

466A.3 Watershed improvement review board.

1. A watershed improvement review board is established.

a. The board shall consist of all of the following voting members, appointed by the named entity or entities and approved by the governor:

- (1) One member of the agribusiness association of Iowa.
- (2) One member of the Iowa association of water agencies.
- (3) One member of the Iowa environmental council.
- (4) One member of the Iowa farm bureau federation.
- (5) One member of the Iowa pork producers association.
- (6) One member of the Iowa rural water association.
- (7) One member of the Iowa soybean association.
- (8) One member representing soil and water conservation districts of Iowa.
- (9) One member of the Iowa association of county conservation boards.
- (10) One person representing the department of agriculture and land stewardship.
- (11) One person representing the department of natural resources.

b. The board shall consist of four members of the general assembly who shall serve as voting members. Not more than one member from each house shall be from the same political party. Two state senators shall be appointed, one by the majority leader of the senate and one by the minority leader of the senate. Two state representatives shall be appointed, one by the speaker of the house of representatives and one by the minority leader of the house of representatives. A member may designate another person to attend a board meeting if the member is unavailable. Only the member is eligible for per diem and expenses as provided in section 2.10.

2. *a.* The voting members of the board shall serve three-year staggered terms commencing and ending as provided in section 69.19. If a vacancy occurs, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original appointment, to serve the remainder of the term.

b. The voting members of the board shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson annually from the voting membership of the board. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum. If the chairperson and vice chairperson are unable to preside over the board due to absence or disability, a majority of the voting members present may elect a temporary chairperson by a majority vote providing a quorum is present.

3. The watershed improvement review board shall do all of the following:

a. Award local watershed improvement grants and monitor the progress of local watershed improvement projects awarded grants. A local watershed improvement grant may be awarded for a period not to exceed three years. Each local watershed improvement grant awarded shall not exceed ten percent of the moneys appropriated for the grants during a fiscal year.

- b.* Assist with the development of monitoring plans for local watershed improvement projects.
 - c.* Review monitoring results before, during, and after completion of a local watershed improvement project.
 - d.* Review costs and benefits of mitigation practices utilized by a project.
 - e.* By January 31, annually, submit an electronic report to the governor and the general assembly regarding the progress of the watershed improvement projects during the previous calendar year.
 - f.* Elicit the expertise of other organizations for technical assistance in the work of the board.
 - g.* Independently develop and adopt administrative rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this chapter.
4. A watershed improvement review board member who also serves on a local watershed improvement committee shall abstain from voting on a local watershed improvement grant application submitted by the same local watershed improvement committee of which the person is a member. A member of the general assembly shall abstain from participating on any issue relating to a watershed which is in the member's legislative district.

2005 Acts, ch 159, §5