

Our mission is to enhance our rural areas and local communities by facilitating grassroots efforts & partnerships for conservation and sustainable development.

Founded in 1994, the Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (IHRC&D) is organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serving the counties of Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties.

Thomas Berry wrote, “The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong. To be alienated from this community is to become destitute in all that makes us human. To damage this community is to diminish our own existence.”

With this in mind and true to our mission, the IHRC&D has a history of improving and building upon our natural world and creating economic opportunities for all residents in Central Iowa. We continued with this reality firmly in mind throughout 2014, as we addressed forestry issues; facilitated efforts to “grow local and buy fresh;” and began the process for creating a robust environment for greater recreational opportunities, along with building the capacity of our arts, cultural and historic preservation organizations and entities.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2014

IHRC&D was involved in a variety of activities designed to achieve its goals and to enhance the organizational mission through the following:

- Continued to build and strengthen the financial and organizational capacity of IHRC&D to meet its mission and expand outreach throughout the six (6) county region by appointing Nathaniel Tagtow to the IHRC&D Board of Directors and building our cash reserves.
- Generated \$30,000 in grants, resulting in an additional match of investment and in-kind services for our service area.
- Successfully transitioned staff leadership with the hiring of Sheila Navis, CAE, to serve as the next Executive Director as of October 1, upon the retirement of Shirley Stout.
- Engaged our communities in project development and implementation.
- Awarded two (2) grants from National Park Service for the development of regionally minded county-wide trail masterplans for Jasper, Madison, Marion and Warren Counties.
- Awarded grants from the Iowa League of RC&D's and the University of Iowa to build the capacity for arts, culture and history of our communities.
- Awarded grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to perform visual surveys for the Emerald Ash Borer and to install 562 traps in twelve (12) counties for gypsy moths.
- Created awareness of eight (8) local producers by creating “Face of the Farmer” profiles, with placement in local papers.
- Facilitated a program encouraging use of the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model with three (3) large employers whereby employees increase their fruit and vegetable consumption.



Sheila Navis, CAE



Centre for Arts & Artists located in Newton, Iowa.

GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2014 A FOCUS ON HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT

Much of the activity during 2014 centered on creating programming that fostered healthy communities and a healthy environment. Some of our efforts were a continuation from 2013 and some initiatives will actually “take root” in 2015. In essence, Iowa Heartland RC&D is constantly re-inventing itself to best meet the needs of our citizens.

We continued to build on our past efforts to support local producers and to successfully promote our farmers’ markets. Efforts were made encouraging large employers to adopt the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model for their employees which provided greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



Two grants from the National Park Service were also awarded late in 2014 to develop regionally minded county-wide trail masterplans for Jasper, Madison, Marion and Warren counties. The overall intent is to ultimately link all of Central Iowa trails, but it all begins with a plan. While the first meetings were held in mid-December, much of this effort will take place in 2015.



Healthy communities can be defined several different ways. With grants from the Iowa League of RC&D and from the University of Iowa, IHRC&D will be focusing on the arts, cultural and historic elements of our towns. These grants are fundamentally designed to foster greater capacity for these types of organizations and entities.

Moving forward into 2015, it is anticipated that the significant economic impact will be well documented, but more importantly, rich and diverse activities will serve as an attraction for people to continue to live, work and play in our area.

Not only did we address “healthy communities” in several ways, but our on-going conservation efforts continue to be critical to our mission. Preservation of our forests remain a high priority for us. Once again, we were selected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct visual surveys for the Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, we covered twelve (12) counties and installed 562 traps for gypsy moths.

MOVING FORWARD

Several of the grants awarded during 2014 will extend into 2015 and beyond. The most significant are the grants relating to the Iowa League of RC&D and the University of Iowa partnership – both designed to build the capacity for the arts, history and culture organizations. Some exciting initiatives will be derived from this activity. Greater focus will also be directed to generating income from services provided to other organizations. Services include grant writing, managing grants, facilitating strategy sessions and bookkeeping/accounting, to name a few.

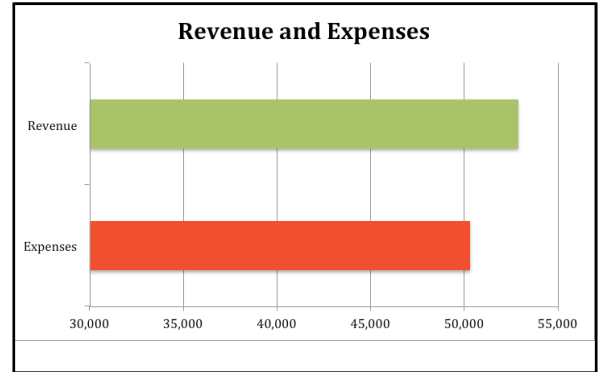
In addition, since our mission is so broad, time will be spent by the Board of Directors to strategically align Iowa Heartland RC&D to have a sharper focus. This will enable us to address the needs of citizens and communities. It is an exciting, but challenging time, in rural Iowa. It is our goal to maximize our opportunities and strengths bringing vitality to our region as never before!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Iowa Heartland RC&D continues to build its financial base, since its loss of federal funding in 2011. Progress in stabilizing and building a strong financial base continue to be a critical goal for the board of directors.

Revenue \$52,868
Expenses \$50,332

Revenue and expenses are pre-audit. The 2014 financial statements and 990 IRS tax return are available for review at www.IHRCD.org.



SPECIAL THANKS

IHRC&D does not operate in a vacuum. Countless hours and in-kind services are donated to our organization by those that believe in our mission and work. We simply could not do it without this support and we gratefully thank the following:

- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa League of Resource Conservation & Development
- National Park Service
- Shive-Hattery
- University of Iowa
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Warren County

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