



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

To: Soil and Water Conservation Districts

From: Dean W. Lemke, Chief
Water Resource Bureau 

Date: June 6, 2008

Subject: Applications for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants

Action needed: Applications due by **Tuesday, July 1, 2008** for consideration

The Division of Soil Conservation is accepting applications for Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants. Applications are accepted continuously with grants issued quarterly. The next cutoff date to review applications received this quarter is **Tuesday, July 1, 2008**. 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), prepare a watershed plan to address the identified problem(s), identify local partners, and determine landowner support for implementing the watershed plan. 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 develop a watershed project plan and application
- materials to conduct information and education activities
- postage and printing costs to conduct a stakeholder survey

Application Guidance:

- Districts are encouraged to request the assistance of your appropriate Regional Coordinator in developing their application. The Regional Coordinators are listed below:
 - Western Iowa, Bob Waters, 712-243-2913 ext. 207, bob.waters@iowaagriculture.gov
 - Southeast Iowa, Vince Sitzmann, 515-242-6008, vince.sitzmann@iowaagriculture.gov
 - Northeast Iowa, Jeff Tisl, 563-422-6201, jeff.tisl@iowaagriculture.gov

- To be considered for funding under this quarter's grants, applications are to be received by **Tuesday, July 1, 2008.**
- An application template is attached to this memo and should be used to submit your application.
- There should be sufficient data in a well-written three to five page template document for reviewers to make an informed decision. Maps and other supportive data relevant to your proposed project can be attached and will not count towards the three to five pages.
- Applicants will be notified after evaluations are complete as to which applications were tentatively selected subject to an acceptable plan of work and budget being approved.
- 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

Please note that districts submitting applications by the deadline should not plan to begin watershed development and assessment activities for 90 days or more, as a plan of work and budget will need to be developed and submitted by the applicant for approval by the Division.

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

DWL:JGN

Attachment: application template

cc: DSC Field Staff
Regional Coordinators
Field Representatives