

# Watershed Implementation Grant

## *Proposal Application and Guidelines*

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**Applications due October 15, 2012**



Watershed Improvement Program  
Wallace State Office Building  
502 East Ninth Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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## PURPOSE

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Watershed Implementation Grants from the Iowa DNR Watershed Improvement Program intend to put an EPA nine-element Watershed Management Plan (WMP) into action by providing local watershed groups access to federal Section 319 grant dollars. These WMPs must target nonpoint source pollution and must be consistent with Iowa's recently updated State Nonpoint Source Management Program (NPSMP), *dated July 2012*. Copies of Iowa's NPSMP can be downloaded from <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedPlanning/NonpointSourcePlan.aspx>.

## GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

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### Applicant Eligibility

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include local or regional public and private organizations or agencies able to implement a Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

Eligible entities include:

Soil and water conservation districts, county conservation boards, resource conservation and development agencies, councils of government, regional planning commissions, city governments, county governments, public utilities, community colleges, colleges or universities, public solid waste agencies, drainage districts, local chambers of commerce, not-for-profit local watershed or community organizations or foundations, and other non-governmental not-for-profit organizations or associations capable of implementing a WMP.

#### **Ineligible Applicants**

Ineligible applicants include individuals, for-profit businesses and corporations.

For clarification on eligibility requirements, contact DNR program staff listed in the Contact Information section on page 7.

### Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Requirement

Eligibility for Implementation Grant funding is contingent upon DNR approval of a WMP which successfully incorporates the nine elements of watershed planning of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Program. *A WMP must be approved prior to application submittal.* See Appendix B for Watershed Management Plan criteria.

### Nine Elements of Watershed Planning

The applicant must address the nine elements of watershed planning in the Implementation Grant application and the WMP. These elements include the following: identification of causes and sources of impairment; expected load reductions; proposed management measures; technical and financial assistance needs; public outreach; implementation schedule; measurable milestones and project outcomes; load reduction evaluation; and monitoring. To ensure the elements are properly addressed in both the Implementation Grant application and the WMP, carefully read through the statements and questions provided in Appendix B – Watershed

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, provides DNR funding for nonpoint source pollution programs, including Watershed Implementation Grants.

Management Plan Criteria. If you have any questions concerning the nine elements or how to incorporate them, please contact staff listed on page 7.

### **Watershed Eligibility**

Eligibility is limited to applications addressing watersheds of 50,000 acres or smaller that drain directly or indirectly to a waterbody on the state's impaired waters list (for more information on impaired waters, see <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedResearchData/ImpairedWaters.aspx>). A waterbody is impaired if it does not meet water quality criteria designed to protect its designated uses (for example, aquatic life uses and primary contact recreation uses) as established in the Iowa Water Quality Standards (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/WaterQualityStandards.aspx>) and is placed in either Category 4 or 5 of the most recent (2010) Iowa Integrated Report. Additional information about Category 4 and 5 impaired waters and/or the 2010 Iowa Integrated Report may be found at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WaterMonitoring/ImpairedWaters.aspx>.

If you have questions regarding your local waterbody and if it is included on the impaired waters list, or if it drains to a waterbody on the list, please contact the DNR using the contact information found in the Contact Information section (page 7) of this Implementation Grants application guide.

### **Eligible and Ineligible Expenses**

#### ***Eligible Expenses***

Eligible expenses are staffing costs directly related to WMP implementation, including salary and benefits, travel and training, supplies, public outreach activities, and water quality improvement activities identified in the WMP including: control of agricultural and non-agricultural (e.g. urban runoff, construction site erosion, etc.) sources of nonpoint source pollution and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the targeted priority watersheds.

#### ***Ineligible Expenses***

Ineligible expenses include food and beverages, taxes, overhead expenses, indirect costs and office expenses not directly related to WMP implementation.

