a critical focus**

- Soil and water was one of three categories originally identified by the committee as a need
- Issues related to water quality, including agricultural runoff, identified as a top concern of Iowans in a survey back in 2007

- Formula crafted around a needs assessment that recognized the critical relationship between soil health and water quality
- Funding the trust removes Iowa's water quality decisions from federal bureaucrats at the EPA and judges in faraway courtrooms and instead is 100% locally controlled

**3. Funding mechanisms were carefully evaluated by the committee based on financial need, commonsense criteria, and a survey of Iowans**

- Researched sustainable funding in other states
- Defined criteria for sustainable funding including:
  - All Iowans benefit from sustainable funding and the burden of funding should be the responsibility of all Iowans. (This parameter is also supported by responses in the Willingness to Pay survey.)
  - The funding mechanism should be stable, protected, and identified as dedicated
  - The new funding must unite, rather than divide stakeholders
- Researched a broad range of funding mechanisms based on the criteria, which ultimately led to the recommendation of a constitutionally protected trust fund funded by a sales tax increase of 3/8<sup>th</sup> cent

**4. Quality of Life and Outdoor Recreation are vital to Iowa's economic vibrancy**

- The quality of life provided by the Trust Fund to support outdoor recreation is key to workforce retention and development and the economic vibrancy of Iowa
- Outdoor recreation in Iowa generates \$6.1 Billion annually and supports over 75,000 jobs in Iowa

**5. The funding formula was carefully determined by an assessment of needs**

- The committee researched and reviewed current streams of revenue and estimated that a sustainable total of \$150 million per year over base funding is needed. That need has only grown in the past 10 years
- The committee assessed conservation needs, existing programs, and determined a formula that was easy to administer without the need to establish significant additional administrative staff
- The fund is administered by existing programs through IDALS and the DNR and does not create new costly, unnecessary bureaucracy
- The committee established a series of actions under each funding category that new dedicated funds would provide to Iowans

**6. There are shovel ready projects in every category of the Trust Fund that are ready to be implemented with funding.**

- Currently there are at least \$673.3 million in shovel-ready projects identified by Iowa's Water and Land Legacy ready to implement today if funding were available
- \$492.8 million of those projects are practices outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- We have reliable science used in the predictive modeling and targeting maps developed by the Water Resource Coordinating Council to help us identify what practices are needed and where they are needed