



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 17, 2008

For immediate release

1. Monona County residents asked to share ideas on improving Blue Lake

MONONA COUNTY RESIDENTS ASKED TO SHARE IDEAS ON IMPROVING BLUE LAKE

MEDIA CONTACT: Bill Graham, DNR, at (515) 281-5917 or William.Graham@dnr.iowa.gov.

ONAWA – Iowans interested in improving Blue Lake in Monona County can attend a public meeting and review a DNR improvement plan for the lake.

The DNR has developed a water quality improvement plan for Blue Lake, which is on the state's impaired waters list because of excessive algae growth, which impacts recreation uses of the lake and aquatic life.

The DNR will ask Iowans for their input on the improvement plan at a May 7 meeting in Onawa. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Onawa Community and Recreation Center, 320 10th St.

“We’d like to hear people’s comments on the plan and help them to use the plan to improve Blue Lake,” said Bill Graham with the DNR’s Watershed Improvement program.

Those not able to attend the public meeting can receive more information at www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/ and submit comments on the plan (by May 19) via the following ways:

E-mail: William.Graham@dnr.iowa.gov

Telephone: Bill Graham at (515) 281-5917

Mail: William Graham, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building,
502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

The DNR's water quality improvement plan, also called by its technical name of Total Maximum Daily Load, outlines the problems and potential solutions to the problems in Blue Lake. After gathering Iowans' comments, the DNR will forward the final plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. Local groups interested in helping Blue Lake can then use the plan to assist their improvement efforts.

Writer: Jessie Brown