

Grants Available for Water Quality Improvements

Applications are being taken to apply for grants through the Watershed Improvement Review Board, to support projects that improve water quality or help prevent flooding. A total of \$1.2 million in grant funds are available to local watershed improvement committees, soil and water conservation districts, public water supply utilities, county conservation boards, cities, and counties.

Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, those addressing agricultural runoff and drainage, flood prevention, stream bank erosion, municipal discharge, storm water runoff, unsewered communities, industrial discharge, and livestock runoff. Each project can request up to \$200,000 in funding over four years.

All applications are due on Friday, October 1st and will be reviewed by the Watershed Improvement Review Board. The board is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, the conservation community along with two state senators and two state representatives.

Announcement of grant recipients is expected to be made in November. The Legislature appropriated these funds through the I-JOBS program.

Application materials can be downloaded from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website at www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp. To receive more information or ask questions, contact Jerry Neppel at 515-281-3599.