

571—30.14(77GA,SF2381) Implementation of pilot program for state and local cooperative lake rehabilitation. This rule provides for implementing a pilot program of state and local cooperative lake rehabilitation, funded with a special appropriation from the general assembly by 1998 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2381, and applies only to that special appropriation or subsequent appropriations made for the same purpose.

30.14(1) Program goal. The goal of this program shall be to improve or protect the quality of public inland lakes through state and local cooperative efforts that include compilation of scientific data on lakes and their watersheds of this state and assessment of experimental and innovative techniques of lake rehabilitation and protection.

30.14(2) Definitions. As used in this rule, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Lake rehabilitation” means the improvement or restoration of lakes and watersheds from an undesirable or degraded condition to a former, less deteriorated condition or to a condition of greater usefulness.

“Local project sponsor” means recreational lake districts established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 357E, local units of government, incorporated lake protection or improvement associations or other associations of persons directly affected by the deteriorated condition of lakes and willing to assist financially in alleviating those deteriorated conditions.

“Plan” means a plan for lake and watershed restoration, rehabilitation or enhancement that prescribes specific measures, judged feasible and cost-effective, and endorsed by the department.

“Public lake” or *“lake”* means a natural water body or impoundment within the boundaries of the state that is accessible to the public by way of contiguous public lands or easements giving public access and does not include federal flood control impoundments.

“Study” means a lake diagnostic feasibility study of a methodology and design approved by the department.

30.14(3) Availability of funding and application procedures. Funding appropriated by the legislature for this program shall be available for grants to local project sponsors. Application for funding shall be made in a format and on a date announced by the department.

30.14(4) Project review, selection and approval. Applications for funding shall be reviewed by the committee established pursuant to rule 30.7(452A). The committee shall make recommendations to the director for project funding. Projects in which the state grant exceeds \$25,000 shall be presented to the natural resource commission for approval.

30.14(5) Cost-share provisions. Local project sponsors shall match each state dollar provided from this program with one dollar of local project money raised. Federal funds, other nonstate public funds, in-kind contributions and private funds raised by local project sponsors may be combined to meet the local match requirement, subject to approval of the department.

30.14(6) Eligible projects. Projects eligible for funding include studies of public lakes that include gathering data on the lake, its drainage basin, sources of pollution or nutrients, or other information necessary to determine the causes of degradation and remedial courses of action to prevent continued degradation or to determine potential causes of degradation and preventive courses of action. Preparation of a lake protection and rehabilitation plan developed under the direction of the department, lake dredging, erosion control and land acquisition related to dredging are also eligible for funding.

30.14(7) Retroactivity. Expenses and activities related to diagnostic feasibility studies occurring prior to the effective date of these rules may be eligible for funding if they are part of a project approved for funding and if the expenses and activities were necessary to record data or monitor lake conditions that are affected by seasonal changes or other natural cycles.

30.14(8) Project agreements and disbursement of funds. Upon approval of grant projects, the department and local project sponsor shall enter a project agreement on a form prescribed by the department. The duration, amount of funding and timing of disbursement of grant funds shall be stipulated in the agreement.