### **Cost-Share (Match) Requirements**

There is no match requirement for this application. However, it is highly recommended applicants use additional sources of funding to increase competitiveness. All sources of funding, including in-kind or volunteer hours, should be indicated on Form G – Detailed Budget.

If any anticipated third-party sources of funding for implementation efforts are proposed (i.e. State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, other grant sources, etc.) a back-up plan must be outlined in the event those funds do not materialize.

### **Award Limits**

Subject to the federal appropriations process and the subsequent availability of an EPA Section 319 grant award to the Iowa DNR, the DNR anticipates being able to award approximately \$1.7 million for the fiscal year 2013 Section 319 Grant from EPA.

### **Project Duration**

Watershed Implementation Grants will be issued for up to three years to implement portions or all of the approved WMP. Proposals that last longer than three years must be subdivided into three-year or less increments in order to meet funding duration limits.

## Application Submission Requirements

- An electronic copy of the application is to be submitted on a Compact Disc (CD) in Microsoft Word (.doc) format.
- An electronic copy of the Watershed Management Plan is to be submitted on Compact Disc (CD) in Microsoft Word (.doc) unless the most current version of the WMP is already available on DNR's WMP web page: [www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedPlanning/ManagementPlans.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedPlanning/ManagementPlans.aspx). *If you do not have access to Microsoft Word, please contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 for assistance.*
- Use the application forms provided in Appendix A.
- Limit Forms A, D, E and F to one page each.
- Limit Forms B and C to four pages each, not including maps.
- Include Form G for each budget year of the project.
- Applicants must follow all instructions and provide all required information to be considered eligible for a grant.
- Include all letters of commitment from any third party funding sources.
- Submit application in Arial font, size 11.
- The DNR Watershed Improvement Program must receive completed applications no later than 4:30 p.m. Central time on October 15, 2012.
- Applications must be mailed or hand-delivered to:
  - Steve Hopkins
  - Iowa Department of Natural Resources
  - Watershed Improvement Section
  - Wallace Building – Fifth floor
  - 502 E. Ninth Street
  - Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

Letters of support are encouraged, but not required.

# GENERAL REVIEW AND AWARD INFORMATION

## Application Review and Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by both an interagency review committee and DNR staff. Factors considered in the review include: consistency with the Watershed Management Plan (WMP); need for the project; reasonableness of budget; potential for success; credentials of project coordinator; results of community assessment process; suitability of project's implementation plan, best management practices and public outreach activities; and measurability of achievements. In addition, for applicants seeking additional funds to implement a phase of a WMP beyond the first, the review will include an assessment of the progress made to date implementing the WMP, any obstacles and barriers that impeded progress and proposed strategies to address any obstacles or barriers encountered so far. DNR considers the reviewer's comments, project's applicability to program guidelines, total program budget, and agency priorities to determine if the project will be included in DNR's grant application to EPA. DNR reserves the right to conduct on-site interviews of applicants prior to making final selection of applicants to submit to EPA. Selected applicants may be requested to provide additional information or revisions.

Incomplete or late applications will be disqualified from eligibility and will not be considered.

## Award Disbursement and Contract Requirements

Applicants selected for funding will enter into a contract with the DNR. The length of the contract will depend upon the activities proposed by the applicant and approved by the DNR. The contract will specify that the grantee provide the DNR with periodic project updates as a condition of completing the grant. Reporting requirements will include, but not be limited to, project expenditures, pollutant reductions, and quarterly, annual and final reports. All information submitted as part of the grant will be considered public information, unless otherwise provided by law.

Grant recipients are eligible to receive up to 10 percent of the total grant award as an advance at the beginning of the project. All remaining funds will be disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis. The final 10 percent of the grant award will be held until receipt of an accepted final report, showing all expenditures, load reductions, installed structures and progress of the project.

## Timeline for Application Review, Selection, Award and Contract Execution

The following is an estimated timeline of when selection and awards will take place.

