IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

To: Soil and Water Conservation Districts

From: Todd Coffelt, Chief
Mines and Minerals Bureau
Water Resources Bureau

Date: January 10, 2012

Subject: Request for Proposals (RFP) for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants

Action Needed: Applications are due by **February 15, 2012** for consideration.

The Division of Soil Conservation is accepting applications for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants. You should read all of the documents and seek assistance from your Regional Basin Coordinator to help you submit an application. RFPs are issued when funding allows and program needs exist. The closing date for this request for proposals is **February 15, 2012.** The purpose of this program is to assist soil and water conservation districts develop effective watershed project applications designed to protect soil, water quality, and other natural resources, and improve flood control.

This program allows districts and your partners to complete a comprehensive watershed assessment, identify natural resource problem(s) and their potential source(s), identify local partners, and determine landowner support for implementing a watershed project. Sufficient information should be generated so that a concise application can be made to various grant programs including the Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF), Water Protection Fund (WPF), EPA 319 through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Watershed Improvement Fund administered by the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB).

The funds offered via Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants are not intended to implement best management practices (BMPs). Rather, the funds are intended to defray expenses of completing the assessment, planning, and information and education processes. Acceptable costs could include, but are not limited to:

- additional staff to gather data as part of a GIS-based watershed assessment and to prepare implementation application(s) when appropriate,
- materials to conduct information and education activities, and
- postage and printing costs to conduct a stakeholder survey.

Also attached to this request for applications is a Water Monitoring Supplement Application. The Water Monitoring Supplement Grant Application is being offered through the DNR Watershed Improvement Section for requesting EPA 319 program funds. If your SWCD determines that additional funding from the DNR is needed for detailed water quality monitoring for the watershed being assessed, then complete and submit this form along with the Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant application. This supplemental application is not required if additional detailed water quality monitoring is not requested.

Application Guidance:

- Districts are encouraged to request the assistance of your appropriate Regional Basin Coordinator in developing your application. The coordinators are listed below:
    - Bob Waters, Western Iowa, 515-306-7012, bob.waters@iowaagriculture.gov.
    - James Martin, Southeast Iowa, 641-472-8411, ext. 104, james.martin@iowaagriculture.gov.
    - Jeff Tisl, Northeast Iowa, 563-422-6201, jeff.tisl@iowaagriculture.gov.
    - Adam Kiel, Upper Des Moines and Raccoon River Basins, 515-242-6149, adam.kiel@dnr.iowa.gov.
- To be considered for funding, applications are to be received by **February 15, 2012.**
- An application template is attached to this memo and should be used to submit your application.
- Maps and other supportive data relevant to your proposed project can also be attached.
- Applicants will be notified after evaluations are complete as to which applications were selected for funding and will enter into a grant agreement with the Division.
- Your application should be emailed (jerry.neppel@iowaagriculture.gov) in .pdf format. If applications exceed 10 MB in size, contact Jerry Neppel, 515-281-3599 or jerry.neppel@iowaagriculture.gov.

Districts that submit an application and are selected to be funding must sign a grant agreement with the Division before any work activities or work products are eligible for payment with these funds.

I encourage your district to evaluate watershed protection needs in your district and consider applying for a Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant.

TC:jn
Attachments
cc: DNR Watershed Improvement Section
DSC Field Staff
Field Representatives
Regional Basin Coordinators
SWCD Employees