

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Iowa Property Rights Council

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RACCOON RIVER WATERSHED COUNTIES

REJECT WATERSHED ALLIANCE CONTRACT

DESOTO, IOWA, JULY 25, 2012:

Through advocacy and education, the Iowa Property Rights Council has successfully demonstrated to the counties in the Middle and South Raccoon River Watershed that the submitted contract required improvement. The "28E Agreement" that authorizes a new Watershed Authority lacked necessary protections for both our elected officials and the property rights of Iowans.

A team including elected officials from some of the political subdivisions, representatives from non-governmental entities and others, has been meeting over the past few months to form a watershed management authority under Iowa Code Section 466B. This work has been funded by a grant from the Iowa Departments of Natural Resources and Economic Development.

The intent of the entities was described as measure, analyze, report and educate on water issues in the watershed. The written contract did not clearly reflect these objectives, nor did it contain sufficient protections for the region's taxpayers, elected officials, or property owners.

Assessment of the founding contract by the Iowa Property Rights Council helped to identify for the parties serious shortcomings in the contract and to gain their agreement that change must be made. Dallas, Guthrie, Greene and Carroll Counties have all rejected the contract to allow clarifying and improving the agreement to satisfy all the parties.

The Iowa Property Rights Council will monitor and contribute to the group during the creation of a new contract that will improve protections for all.

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