October 15, 2012 – Applications due

November 9, 2012 – Applications are reviewed and scored by interagency committee

November 16, 2012 – Applicants receive notice of tentative award (subject to EPA approval)

December 3, 2012 – Approved applications are submitted to EPA

February 1, 2013 – EPA approves applications

April 1, 2013 – EPA awards funding to DNR

May 2013 - DNR Environmental Protection Commission approves contracts

July 2013 – Anticipated contract execution – funds available to approved grant recipients

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the following DNR Watershed Improvement Program staff with any questions.

Steve Hopkins, Watershed Improvement Grants Coordinator  
E-mail: [stephen.hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephen.hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Office: (515) 281-6402

Kyle Ament, Project Officer  
E-mail: [kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Office: (515) 242-6196

Rachel Glaza, Project Officer  
E-mail: [rachel.glaza@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:rachel.glaza@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Office: (515) 281-8158

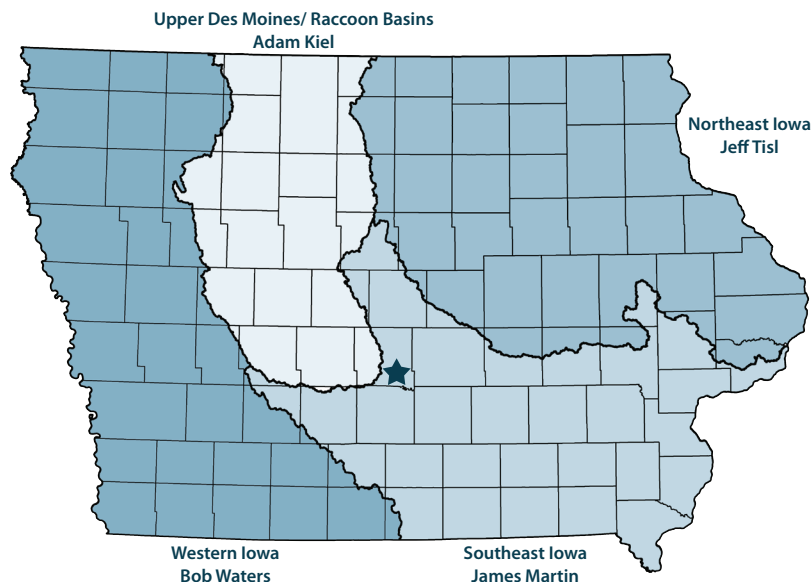
**Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to contact their respective Basin Coordinator for assistance on developing a proposal.**

Adam Kiel, Upper Des Moines/Raccoon River Basin Coordinator  
E-mail: [adam.kiel@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.kiel@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Office: (515) 242-6149

James Martin, Southeast Iowa Basin Coordinator  
E-mail: [james.martin@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:james.martin@iowaagriculture.gov)  
Office: (641) 472-8411

Jeff Tisl, Northeast Iowa Basin Coordinator  
E-mail: [jeff.tisl@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:jeff.tisl@iowaagriculture.gov)  
Office: (563) 422-6201

Bob Waters, Western Iowa Basin Coordinator  
E-mail: [bob.waters@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:bob.waters@iowaagriculture.gov)  
Office: (712) 243-2913



# APPENDIX A: APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

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**The following pages are for example only.**

Please use the application form template (Microsoft Word format) at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/ResourcesforLocalGroups/ImplementationGrants.aspx>

If you do not have access to Microsoft Word, please contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 for assistance.





## FORM B – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Limit to four pages, not including maps

### Watershed Implementation Grant Application

Provide relevant information concerning the watershed or project area. Most of this information should be readily obtained from the Watershed Management Plan.

#### Watershed Characteristics

This section should provide relevant information about the watershed and its physical characteristics.

