

**571—27.6(456A) Project review and selection.****27.6(1)** *Review and selection committee for local projects.*

*a.* A five-member review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, shall be composed of three staff members of the department as appointed by the director, one member appointed by the director with input from the Iowa association of county conservation boards, and one member appointed by the director with input from the Iowa league of cities and the Iowa parks and recreation association. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director with input from both associations and the league of cities. The committee shall determine which grant applications shall be selected for funding at the local level.

*b.* Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in the individual's place.

**27.6(2)** *Consideration withheld.* The committee will not consider any application that, on the date of the selection session, is not complete, or for which additional pertinent information has been requested and not received.

**27.6(3)** *Open project selection process for local projects.* The department will create an open project selection process in program guidelines published at least 90 days prior to a grant application due date. The project selection process rating system will include, at minimum, the following components: objective criteria and standards based on local need and priorities identified in SCORP, process for public participation, assurances that the distribution of LWCF assistance is accomplished in a nondiscriminatory manner and conformance to LWCF eligibility and evaluation criteria.

**27.6(4)** *Open project selection process for state projects.* State projects are chosen by the department based on priorities and funding.

[ARC 7904C, IAB 5/1/24, effective 6/5/24]