


IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

To: Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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

Date: December 14, 2010

Subject: Applications for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants

Action needed: Applications are due by **February 15, 2011** for consideration

The Division of Soil Conservation is accepting applications for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants. **Several changes have occurred in the application process and forms to complete to submit an application. You should read all of the documents and seek assistance from the appropriate coordinator in your area to help you submit an application.** Applications are accepted twice per year. The closing date for this request for applications is **February 15, 2011**. The purpose of this program is to assist soil and water conservation districts develop effective watershed project proposals 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 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
- 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 this form needs to be prepared and submitted 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 coordinator in developing your application. The coordinators are listed below:
 - Bob Waters, Western Iowa, 712-243-2913 ext. 207, bob.waters@iowaagriculture.gov
 - Vacant, Southeast Iowa, contact Jerry Neppel at 515-281-3599, jerry.neppel@iowaagriculture.gov until the position is filled
 - 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, 2011**.
- 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.
- 10 paper copies of your application and an electronic copy on CD should be submitted to:

Jerry Neppel
IDALS-DSC
Wallace State Office Building
502 E 9th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0050

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 county, and consider applying for a Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant.

TC:JN

Attachments

cc: DSC Field Staff
SWCD Employees
Regional Coordinators
Field Representatives
DNR Watershed Improvement Section