

Watershed Improvement Review Board
Report to the Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
February 21, 2007

History

The Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) and Watershed Improvement Fund were created by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2005 as Senate File 200. This statute is now codified in Iowa Code Chapter 466A. The WIRB is a fifteen-member appointed Board. **Attachment 1** lists the board members and their organization affiliation.

Purpose

The WIRB awards grants to soil and water conservation districts and local watershed improvement committees for water quality improvement projects. Funds to projects are disbursed from the Watershed Improvement Fund. Water quality priorities include but are not limited to agricultural runoff and drainage, stream bank erosion, municipal discharge, storm water runoff, unsewered communities, industrial discharge, and livestock runoff.

Funding

The Watershed Improvement Fund was appropriated \$5 million for fiscal years (FY) 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Data from Request For Applications announced by the Board in FY2006 and FY2007:

- Eighty-six applications received
- Applications requested \$24.8 million while leveraging \$38.4 million for a total of \$63.2 million of watershed project activity proposed

Data from the applications selected for funding by the Board:

- Thirty-three applications were selected
- These applications were approved for \$9.7 million while leveraging an additional \$22.3 million for a total of \$32.0 million in watershed activity
- Approved applications requests ranged from \$23,000 to \$500,000
- Approved applications include 36 counties

Attachment 2 shows the location of applications received and applications funded.

Oversight

The Board provides oversight to the funded projects by:

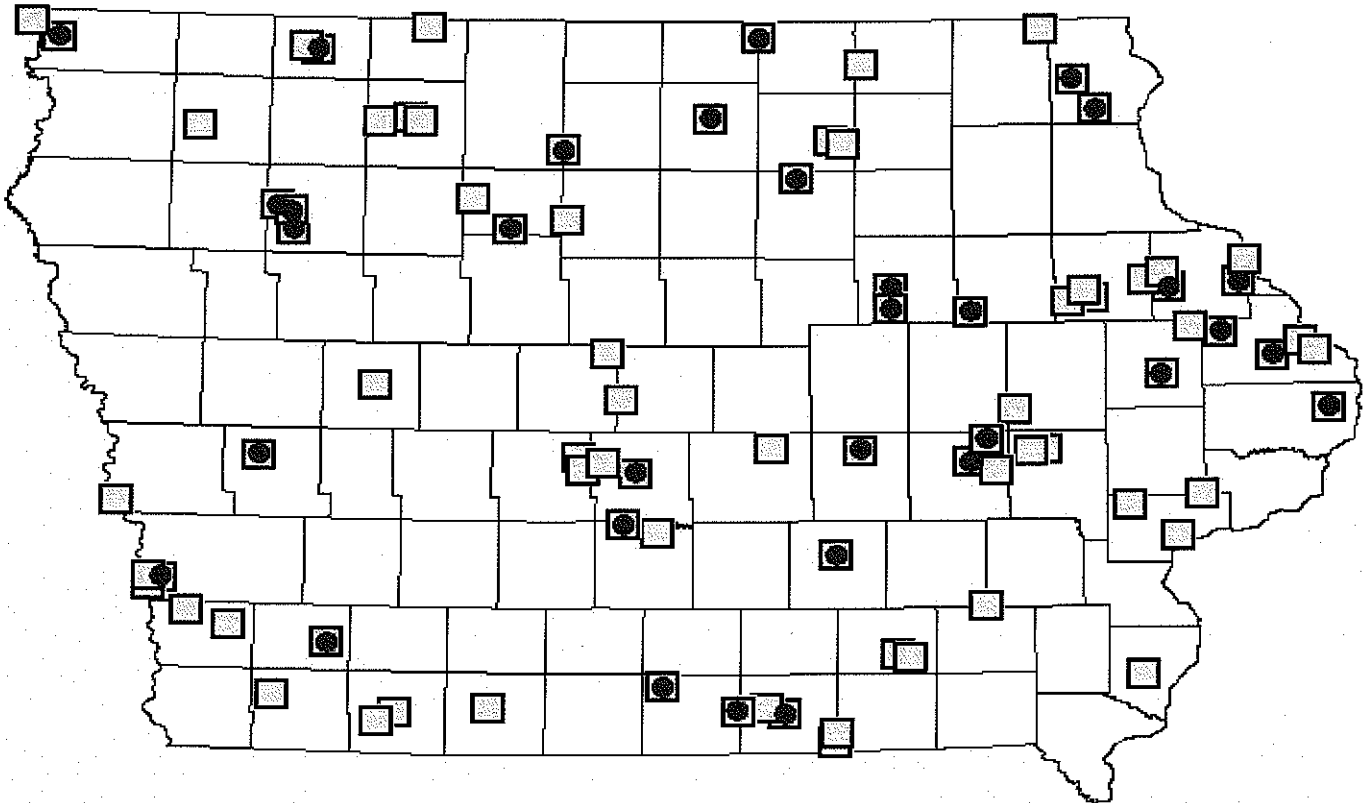
- Developing application selection criteria including emphasizing water quality improvement documentation, cost effectiveness, and accountability
- Requiring all approved projects enter into a grant agreement between the applicant and the Board
- Holding back up to 10% of the total grant amount until the final project report is accepted by the Board, and
- Requiring routine project progress reports that are reviewed by the Board

For more information contact:
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**Attachment 1. Appointed Members of the Watershed Improvement Review Board
January 1 - December 31, 2006, Iowa Code Chapter 466A**

Name	City	Term Ending	Sponsoring Organization
Mark Rosenbury	Sioux City	2009	Agribusiness Assn of Iowa
Jolee Belzung	Ankeny	2007	Iowa Assn of Water Agencies
Susan Heathcote	Des Moines	2009	Iowa Environmental Council
Leah Maass	Ellsworth	2009	Iowa Farm Bureau
Marcia Dudden	Reinbeck	2008	Iowa Pork Producers
Kevin Jacobson	Story City	2007	Iowa Rural Water Assn
John Hoffman (January-August)	Waterloo	2007	Iowa Soybean Assn
Robert Ballou (September-December)	Monticello	2007	Iowa Soybean Assn
Deb Ryun	Chariton	2009	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Jeff Bergman	Burlington	2009	Iowa Assn of County Conservation Board
Jim Gillespie	Earlham	2008	Representative of IDALS
Bernie Hoyer	Des Moines	2008	Representative of DNR
Dennis Black	Grinnell	2008	State Senator
David Johnson	Ocheyedan	2007	State Senator
Sandra Greiner (January-August)	Keota	2008	State Representative
Dolores Mertz	Ottosen	2007	State Representative

Attachment 2. Watershed Improvement Fund Applications Received and Applications Funded, FY06 and FY07



- WIRB Applications Funded FY06 and FY07
- WIRB Applications Received FY06 and FY07
- County

30 0 30 60 Miles

