

Resolution 2019-08

IDALS Water Quality Project Planning Opportunity

Resolution Approving the Clay County Board of Supervisors Joining with the Boards of Other Counties to Support an Application for State Grant Funds to be Used to Create a Data Base of Actionable Water Quality Improvement Projects in Drainage Districts in the County Consistent with the Edge-of-Field Practices of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

WHEREAS the State of Iowa has adopted the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (the Strategy) to provide a framework of effective conservation practices to guide, support and expand voluntary efforts toward materially reducing the delivery of excess nutrients and other pollutants to waters of the state and to other waters.

WHEREAS the State of Iowa has made available long-term funding supporting the construction of edge-of-field water quality practices recommended in the Strategy.

WHEREAS the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has solicited proposals to locate, conceptually design and provide viable projects to be entered into a database of tentatively actionable projects eligible for future funding by the IDALS, and WHEREAS joint effort proposals from entities with proven abilities to deliver the desired projects will be favored.

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors (the Board) supports the means and goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy to reduce total nitrogen and total phosphorus loadings to the Gulf of Mexico from rural and urban lands in Iowa without government mandate.

WHEREAS the Board desires to support landowners in Clay County's drainage districts in the establishment, construction and maintenance of projects which create edge-of-field practices supported by the Strategy and which often involve multiple landowners.

WHEREAS drainage districts are authorized to construct improvements that trap sediment and other pollutants and which protect lands in the district and may protect the interests of the landowners to continue to farm said lands in a practicable and cost-effective manner; and WHEREAS the Board may appoint engineers to conduct studies and prepare plans for the construction of such improvements for consideration by the drainage district's landowners.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED

- that the Board joins with the boards of other counties to support the Proposal of the Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council, Iowa State University and Bolton & Menk, Inc. (the Project Team) in response to an IDALS Request for Proposals for offered funding to locate, design and submit to the IDALS for future funding consideration, many eligible actionable water quality projects in and/or for drainage districts in the county.

- that if the Proposal is accepted and funded the Board will authorize the Project Team to review the records of the drainage districts, to conduct surveys in the districts and to complete the conceptual design of projects to be submitted for future funding to the IDALS.
- that if the Proposal is accepted and funded the Board will join with the other participating counties to establish a leadership committee to advise and assist the Project Team, to educate and inform landowners in participating counties about the Strategy and this local effort in support thereof, and to actively support the Project Team in participating in meetings with landowners in drainage districts toward securing tentative commitments for eligible water quality projects which will be presented to the IDALS as tentatively actionable projects for future consideration of funding assistance.
- That the water quality projects contemplated to be developed in the many drainage districts in the participating counties under the Proposal will, if constructed, improve water quality locally, achieve material reductions in nutrient loads to surface waters and complement and enhance existing efforts of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Clay County, Iowa, this 12th day of February, 2019 and the vote thereon being as follows:

AYES: Supervisors Skelton, Anderson, Hamrick, and Swanson.

NAYES: None.

Absent: Matthews.

Resolution adopted.

/s/Randy Swanson, Chairperson Clay County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: /s/Marjorie A. Pitts, County Auditor