- Identify the specific waterbody to be improved by the project.
- Information provided should include: name of waterbody, location, size, watershed area, total watershed drainage acres, managing agency or organization, importance of waterbody as a resource (coldwater trout stream, drinking water supply, recreation, etc.), public uses and extent of use (user days, etc.), if known.
- Provide general information on the following topics, focusing on those items that contribute to the impairment or impact implementation of project: soils, climatic conditions, geologic characteristics, geographic setting and other watershed characteristics that affect the watershed.
- Provide a map of the watershed and its boundaries.

#### Water Resource Concerns and Impairments

This section should provide information on the impairment(s) and causes. Existing water quality information and local observations should be addressed.

- Identify the water resources' impairment(s) and suspect pollutant(s).
- Describe the impact that these problems are having on the use of the water resource.
- Include relevant water monitoring and assessment data.
- Identify local observations of water quality or decreased resource use.
- Indicate and quantify current water resource protection or improvement efforts in the watershed.

#### Quantify Current Level of Pollutant Loading

This section should identify the current level of relevant pollutant loading.

- Quantify the amount of pollutant loading that is currently occurring. For example:
  - 25,000 tons of sediment is delivered to the waterbody on an annual basis
  - 2,000 pounds per year of phosphorus is delivered to the waterbody
  - Partially treated septic effluent from 50 improperly functioning household septic systems drains to the waterbody
- Indicate the reference source for the load calculation.

#### Current Land Use

- Identify potential pollutant sources that contribute to waterbody impairment.
- Identify current land use in the watershed or project area such as acres of cropland, typical cropping patterns, land management practices, existing conservation practices, landowners, number of farmsteads or landowners, pasture, CRP acres, timber, urban, publicly owned areas and other uses.
- Describe and quantify livestock information for the project area, if applicable, including: type and number of livestock, existing livestock facilities, permitted animal waste facilities, animal waste storage and handling methods, animal waste land application methods and rates.
- Identify non-agricultural sources such as industries that are impacted by poor water quality, industrial sources of pollution, urban or residential areas impacted by, or impacting water quality.
- Maps of project area, pollutant sources, watershed, land use, or other relevant information should be included.

## **FORM C – PROJECT PLAN**

Limit to four pages, not including maps  
Watershed Implementation Grant Application

The length of the project plan shall not exceed four pages (not including maps). Most of this information should be readily obtained from the Watershed Management Plan.

### **Project Description**

Provide a brief description of the proposed project and what phase of the WMP it is designed to implement.

### **Project Objectives**

Provide project objectives to address the water quality problems identified in the background portion of the project application. Make project objectives measurable and realistic and relate them back to the goals, objectives, load reduction targets, and milestones in the WMP.

Examples of project objectives are:

- Reduce manure application rates on crops by 25 percent
- Eliminate continuous livestock access on 50 percent of the stream corridor
- Reduce 3,000 tons per year of sediment delivery to the lake

### **Methods Employed**

Provide details on the methods that will be used to protect or improve water quality such as BMPs to be installed. (Address outreach approaches separately in Form E: Public Outreach Strategies.) The project should focus on critical areas or pollutants identified in the WMP that contribute to the impairment(s) of the water resource. Quantify the practices necessary to fully address the water quality impairments and problems:

Examples of critical areas or problems include:

- Areas with high sediment delivery to the water resource
- Gullies
- Livestock with continuous access to the water resource
- Feedlots in proximity to the water resource
- Homeowners with faulty septic systems
- Intensively cropped land in proximity to the water resource
- Abandoned wells
- Sinkholes

Example of quantifiable practices:

- Terraces are needed on 1,200 crop acres
- 10 livestock producers need animal waste control facilities
- 2,000 crop acres will benefit from nutrient management systems

### **Measures of Success**

Identify how the project will measure success and relate these measures back to the goals, objectives, milestones and targets in the WMP.

