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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: consolidation of boards and commissions  
Date: Sun Sep 03 2023 19:49:25 CDT  
Attachments:

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I am alarmed to see many of the conservation education, local food and farm programs, organic advisory council, watershed planning and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture are recommended to be eliminated.

Iowa has a water quality problem and instead of feeding the world we import most of the food we actually eat. In 2010 Iowans passed a constitutional amendment to establish a Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. After a decade + nothing has changed. It appears that the consolidation program is going in the exact opposite direction than what is good for the environment.

Kay Pence

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards and Commissions  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 07:47:10 CDT  
Attachments:

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I wish to speak at the September 6 public meeting. I would like to address the possible reorganization and other changes to the Environmental Protection Commission and Natural Resource Commission.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: September 6 Meeting: Elimination of Watershed Planning Advisory Council  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 07:07:37 CDT  
Attachments:

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I strongly urge the Committee to retain the WPAC, as Iowa's water quality is a subject deserving of ample opportunities for discussion and input. The end goal of the governor's Boards and Commissions Review Committee is to save money and that is fine. But to eliminate discussion of cancer doesn't make it just go away, and neither will Iowa's water quality problem if we do away with the WPAC.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: WPAC  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 07:50:43 CDT  
Attachments:

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I strongly urge the Committee to retain the WPAC, as Iowa's water quality is a subject deserving of ample opportunities for discussion and input. The end goal of the governor's Boards and Commissions Review Committee is to save money and that is fine. But to eliminate discussion of cancer doesn't make it just go away, and neither will Iowa's water quality problem if we do away with the WPAC.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: wednesday hearing  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:13:04 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good afternoon.

I would like to speak to the Board and Committees Review panel at Wednesday's meeting on behalf of the Iowa Farmers Union.

My contact information is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Please inform me of any additional items you may need for me to register.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fwd: Watershed Planning Advisory Council  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:24:55 CDT  
Attachments:

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I recommend that the Watershed Planning and Advisory Council not be eliminated, as Iowa's water quality is of critical importance for the health and well-being of Iowans and our downstream neighbors. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comment on Reorganize/Other Changes to Natural Resources Commission  
and State Advisory Board for Preserves  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 21:52:20 CDT  
Attachments:

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Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

My knee jerk reaction to the idea of Reorganize/Consolidate/Merge/ Other changes to the Natural Resources Commission or State Preserves Board is why are we trying to fix something that has been a great benefit to a state agency and the people of Iowa for many years?

In fact this whole process seems to place any blame on a voluntary commission with interested Iowa citizens working on these commissions – instead of looking at the state agency that may be not working with the commission and its members effectively!

I am only speaking for the Natural Resources Commission (IDNRNRC) and the State Preserves Board (SPB).

Both have been filled with Iowa citizens that have interest in Iowa's Natural Resources and they act as a conduit for ideas from Iowa citizens across the state. These volunteer commissioners also act as a mouthpiece for the IDR on the local level. Not in every case but they can answer questions or get the correct person to answer questions.

In a simple sense commissioners can act as a buffer for "big government" and the local hunter, fisher, or naturalist.

Finding #4: Manage core functions of executive branch agencies. There is nothing in the job description that says any member of the IDNRNRC or SPB deals with the core function of the state agency. If a state agency is depending on volunteers to deal with core functions, then the state agency is not doing its job.

Finding #2: neither effective nor efficient. Again this is on the agency NOT the commission.

The more I read the more I am convinced that Iowa bureaucrats are trying to place the blame on commissions instead of the bureaucrats who need to take on the job of making their commissions effective.

No doubt we have commissions that are redundant, have long been on the books and do not have use anymore. Fix those, not the Natural Resources Commission or the State Preserves

Board.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED] John Cacciatore  
<john.cacciatore@policyworksllc.com>; Christopher Rants  
<christopher.rants@policyworksllc.com>  
Subject: Center for Rural Affairs comment - WPAC  
[REDACTED]

---

Hello,

Please see attached comment on behalf of the Center for Rural Affairs. We encourage the Committee to recommend the continuation of the Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC).

