

Watershed Improvement Review Board Local Watershed Improvement Committee Member Composition

Several entities are eligible to apply for Watershed Improvement Funds:

- A soil and water conservation district (SWCD). SWCDs are established by the Iowa Code, Chapter 161A
- Public water supply utilities
- Counties
- County conservation boards
- Cities
- A local watershed improvement committee

The organization and member composition of a Local Watershed Improvement Committee is described here to assist those desiring to organize and request Watershed Improvement Funds. The Watershed Improvement Review Board believes a well-rounded, diverse committee would consist of people affected by the watershed and its water quality and flood potential as well as those individuals and groups able to influence the watershed water quality and flood potential. Committee members could include those with political and administrative responsibilities in the target watershed as well as those with technical knowledge of the water quality impairment and flood potential and knowledge of the local community and stakeholders.

Local Watershed Improvement Committee requirements (per Iowa Code Chapter 466A):

- Be designated by the secretary of state as a nonprofit organization, and
- The majority of the committee members represent the cause of the impairment

The following examples illustrate the types of collaborations and partnerships envisioned in the formation of a local watershed improvement committee:

Example 1: An intensive row crop production agricultural watershed with sediment identified as contributing to the impairment may have a committee consisting of landowner/operators in the watershed, the soil and water conservation district, commodity organizations, a wildlife non-government organization, and the county extension council.

Example 2: An agricultural watershed upstream of a county park with diversified crop and livestock production with nutrients identified as contributing to the impairment may have a committee consisting of landowners/operators in the watershed, commodity and livestock producer's organizations, the soil and water conservation district, the county conservation board, and the county extension council.

Example 3: An agricultural and urban watershed with bacteria identified as the impairment may have a committee consisting of agricultural landowners/operators in the watershed, industries and businesses located within the watershed, urban residents living in the watershed, a neighborhood association, the soil and water conservation district, the county extension council, county sanitarian, and the county or city engineer.

Example 4: A privately-owned lake with a watershed of agricultural and residential landuses is impaired due to nutrients may have a committee consisting of the lake homeowners association, agricultural landowners/operators, the soil and water conservation district, the county extension council, and the county board of supervisors.

Example 5: A residential watershed impaired by bacteria that includes an unsewered community may have a committee consisting of homeowners in the watershed, the city council, the county sanitarian, the regional planning organization, and the county extension council.

More information can be obtained at: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp> .