Examples of ways to measure success of the project would be:

- Pollutant load reductions
- Implementation of demonstrated or recommended conservation practices
- Reduced use of nutrients and/or pesticides
- Photographic evidence of changes in erosion or improved water quality

- Water quality monitoring data showing improving trends in physical, chemical and/or biological parameters
- Number of farmer, landowner and resident contacts

### **Funding Level**

Indicate amount of dollars requested from DNR (Implementation Grant).

Indicate amount of dollars requested from matching sources.

Include details such as, cost-shares, in-kinds and other contributions on Form G, Detailed Budget.

### **Time Frame and Implementation Schedule**

Identify estimated length of project. Project should indicate a start date of July 1, 2013 or later. Develop a realistic schedule for project implementation showing planned activities for each project year, who will perform the activities, and projected completion dates.

Examples of types of activities that may be listed in a schedule include:

- Hire staff
- Develop an annual workplan
- Conduct organizational meetings
- Prepare conservation plans (number of plans and acres/year)
- Conduct integrated crop management or other farm management meetings
- Conduct major work activities (separate out by each activity)
- BMP goals (quantify by type, load reduction and number of BMP implementations/year)

### **Lead Agency**

Provide name of agency responsible for executing the project plan.

### **Cooperating Agencies and Private Groups**

List and discuss the role of each agency, government, college or private organization that is materially participating in the implementation of the project. Participation can be in the form of financial contribution, technical assistance, volunteer labor, supply donations or other types of support. Also describe other activities that are occurring in the watershed that contribute or are related to the project such as MRBI, NWQI, SRF, WPF/WSPF, WIRB, etc.

## FORM D – PROJECT COORDINATOR/STAFFING

Limit to one page

### Watershed Implementation Grant Application

The length of the project coordinator and staffing form shall not exceed one page. The Watershed Management Plan should estimate the resources needed to coordinate and implement the plan. Part of the estimate should include financial needs for a project coordinator(s) and/or other staff. This form should be used to provide information about the project coordinator or the plans to hire a project coordinator.

Identify:

- Qualifications and experience of existing project coordinator(s), including his or her capacity and commitment to successfully implement a watershed implementation grant. If no project coordinator is currently on staff, describe the applicant's process for hiring a watershed coordinator and qualifications that will be required of a successful candidate.
- Staffing and technical support barriers to successfully implement a watershed implementation grant and how those barriers will be overcome.

## **FORM E – PREVIOUS PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE WMP**

Limit to one page  
Watershed Implementation Grant Application

The length of this Form E shall not exceed one page.

An approved Watershed Management Plan includes, among other things, an implementation schedule, measurable milestones and project outcomes. The goal of a watershed implementation project is to implement the activities outlined in the approved Watershed Management Plan in accordance with the WMP schedule in order to achieve the measurable milestones and outcomes outlined in the plan.

Part of the evaluation of any application for additional funds to implement a phase of a WMP (beyond the first phase) must therefore include an assessment of the effectiveness of previous efforts to implement the WMP and to determine whether the applicant is making sufficient progress in meeting the goals, objectives, milestones and outcomes as set forth in the WMP.

This form should be used by the applicant to provide information about the progress that has been made to-date in implementing the WMP, including:

- To what extent has plan implementation been consistent with the schedule, measurable milestones and outcomes identified in the WMP.
- Obstacles or barriers that have limited or impeded the applicant's ability to meet the WMP schedule, milestones and outcomes, so far.
- Strategies to address these barriers or obstacles going forward.
- Adjustments to the WMP schedule, milestones and/or outcomes that may be necessary to account for these obstacles or barriers.
- Potential impacts these barriers or obstacles may have on the continued successful implementation of the WMP, as designed, if they cannot be addressed or overcome.

# FORM F – PUBLIC OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Limit to one page

## Watershed Implementation Grant Application

The length of the public outreach strategies portion shall not exceed one page. Most of this information should be readily obtained from the Watershed Management Plan.

### **Identify:**

- Target audiences you need to reach to have a successful community watershed project.
- Opportunities to build support for your effort among your target audiences and in the community.
- Barriers to community and audience support and participation in the effort.