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Center for Rural Affairs comment - WPAC.pdf

Last Modified:

Wed Sep 06 12:21:08 CDT 2023

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# CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

September 6, 2023

Kraig Paulsen, Chair, Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
Members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee

Re: Center for Rural Affairs supports continuation of Watershed Planning Advisory Council

The Center for Rural Affairs is a private non-profit organization that works to promote opportunity. Our efforts include working alongside local elected officials to address flooding and water quality in their communities. We have seen the impact of bringing diverse stakeholders to the table when it comes to water concerns, and as such, encourage the Committee to recommend continuation of the Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC).

## I. Background

In recent years, the Iowa Legislature has put processes in place to begin addressing the state's water challenges. These include adopting the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) in 2018, committing funding to the Water Quality Initiative to execute the ambitious goals of the NRS, and establishing Watershed Management Authorities after historic flooding.

Each of these processes require sustained commitment on the part of stakeholder groups. The WPAC is one such group. It was established by the Legislature (Iowa Code 466B.31) specifically to assemble diverse stakeholders to review and make recommendations on protecting water resources, assuring an adequate water supply, mitigating and preventing floods, and doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. An important function of WPAC is to make annual recommendations to the Legislature, Governor, and other key entities.

## II. General Comments

Today the council is functioning as intended. Current membership includes state lawmakers, and representatives from state departments, industry organizations, and nonprofit groups. The council brings the interests of farmers, drainage districts, rural water associations, local elected officials, and others to the table to work together toward shared goals.

Meanwhile, Iowa's water quality and quantity challenges persist. The processes put in place by the Legislature are ongoing. Many are frustrated by the state of progress and feel more should be done.

Eliminating the WPAC without objective evidence of improvement in Iowa's water quality or ability to withstand severe flood events threatens to make a difficult situation worse. Instead of eliminating stakeholder groups, the state should be searching for ways to bring more individuals and institutions into the fold. Solving these challenges will require "all hands on deck," including those of WPAC participants.

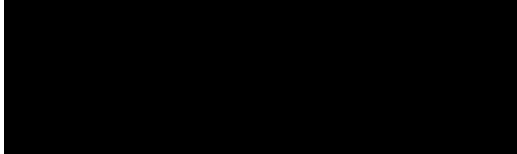


# CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

## III. Conclusion

Watershed planning remains a priority for Iowans. The state is in the midst of a sustained effort to address significant challenges and the process is far from complete. Now is not the time to limit stakeholder engagement. We encourage you to recommend the continuation of WPAC.

Respectfully,



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Elimination of Watershed Planning Advisory Council  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 17:47:26 CDT  
Attachments:

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I strongly urge the Committee to retain the WPAC, as Iowa's water quality is a subject deserving of ample opportunities for discussion and input. The end goal of the governor's Boards and Commissions Review Committee is to save money and that is understandable, but this committee serves an important purpose to bridge dialogue between policy-makers and our citizens. We can eliminate discussion about Iowa's sub-par water quality through the advisory council and other avenues, but that doesn't make Iowa's water quality problems (i.e. one dozen plus beaches with water quality advisories alone over the Labor Day weekend) magically disappear if we do away with the WPAC.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Board of Dietetics and the Local Food and Farm Program Council  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 18:50:21 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom this may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a registered and licensed dietitian nutritionist, and writing to let you know that I strongly disagree with the elimination of the Board of Dietetics, our licensure, and the Local Food and Farm Program Council.

The Board of Dietetics exists to protect Iowa citizens from unethical, harmful nutrition care. Similar to other healthcare professions, becoming a dietitian involves completing a rigorous, evidence-based curriculum and supervised internship, passing a qualification exam, and taking yearly continuing education.

