



# IOWA DNR NEWS

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 24, 2010

### GET YOUR LOCAL WATER QUALITY PROJECT STARTED WITH DNR WATERSHED PLANNING GRANTS

**MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Hopkins, DNR Watershed Improvement, at (515) 281-6402 or [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov).**

DES MOINES — Starting today, locally-led groups looking to improve water quality can submit applications for a DNR grant that helps those groups get started.

This is the third grant cycle for Watershed Planning Grants, which offer groups from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to develop plans to improve a local river, lake or stream on the state's impaired waters list.

Offered by the DNR's Watershed Improvement Program, the grants help local groups passionate about improving water quality create a Watershed Management Plan, which identifies problems in the watershed and proposes solutions for better water quality. Making changes in the watershed (the land that drains to a lake, river or stream) can reduce pollution reaching our waters.

"We encourage anyone interested in starting a local water quality effort to give us a call, so we can discuss your goals, answer your questions and talk about the resources available to your group," said Steve Hopkins, who coordinates DNR Watershed Improvement grants. "Call your basin coordinator to get started."

Basin Coordinators include:

- Adam Kiel, Upper Des Moines and Raccoon River basins  
(515) 242-6149 or [Adam.Kiel@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Adam.Kiel@dnr.iowa.gov)

- Vince Sitzmann, south central and southeast Iowa  
(515) 242-6008 or [Vince.Sitzmann@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Vince.Sitzmann@iowaagriculture.gov)
- Jeff Tisl, northeast Iowa  
(563) 422-6201 or [Jeff.Tisl@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Jeff.Tisl@iowaagriculture.gov)
- Bob Waters, western Iowa  
(712) 243-2913 ext. 207 or [Bob.Waters@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Bob.Waters@iowaagriculture.gov)

Applications for Watershed Planning Grants are due Sept. 1, 2010 by 4:30 p.m. Central time. For application forms, contact information and additional details, visit [www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/grants.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/grants.html) or contact Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov).

With a completed Watershed Management Plan, local groups can then apply for additional funds to put the plan in practice, such as a DNR Watershed Implementation Grant.

The Section 319 program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides DNR funding for nonpoint pollution programs, including Watershed Planning Grants.

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