(Note that opportunities and barriers should preferably be identified through formal research of the community and target audiences conducted for the watershed management plan.)

### **Propose:**

- Outreach strategies to overcome barriers and build on opportunities listed above to reach project goals (list strategies according to the year in which they will occur in your project).
- Measurable evaluation methods to gauge the success of your outreach efforts, including methods to evaluate how effective outreach strategies are in helping you reach overall watershed goals (list evaluation efforts according to the year in which they will occur in your project. Evaluation should be ongoing throughout the life of your project).

### ***Example format:***

Target audiences:

Opportunities:

Barriers:

Year one:  
*Strategies:*

*Evaluation:*

Year two:  
*Strategies:*

*Evaluation:*

## FORM G – DETAILED BUDGET

A detailed budget should be filled out for each state fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) for the life of the project. Include other sources of funding and/or in-kind contributions.

BUDGET FOR YEAR # \_\_\_\_\_ FISCAL YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROJECT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPONENT	NUMBER, ACRES OR OTHER UNITS	TOTAL COST	LANDOWNER COST	COST-SHARE RATE	PROJECT COST	DNR (319) COST	MATCH TYPE L-LOCAL S-STATE F-FEDERAL	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE(S) COST	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE(S) ID	OTHER FUNDING - COMMITTED OR ANTICIPATED**
Salary and benefits										
Indirect costs										
Travel/training										
Supplies										
Public outreach										
Contractual										
Equipment										
Other										
Conservation Practices:										
<b>TOTALS</b>										

\*\* Please indicate whether funds are anticipated or committed.



## FORM H – MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT

### Watershed Implementation Grant Application

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa which are due beginning Jan. 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism to require grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

Please choose the statement(s) that pertains to this grant application. Complete all the information requested for the chosen statement(s).

The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique positive impact on minority persons.

- Describe the positive impact expected from this project.
- Indicate which group is impacted:
  - \_\_\_ Women
  - \_\_\_ Persons with a Disability
  - \_\_\_ Blacks
  - \_\_\_ Latinos
  - \_\_\_ Asians
  - \_\_\_ Pacific Islanders
  - \_\_\_ American Indians
  - \_\_\_ Alaskan Native Americans
  - \_\_\_ Other

The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique negative impact on minority persons.

- Describe the negative impact expected from this project.
- Present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.
- Provide evidence of consultation of representatives of the minority groups impacted.
- Indicate which group is impacted:
  - \_\_\_ Women
  - \_\_\_ Persons with a Disability
  - \_\_\_ Blacks
  - \_\_\_ Latinos
  - \_\_\_ Asians
  - \_\_\_ Pacific Islanders
  - \_\_\_ American Indians
  - \_\_\_ Alaskan Native Americans
  - \_\_\_ Other

The proposed grant project programs or policies are not expected to have a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

- Present the rationale for determining no impact.

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# FORM H – MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT

## Watershed Implementation Grant Application

### Definitions

*“Minority Persons,”* as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, mean individuals who are women, persons with a disability, Blacks, Latinos, Asians or Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaskan Native Americans.

*“Disability,”* as defined in Iowa Code Section 15.102, subsection 5, paragraph “b”, subparagraph (1):b. As used in this subsection:

(1) “Disability” means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, or being regarded as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual.

“Disability” does not include any of the following:

- (a) Homosexuality or bisexuality.
- (b) Transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments or other sexual behavior disorders.
- (c) Compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania.
- (d) Psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

*“State Agency,”* as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, means a department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency or authority of the State of Iowa.