The Local Food and Farm Program Council exist to connect and educate consumers, producers, and communities for a strong and productive local food system with population health in mind. How our food is grown, processed, and packaged really does matter. Our food choices influence our health, the quality of our environment, jobs in our community, and the culture and diversity of our society. Keeping our local farmers and producers in business supports our local economy. Dollars spent close to home tend to stay close to home. Most of the food we eat travels an average of 1,500 miles from the farm to our table. By reducing the travel distance our food takes, we save energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions that likely contribute to global warming. By buying whole local foods, we also reduce packaging, further saving energy and resources. And conservation farming practices protect the quality of our water and soil, while preserving green space for healthy native habitats.

Licensure is particularly important in the context of medical nutrition therapy, which is specialized nutrition care seen in hospitals, clinics, long-term care, and private practice. Through MNT, dietitians manage various medical conditions: diabetes, kidney disease, malnutrition, GI disorders, and nutrition support through feeding tubes or IV; as well as providing nutritional guidance within the setting of surgeries, drugs or treatments. This is just a partial list.

Further, the livelihood of many Iowa dietitians depends on their services being reimbursed by payers who require that healthcare professionals be licensed in order to receive reimbursement. It is in Iowa law that MNT and therapeutic diets MUST be provided by licensed and registered dietitians in order to receive insurance payment.

On a national level, the Academy is working to streamline licensure by introducing an interstate

compact. We strongly support this effort as it would significantly ease the burden of Iowa dietitians needing to be licensed in multiple states; and, with the increase of telehealth, broadens the income opportunities of dietitians. The Compact would also support active duty military and their spouses. We need to retain licensure in order to hold Compact privilege.

My request:

1. Retain the Iowa Board of Dietetics.
2. Retain licensure of registered dietitians and dietitian technicians, registered.
3. Retain the the Local Food and Farm Program Council

Best Wishes,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Board eliminations

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:53 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Good morning,

I would like to call attention to the financial cost to Iowans of 2 Boards set for elimination by the present recommendations of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee. I have a working understanding of the usefulness and critical support that these boards provide to the citizens of Iowa. Eliminating them will reduce the opportunities, funds, and services to Iowa residents.

### **56 Cabinet – DNR Conservation Education Program Board § 455A.21**

The Conservation Education Program (CEP) is a key provision of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act of 1989. A five-member board implements the CEP and annually allocates approximately \$350,000 from state funding for conservation education grants in Iowa. Funds are distributed to Iowa entities for projects that directly impact Iowans. These include programs at county conservation boards, institutions of higher learning, and school districts. These carefully administered funds have provided opportunities to the public including students and funded improvements to natural areas around the state.

### **167 Cabinet – HHS Volunteer Service, Iowa Commission on § 15H.2-4 \***

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

A small black rectangular redaction box covering the sender's name.

--

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the sender's contact information, including phone and email addresses.





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Comments - Item Number 228

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 1:04 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please see the attached memorandum from the state's Soil and Water District Commissioners regarding proposed item 228.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me,

This communication, along with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you are not the individual or entity to which this communication is addressed, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this message, or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by return email and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer. Thank you.

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 **Soil Commissioners Comment - Spreadsheet Item 228 (1).pdf**

80K

## MEMORANDUM

September 6, 2023

To: Mr. Jacob Nicholson  
Mr. Nate Ristow  
Mr. Kraig Paulsen  
Mr. Larry Johnson  
Mr. David Faith  
Ms. Barbara Sloniker  
Sen. Jason Schultz  
Rep. Jane Bloomingdale  
Sen. Janice Weiner  
Rep. Adam Zabner

Re: Boards and Commissions Review Committee Proposal Number 228

Members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The state's Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners provide the following comment to the proposal contained on line 228 of the 11-page spread sheet entitled "Board-Specific Recommendations." That proposal calls for the "reorganization/other changes" of the State Soil and Water Quality Committee.

This proposal has taken commissioners by surprise as there were no indications that the Committee is failing to execute its duties in a proper manner. Absent any other details except for a single line on a spreadsheet, the change appears to be "a solution in search of a problem" and the Commissioners request that it not be included in the Committee's final recommendations.

Decades of history show us that the State Soil Conservation Committee has worked well with the Executive Branch, statewide elected officials, lawmakers and arguably the most important constituent, the farmer wishing to engage in soil and water conservation.

