

456A.33B Lake restoration plan and report.

1. It is the intent of the general assembly that the department of natural resources shall develop annually a lake restoration plan and report that shall be submitted to the joint appropriations subcommittee on transportation, infrastructure, and capitals and the legislative services agency by no later than January 1 of each year. The plan and report shall include the department's plans and recommendations for lake restoration projects to receive funding consistent with the process and criteria provided in this section, and shall include the department's assessment of the progress and results of projects funded with moneys appropriated under this section.

The department shall recommend funding for lake restoration projects that are designed to achieve the following goals:

- a. Ensure a cost-effective, positive return on investment for the citizens of Iowa.
- b. Ensure local community commitment to lake and watershed protection.
- c. Ensure significant improvement in water clarity, safety, and quality of Iowa lakes.
- d. Provide for a sustainable, healthy, functioning lake system.
- e. Result in the removal of the lake from the impaired waters list.

2. The process and criteria the department shall utilize to recommend funding for lake restoration projects shall be as follows:

a. The department shall develop an initial list of not more than thirty-five significant public lakes to be considered for funding based on the feasibility of restoring each lake and the use or potential use of the lake, if restored. The list shall include lake projects under active development that the department shall recommend be given priority for funding so long as progress toward completion of the projects remains consistent with the goals of this section.

b. The department shall meet with representatives of communities where lakes on the initial list are located to provide an initial lake restoration assessment and to explain the process and criteria for receiving lake restoration funding. Communities with lakes not included on the initial list may petition the director of the department for a preliminary lake restoration assessment and explanation of the funding process and criteria. The department shall work with representatives of each community to develop a joint lake restoration action plan. At a minimum, each joint action plan shall document the causes, sources, and magnitude of lake impairment, evaluate the feasibility of the lake and watershed restoration options, establish water quality goals and a schedule for attainment, assess the economic benefits of the project, identify the sources and amounts of any leveraged funds, and describe the community's commitment to the project, including local funding. The community's commitment to the project may include moneys to fund a lake diagnostic study and watershed assessment, including development of a TMDL (total maximum daily load).

c. Each joint lake restoration plan shall comply with the following guidelines:

- (1) Biologic controls will be utilized to the maximum extent, wherever possible.
- (2) If proposed, dredging of the lake will be conducted to a mean depth of at least ten feet to gain water quality benefits unless a combination of biologic and structural controls is sufficient to assure water quality targets will be achieved at a shallower average water depth.
- (3) The costs of lake restoration will include the maintenance costs of improvements to the lake.

(4) Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled and in place before lake restoration begins. Loads of phosphorous and sediment, in conjunction with in-lake management, will meet or exceed the following water quality targets:

(a) Clarity. A four-and-one-half-foot Secchi depth will be achieved fifty percent of the time from April 1 through September 30.

(b) Safety. Beaches will meet water quality standards for recreational use.

(c) Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community will be maintained.

(d) Sustainability. The water quality benefits from the restoration efforts will be sustained for at least fifty years.

d. The department shall evaluate the joint action plans and prioritize the plans based on the criteria required in this section. The department's annual lake restoration plan and report shall include the prioritized list and the amounts of state and other funding the department

recommends for each lake restoration project. The department may seek public comment on its recommendations prior to submitting the plan and report to the general assembly.

2006 Acts, ch 1179, §26; 2007 Acts, ch 22, §81, 82