

**Environmental Protection Commission
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

ITEM

10

DECISION

TOPIC Contracts – Watershed Management Plans

Recommendations:

Commission approval is requested for contracts with the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake and with the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to develop watershed management plans (WMPs) that meet EPA requirements for restoring impaired waters in the Clear Lake and Don Williams Lake watersheds, respectively. The completed WMPs will follow EPA's 9 elements of watershed planning, will provide detailed strategies to restore impaired waters, and may be used as the basis for future targeted watershed project grant applications. The total amount of these contracts shall not exceed \$72,697.

Funding Source:

These contracts will be funded through EPA Section 319 grant funds.

Background:

The following WMP contracts are presented for approval:

Clear Lake (Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake)	\$50,000
Don Williams Lake (Boone County SWCD)	\$22,697
Total	\$72,697

Purpose:

The parties propose to enter into these contracts for the purpose of developing watershed management plans for the watersheds selected.

Contractor Selection Process:

These projects were chosen using a grant proposal application and committee review process.

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October 26, 2009

Planning Grant Summaries

Project Name: Don Williams Lake Watershed Plan Development (Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District)

Amount: \$22,697

Time Frame: January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011

Purpose: This project will develop a watershed management plan which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Elements for watershed planning. The final product will be an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to be used for project implementation.

Summary: Don Williams Lake watershed consist of 21,080 acres located in Boone County. In 2005, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was completed for organic enrichment and siltation. Actions required by the TMDL include reducing the current sediment load by 2600 tons/year.

To develop the watershed management plan the Boone County SWCD will 1) Raise general awareness about, and increase support for, the importance of watershed planning and protection throughout Boone County 2) Develop and implement strategies that will improve the Don Williams Lake Watershed in the near-term and ensure the watershed's viability its environs in the long term 3) Empower the citizenry of Boone County to become actively involved in protecting the natural resources situated within the County.

Project Name: Clear Lake Watershed Management Plan Development (Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake)

Amount: \$50,000

Time Frame: February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011

Purpose: This project will develop a watershed management plan which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Elements for watershed planning. The final product will be an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan to be used for project implementation.

Summary: The Clear Lake watershed is 8,454 acres and consists primarily of row crop production (53%, wetland/CRP (16%), and urban/roads (15%) land uses. The small watershed to lake ratio of 2.3 to 1 offers a good opportunity to make significant improvements in the water quality by focusing on small priority areas of the watershed. Despite the watershed improvements completed to date, Clear Lake is currently impaired for bacteria, and has a completed TMDL for algae and turbidity. The target values set for Clear Lake to attain water quality standards were 0.7 meters Secchi disk depth, chlorophyll-a of 33ug/l, and total phosphorus of 96 ug/l. It was estimated that an annual load reduction of 9,100 pounds per year of phosphorus would be needed to obtain those results.

The overarching goals of the watershed management plan will be two-fold. The first goal will be to create a long term plan to address the water quality impairments for Clear Lake that will eventually result in the lake's delisting from the impaired waters list. The second goal will be to develop a plan that will define the roles of the local partners in maintaining the water quality improvements installed to date.