The ability for the State Soil Conservation Committee to set, and adjust when needed, program parameters is essential to keeping our state's most valuable natural resource - our soil - from eroding away.

This long-standing ability to oversee program requirements and appropriately adjust them in a timely manner to meet market needs, react to meteorological events or respond to other pressures, stands as a model of how "government" should work.

As a reminder, The Iowa Department of Agriculture lists the duties of the Committee as:

- *Establish policy for the administration of Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality programs*
- *Approve rules of the Division prior to adoption*
- *Recommend annually, to the Secretary of Agriculture, a budget for the Division*
- *Call upon agencies and education institutions of the state for reports, surveys, or studies necessary to carry out its functions*
- *Perform acts and hold public hearings as necessary for the execution of its functions*
- *Appoint commissioners to fill vacancies in soil and water conservation districts*
- *Provide a forum for the discussion of soil and water conservation issues and the development of policy and program initiatives*
- *Review district soil loss limits every five years*

(Source: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/dscwq/state-soil-conservation-water-quality-committee> )

The state's Soil and Water Commissioners request that the members of this committee meet with them, either in person or electronically, to learn the details of the proposal contained on line 228 of the 11-page spread sheet entitled "Board-Specific Recommendations" and to accept feedback and recommendations related to the proposal.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

**ICEC response**

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 1:45 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Re: ICEC Statement on recommended elimination of the Conservation Education Program Board

September 14, 2023

The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) is a non-profit, membership-based organization that serves as the unifying voice for conservation education in Iowa. A representative of ICEC is one of the five members of the Conservation Education Program Board (CEP Board) recommended for elimination by the Boards and Commissions Review Committee. The Conservation Education Program Board is responsible for evaluating, scoring, and awarding competitive grants requests submitted for funding through the Conservation Education Program within the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program.

ICEC strongly opposes this recommended elimination for several reasons.

The CEP Board was specifically designed to consist of representatives from departments and organizations whose institutional foci directly align with and support the purposes of the Conservation Education Program. These representatives from the Department of Education, the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, the Iowa Association of Naturalists, the Iowa DNR, and ICEC bring decades of experience and expertise to the conversation when discussing the merits of CEP applications. Throughout its nearly 30-year history, these representatives have been responsible for carefully reviewing applications, asking critical questions of applicants, and prioritizing the current needs of Iowa's students and educators. It is only because of their deep individual and organizational connections to the work of implementing educational programs and initiatives across Iowa that dozens of REAP-CEP-funded projects have transformed conservation education in Iowa.

We urge you to reconsider this recommendation.

On behalf of the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted]

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Iowa Conservation Education Coalition  
[exec@iowaee.org](mailto:exec@iowaee.org)

 <http://iowaee.org/>  <https://www.facebook.com/iowaConservationEducationCoalition/>

***ICEC is the professional membership organization for all environmental educators in Iowa. We provide ways for Iowa's environmental educators to learn, build relationships, and creatively collaborate.***

*If this email reaches you outside of your regular working hours, please wait to respond until your schedule and workload permit.*



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## CEPB

1 message

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Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 3:58 PM

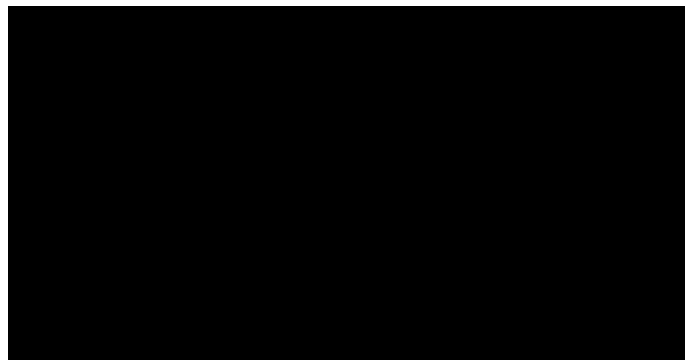
 To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

It is my understanding that the Conservation Education Program Board has been preliminarily recommended for elimination by the Boards and Commissions Review Committee tasked with making recommendations to support Gov. Reynolds initiative to reorganize state government. This is the board responsible for receiving, reviewing, and awarding REAP-CEP grants.