# APPENDIX B: WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN CRITERIA

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 Watershed Management Plan Review Criteria

### Identification of Causes and Sources of Impairment

- General watershed information, including HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code) information
- List of streams in the watershed on the state's impaired waters list and why listed. (see <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov> for more information)
- Is there a TMDL? What streams? What pollutants are addressed? (see <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov> for more information)
- Are there any point sources of pollution? Identify them and their potential impacts.
- What are the nonpoint sources of pollution in the watershed? Please note if it is not addressed in the plan then EPA 319 cannot fund it, unless the plan is modified.
- What are the current loads from all pollution sources being addressed?
- Maps are helpful, but not required.
- Are there any streams that need protecting? What impacts are threatening them?

### Expected Load Reductions

- What load reductions are needed to meet designated uses in impaired streams?
- What is the source of the load reduction information? (TMDL, modeling, monitoring)
- What are the load reductions expected from Conservation practices? Will the proposed conservation practices result in load reductions required to meet water quality standards?
- Please provide more than percentages, they are difficult to put into context.

### Proposed Management Measures

- What conservation practices/management measures need to be implemented to achieve the water quality goals?
- Have critical areas been identified? Are these areas mapped?
- Has the group prioritized areas of the watershed for implementation? What areas need to be addressed first, second, third, etc? What conservation practices should be implemented in these areas?
- Are the conservation practices and critical areas strategically targeted to have the greatest improvements in water quality?
- Does the plan quantify the projected conservation practices? (i.e. miles of fencing, terracing, waterways, number of grade stabilization structures)

## Terms used in Appendix B

**Point source pollution:** can be traced back to a specific location or "point," such as an industrial facility, wastewater treatment plant, etc.

**Nonpoint source pollution:** happens when rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation water runs over land or through the ground and picks up pollutants and deposits them into streams, lakes or groundwater.

**EPA 319:** Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act addresses funds for watershed improvement.

**TMDL:** see <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov> for a full description of Total Maximum Daily Loads (also called Water Quality Improvement Plans by the DNR)

### **Technical and Financial Assistance Needs**

- Do the cost estimates reflect planning and implementation costs?
- Information is provided on how the cost estimate was determined?
- All potential funding sources have been identified for federal, state, local and private.

### **Public Outreach (Information and Education)**

- Does the plan have a reasonable strategy to inform and engage stakeholders (federal, state, local, private) in the watershed? Examples of tools used to carry out an outreach strategy include public meetings, watershed events, multimedia campaigns, news articles, signage in high visibility areas, etc.
- Is there an evaluation process included?

### **Implementation Schedule**

- Plan describes the scheduled order of implementation including the planning process through actual implementation of conservation practices and monitoring?
- Set time frames are projected to determine progress towards meeting goals – In other words, is there a timetable for addressing priority areas, a schedule for implementing critical conservation practices, etc.?
- Does the schedule follow the prioritization of the critical areas? If not, is there a reason why?

### **Measurable Milestones and Project Outcomes**

- Does the plan include milestones with anticipated completion dates to mark accomplishments? This information can be incorporated into the schedule.
- Is there a way for those implementing the plan to evaluate progress?
- Milestones can include implementing a certain number of conservation practices, addressing a number of critical areas, number of outreach events, etc.

### **Load Reduction Evaluation**

- This element looks for interim water quality milestones. The milestone can differ from the water quality standard violation; for example improvements in fish diversity, water clarity, benthic community, reduction of atrazine, etc.
- These milestones measure progress towards meeting the overall water quality goals for the watershed.
- Does the plan identify a course of action if goals are not being met as anticipated?

### **Monitoring**

- What water quality indicators are you monitoring? What parameters?
- Who is performing the sampling? How often are they sampling? Are they doing before and after sampling or upstream vs. downstream, for example?
- Is the monitoring supporting the milestones that are identified? Will it demonstrate the effectiveness of implementing conservation practices over time?
- Is there a trigger to have the state reassess streams or the watershed?
- How will public outreach (information and education) efforts be evaluated?

*Note, this information does not need to be detailed out, such as in a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). However, we would like to have an idea of what type of monitoring will be performed.*