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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 13, 2017 – For Immediate Release

Catfish Creek Watershed Authority Board Announces New Soil Quality Restoration Grant Program

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority (CCWMA) and the City of Dubuque have partnered to create a new cost-share program that offers all Catfish Creek Watershed landowners financial incentives to install conservation practices on their property.

The CCWMA board of directors recently finalized a watershed management plan for the entire 46,000-acre watershed which includes the implementation conservation practices throughout the watershed.

The CCWMA is now accepting applications for Soil Quality Restoration (SQR) project proposals. SQR practices are designed to improve soil health by restoring organic matter and de-compacting tight clay soils. Doing so improves storm water infiltration and allows green spaces to absorb more water. Additionally, SQR eliminates the need for additional fertilizers and chemicals on lawns. In the end, SQR improves water quality and reduces peak flows as more storm water runoff is reduced.

The CCWMA has a total of approximately \$100,000 to invest in SQR projects within the watershed. Following review of applications, funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. SQR projects awarded funding through the program will be eligible for 75 percent of the project cost, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per home. The homeowner will be required to hire a certified contractor or become certified themselves (if doing the work themselves). Certification courses will be offered to the public later this fall and in spring 2017.

For more information or to request an application to apply please email catfishcreekwatershed@gmail.com or call the Catfish Creek Watershed Administration at 563-690-6116.

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