It is my strong opinion that this Board is needed in order to continue with the successful programs and projects that have been supported by the REAP-CEP. These outstanding projects include the following categories:

- Roadside Vegetation
- Historical Resource Development
- State Land Management
- City Parks and Open Space
- Soil and Water Enhancement
- County Conservation Projects
- Open Space Projects.

Thank you





505 Fifth Ave Suite 850  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515.244.1194  
iaenvironment.org

September 17, 2023

Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
ATTN: Kraig Paulsen, Chair  
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

**RE: Comments on Recommendations from the Boards and Commissions Review Committee**

Dear Members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

The Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) offers the following comments on the draft recommendations of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee (BCRC) published on August 29, 2023. These comments represent the views of the Iowa Environmental Council, an alliance of more than 100 organizations, at-large board members from business, farming, the sciences and education, and over 500 individual members. IEC's mission is a just healthy environment and sustainable future for all Iowans. Our members hike, fish, paddle, swim, and recreate in and around wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams throughout the state.

The BCRC released draft recommendations to eliminate and/or consolidate 116 of Iowa's 256 boards and commissions down to 140. While some boards and commissions may be obsolete, many serve an important role in providing public and stakeholder input on government actions and policies. Many of the people and organizational representatives serving on the hundreds of boards and commissions provide critical insights based on personal and professional expertise. Others provide crucial oversight of government actions. Members of the boards and commissions are largely willing to serve in volunteer capacities for the benefit of our state.

IEC has concerns about the recommendations to change or eliminate several boards & commissions. The draft recommendations were vague and did not provide justification for the proposed changes or eliminations. Without details about recommended changes or consolidations as well as rationale, we cannot support the BCRC's draft recommendations.

IEC does not support changes or eliminations to the following boards and commissions without appropriate public and stakeholder input, details, and justification:

**Eliminate**

- Advisory Council for Public Outdoor Recreation and Resources
- [Commercial Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel](#)
- [Commission on Volunteer Service](#)
- [Conservation Education Program Board](#)

- [Federal Clean Air Act Compliance Advisory Panel](#)
- Interstate Midwest Energy Commission
- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board
- Private Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel
- [Public Policy Research Foundation](#)
- [State Building Code Advisory Council](#)
- [Watershed Planning Advisory Council](#)
- Well Contractors' Council

### **Consolidate/Merge**

- Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee
- [State Advisory Board for Preserves](#)
- State Building Code Review Board

### **Reorganize/Other Changes**

- [Environmental Protection Commission](#)
- [Natural Resource Commission](#)
- [State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee](#)

We have specific comments for several of the boards and commissions.

### **Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC)**

IEC has a seat on the Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC), one of the groups proposed for elimination. WPAC was established by the Iowa Legislature (§466B.31) to convene experts to provide input and recommendations to lawmakers on water resource protection, water supply, and flood mitigation and prevention. In recent years, the recommendations from WPAC have gone unanswered by state agencies and lawmakers. Its recommendations are not seriously considered by lawmakers or the agencies that have the ability to act on them. However, the council serves a worthy function. Iowa's water quality and quantity challenges persist. Eliminating WPAC without first providing it the tools and platform to be effective, much less objective evidence of water quality improvement, will hinder progress on Iowa's water issues. WPAC's influence and relationship with decision-makers should be strengthened, not eliminated.

### **Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee**

The Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee, also known as the [Living Roadway Trust Fund Technical Advisory Committee](#) (LRTF TAC), is a specialized committee composed of professional experts who volunteer their time to support a safer, ecologically sustainable, and economical approach to the management of roadside vegetation statewide. With the majority of Iowa's public lands within road rights-of-way, it is crucial to manage these areas with expertise and priority on water quality, weed reduction, and prevention of soil erosion. This committee's benefits far outweigh the economic cost to the state, currently



estimated at a minimal cost of \$1,000 a year. Due to the technical work of the committee, it should not be consolidated with any other board or commission.

The LRTF TAC has met twice yearly for 35 years to review LRTF grant applications, discuss the statewide integrated roadside vegetation plan, and provide input on research, education, and demonstration projects that advance the principles of integrated roadside vegetation management. It has allocated \$23 million in funds to over 350 Iowa state, county, and city entities since 1990, allowing applicants to save money on items such as equipment for managing roadsides or projects such as roadside vegetation inventories. LRTF TAC is the only committee tasked with administering the Living Roadway Trust Fund, and no other transportation-related committee serves the same broad scope of Iowans or addresses roadside vegetation. Currently, 56 of the 99 counties, 19 cities, and two state entities have filed a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan with the Iowa DOT and developed programs in their local areas. These numbers have continued to increase since the development of the LRTF in the late 1980s.

**Conservation Education Program Board**

The Conservation Education Program (CEP) Board is made up of representatives from five agencies and organizations with expertise in conservation education. The CEP Board meets twice each year to determine the recipients of Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) CEP grants. They review the grant applications and make determinations using a rubric and professional judgement. The members volunteer their time, serving an important function that would otherwise take Iowa DNR staff time to review and award grants. The CEP was set aside as a primary funding priority by the Iowa Legislature when REAP was established in 1989. The first \$350,000 of REAP is set aside annually for the CEP. It is crucial to maintain strong childhood and adult conservation education in Iowa. The CEP Board should not be eliminated.

We encourage the BCRC to reconsider its recommendations to eliminate or change the boards and commissions listed above. BCRC must provide clear rationale and transparency about the proposed changes in order to justify them. On behalf of IEC's members and supporters, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Conservation Education Program board**

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I have heard that it has been proposed to eliminate the CEP Board as part of the Governor's initiative to reorganize state government. The Conservation Education Program (CEP) is a key provision of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act of 1989. A five-member board implements the CEP and annually they allocate approximately \$350,000 in grants for conservation education in Iowa. If this board is eliminated, who will take over the duties of receiving, reviewing and awarding REAP-CEP grants? Conservation Education is important to keep the public informed and more aware of the interaction between humans and nature, and how the things we do have an effect on the world around us.

Current Iowa Code requires that there be a Conservation Education Program Board board consisting of 5 representatives, and even specifies the agencies that appoint the board members. Do these board members even get a wage? If they do, I rather doubt that in the whole scheme of state government that eliminating this board would substantially reduce expenses or make state government more efficient. Please don't eliminate this board.

Virus-free.[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Conservation education committee and volunteer services

1 message

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Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 6:00 AM

[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

I would like to express concern regarding the elimination of the REAP CEP committee and other restructuring within the DNR and department of education.

I served on the REAP CEP committee for around 10 years. I saw first hand the innovation of ideas , the partnerships developed, and the multiplication of dollars that this grant program developed. It would be a loss to the people of Iowa to eliminate this program.

The restructuring of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service negatively affects Iowans both by the loss of the benefits the programs provide as well as the loss of the experiences offered to those who volunteer.

Please reconsider making these changes.

[REDACTED]



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## Significant facts to support the continuation of the State Preserves Advisory Board as an independent entity rather being merged or eliminated.

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 2:26 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

**(Item # 64)** The State Preserves Advisory Board (SPABrd.) was established in the early 1970's under the Governorship of Robert D. Ray (R). The wisdom of his administration was to set aside the most valuable land in Iowa under the best protection that the executive, and legislative branches of Iowa could provide. This was to ensure the protection of land that had not been disturbed since before European settlement, outstanding geologic features, outstanding archeological features, features of Indigenous cultures, best remaining habitats of pre-settlement natural communities of the rarest plants and animals of Iowa. The SPABrd. would later have the notoriety of becoming the state authority to propose which plants and animals would become designated by the legislature as State Endangered, State Threatened or State candidates for Special Concern species and thus given maximum protection under Iowa State Law. This was especially timely with the passage of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. It was not long after that an area in Northeast Iowa was preserved to protect the Federally Endangered Monkshood plant in Clayton County (which also preserved a plethora of additional plant and animal species within the algific talus slope natural community of the driftless area (Paleozoic Plateau of Northeastern Iowa). This is just one success story of the SPABrd. and there are hundreds of more stories of these successful unique preservation examples that we can continue to write about.

The State Preserves Advisory Board is very unique and special. Governor Ray's outstanding wisdom continues to this very day to preserve the very best of the rapidly disappearing natural communities of Iowa for their historic, geographic, geologic, natural habitats and educational values of this beautiful land.

### **Just a few items of unique significance that the State Preserves Advisory Board has accomplished so far:**

1. Grants, aids and scholarships for research on State Preserves to nonprofit groups such as County Conservation Boards, College and University students and faculty, for plant and animal inventories, species migrations and successional studies as a very few examples.
2. Working with non-profit environmental organizations (as above) and was instrumental in helping to establish them and encouraged them to thrive over more than 50 years of the SPABrd. existence. Such non-profits as the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Bur Oak Land Trust (formerly known as the Johnson County Heritage Trust), Trees Forever, Project Green, the

Annual Prairie Preview and the Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar (which will celebrate its 48th. annual event in 2023) to name just a few. The SPABrd. since the early 1970's has been the keystone, the foundation and the linchpin to help germinate all of these organizations, and many more, for the protection of Iowa's rapidly dwindling natural history and preservation of Iowa's threatened and endangered species.

3. Additional studies have included, but in no way limited to ecological and reproductive research of rare organisms of Iowa.

4. Ornate box turtle studies of known populations and searches for new populations. Studies using telemetric tracking sensors to map out migration patterns from dry nesting areas to breeding sites not only helped to save major amounts of highway funds spent on projects like highway 100 in Linn and Benton Counties, by confirming that the proposed highway alignment would not harm endangered turtle populations, and formulating a plan to construct "Box Turtle" and "Blanding's Turtle" right of ways beneath the highway so that they can maintain in safety their ancient migration routes without being destroyed by new highway development.

5. Other similar research studies demonstrating success that are underway for the preservation of threatened and endangered bat species that make the below deck superstructure of bridges their adopted migration nesting areas. Without these artificial safe habitats many of these species would decline rapidly from the dangers of the "white-nose bat syndrome" and bat populations in Iowa would decline very rapidly. That would come at the expense of agricultural insect pests rapidly increasing without the bats to prey upon them. Some species of these bats are Federally endangered and threatened as well as having a similar rank as Iowa species by the SPABrd.

6. For years the SPABrd. has actively promoted research into the "Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas" which has progressed through many editions over the years. This atlas maintains the records of all the birds that nest and migrate through the state. These records are essential to understand both of the natural and climatic occurring changes in populations of birds in Iowa. One of the significant uses of this atlas is to help determine, from year to year, what hunting regulations will be adopted for game birds and what trends may be found to predict disease affecting bird populations in Iowa and how that might interface with surrounding states. This may give a measure of the impact of disasters like avian bird-flu and a predictive model for the future of these diseases that are disastrous to agricultural fowl such as chickens and turkeys by knowing what is affecting Iowa's migrating waterfowl.

7. Along these lines, the SPABrd. maintains records and does raptor research on Bald Eagle populations, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and many other Birds of Prey according to Federal Regulation provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Other migrants like white pelicans are now known to be using Iowa wetlands more each year thanks to these yearly records. Likewise, sandhill cranes, white-faced Ibis, limpkins and many species of warblers are now known to be increasing their ranges in Iowa as well.

Finally, it is without saying, that the naturalists of Iowa could write forever about the more than 50 years of service that the State Preserves Advisory Board has carried out for the citizens of Iowa. We cannot afford to lose the State Preserves Advisory Board for all of the good work they have done in the past and all the potential good work that it will do for the good people of Iowa in the future. Nor can we afford to dilute these good works by merging the State Preserves Advisory Board with other boards and commissions that may have an entirely different mission than it does.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Private Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel - 206.23B

1 message

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Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 11:04 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Greetings:

I am writing to urge that the Private Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel, mandated by Iowa Code 206.23B, be maintained. Your preliminary recommendation proposed its elimination.

This Peer Review Panel was established by legislation passed in 2021. However, its implementation appears to have been delayed in the rulemaking process (according to an email to me from IDALS Pesticide Bureau Chief Gretchen Paluch in February 2023). The Panel has not yet had a chance to do its job; therefore it would be premature to eliminate it.

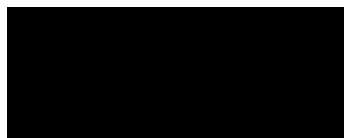
The Panel is to include three certified private pesticide applicators, representing different components of the industry, and two members of the public who are not licensed or certified pesticide applicators. This structure provides for input from interested and knowledgeable parties who are outside the regulating authority.

Appropriate regulation of pesticide application is important to clients I represent. It is also important to me personally as an owner of farmland in Adair, Allamakee, and Guthrie Counties.

Again, I urge that you maintain the Private Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel.

Thank you.

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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Commercial Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel - 206.23A**

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 11:06 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Greetings:

I am writing to urge that the Commercial Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel, mandated by Iowa Code 206.23A and implemented by IAC 21.45.101 *et seq.*, be maintained. Your preliminary recommendation proposed its elimination.

This Peer Review Panel brings together experts in the pesticide industry to work with the IDALS Pesticide Bureau, discussing topics such as enforcement action trends, innovations in the industry, licensing processes, investigative procedures, and current regulatory concerns.

Input from professional applicators helps ensure that regulation is relevant and appropriate. This is important to clients I represent, as well as to me personally as an owner of farmland in Adair, Allamakee, and Guthrie Counties.

I support this Peer Review Panel in its role and ask that you reconsider your recommendation to eliminate it.

Thank you.

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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Boards & Commissions Review Committee - comments

1 message

Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 8:08 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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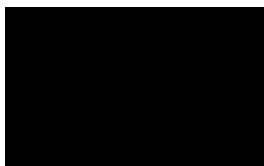
Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee;

Thank you for taking the time to review all of the Boards and Commissions of the State of Iowa. It is important that these are reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency. I would like to comment on a few of the recommendations.

1. Item #64 – The State Preserves Advisory Board. This board was created in the early 1970's under Governor Rays administration. The goal of this board was to protect some of the most sensitive and rare land in Iowa. These properties included outstanding geologic features, outstanding archeological features, features of Indigenous cultures, the best remaining habitat of the pre-settlement natural communities of the rarest plants and animals in Iowa. The individuals serving on this board in the past have had a love and passion for these areas and could provide excellent review of land needing protection. This board works in conjunction with conservation organization across the State of Iowa to protect these cultural and natural gems. Iowa cannot afford to lost the State Preserves Advisory Board. They have provided more than 50 years of excellent service to Iowa. Adding this duty to another board would be an insult to the beautiful treasures they have protected.
2. Item #56 – Conservation Education Program Board. The REAP CEP Board is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and awarding REAP-CEP grants. This board is made up of five representatives appointed by the directors/presidents of the Iowa DNR, Iowa Dept. of Education, IAN, ICEC, and the IACCB. These individuals have a vested interested in selecting the best grants to serve the individuals in the State of Iowa. Similar to the State Preserves Advisory Board, changing this group would reduce the number of Iowa engaged in our state government, rather than encouraging people to be involved and engaged. Iowans need an opportunity to share their voice and be a part of the system that represents them.
3. Lastly, Item #167 The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Elimination of this commission will eliminate several programs that help provide service to communities across the state of Iowa. At a time when volunteerism, and community service seems to be declining it is important that these characteristics and the importance of community service are instilled in our State.

Please reconsider your positions on these three items. I am sure it was difficult to go through all of the boards and commission, but as an Iowan who has served my state in many volunteer roles, it is important that these boards and commissions are protected for future generations.

Thanks for your time and consideration.



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