



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2019

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## Water Summary Update: Rapid runoff led to historic flooding in March

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, at 515-281-8981 or [Justin.Glisan@IowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:Justin.Glisan@IowaAgriculture.gov).

DES MOINES — Although statewide precipitation was slightly below average in March, a combination of high precipitation in Nebraska, snowmelt and rapid runoff led to historic flooding along the Missouri River, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

“March precipitation in Iowa was just slightly below normal, but the storm in the middle of the month brought significant rain to Iowa and Nebraska, which resulted in the extensive flooding that occurred in western Iowa,” said Tim Hall, DNR’s coordinator of hydrology resources.

“Conditions in the Missouri River basin remain wet, with more snowmelt to come from the Dakotas and later from the mountains in Montana and Wyoming,” Hall added.

A very strong low pressure system (bomb cyclone) between March 12 and 14 was the most notable event of the month. Heavy rainfall in eastern Nebraska and blizzard conditions across western Nebraska occurred as the system moved east. In Iowa, above freezing temperatures combined with heavy rainfall on top of a substantial snowpack and frozen soil led to rapid melting and runoff.

Preliminary statewide precipitation was just over 2 inches - about 0.10 inches below average. This ranks March about in the middle of pack for historical March precipitation. Statewide average snowfall was 2.20 inches or 2.50 inches below average, making snowfall in March the 28th lowest in 132 years. The highest level reported was in Sibley (Osceola County) at 9.5 inches of snow, 1.6 inches above average. The state of Nebraska received about 3 inches of rainfall for the month of March, which is about double their normal for the month.

While overall streamflow is trending down, many streams in Iowa moved above flood stage, with the highest in western and northeast Iowa.

Iowa temperatures averaged 30.7 degrees, or 5.2 degrees below normal, ranking March 2019 as the 30th coldest among 147 years of state records.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate).

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

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## EPC meeting and educational tour focus on tackling waste disposal

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jerah Sheets at 515-313-8909 or [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov).

CARROLL—The Environmental Protection Commission's focus is on solutions to waste disposal during the pre-meeting tour April 15 in Carroll County.

On April 15, commissioners will tour Carroll County, viewing success of derelict building projects, new approaches to solid waste projects and management of manufacturing wastewater. The tour is open to the public, but interested people must register by April 11. To join the tour, register with Jerah Sheets at [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov) or by calling 515-313-8909.

The regular EPC business meeting begins at 10 a.m., April 16, in the Wapiti Room of the Carroll County Conservation Board Education Center, 22676 Swan Lake Trail, Carroll.

Up for commissioners' approval is a contract to analyze water samples for indicator bacteria. If awarded, the University of Iowa's State Hygienic Laboratory will provide weekly data on bacteria concentrations in samples from up to 73 state park and other public swimming areas. Commissioners will be asked to approve designating the Marshall County solid waste planning area as an environmental management system. If approved, the agency can use an alternative approach to meeting comprehensive planning requirements.

In other action, DNR will ask the EPC to approve going forward with a rule change to renew General Permit 6 for wastewater permits, including a revision to increase protection of outstanding Iowa waters.

Finally, commissioners will be asked to approve a final rule which incorporates multiple changes in Iowa Code, including transferring the State Geologist and Iowa Geological Survey to the University of Iowa.

There is no scheduled public participation. Written comments may be submitted up to one day before the meeting to Jerah Sheets at [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov) or to DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

The complete agenda is available at [www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Boards-Commissions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Boards-Commissions) and follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Acting Director's Remarks
- Solid Waste Environmental Management Systems Program 2019 Applicant Designation
- Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 64: “Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits,” to include Well Construction and Well Service Wastewater Discharges
- Contract with the University of Iowa for Beach Monitoring 2019
- Final Rule – Chapter 50, “Scope of Division—Definitions—Forms—Rules of Practice,” Chapter 51, “Water Permit or Registration—When Required,” Chapter 52, “Criteria and Conditions for Authorizing Withdrawal, Diversion and Storage of Water,” Chapter 53, “Protected Water Sources—Purposes—Designation Procedures—Information in Withdrawal Applications—Limitations—List of Protected Sources,” Chapter 65, “Animal Feeding Operations,” Chapter 72, “Criteria for Approval,” Chapter 82, “Well Contractor Certification,” and Chapter 137, “Iowa Land Recycling Program and Response Action Standards” Amendments
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Month's Meeting
  - May 21 – EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines
  - June 18– EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Joe Riding, Altoona, vice chair; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf, Secretary; Mary Boote, Des Moines; Nancy Couser, Nevada; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; Howard Hill, Cambridge; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights; and Bob Sinclair, Sigourney. Bruce Trautman is the acting director of the DNR.

Any person attending the public meeting who has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or [Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov), and advise of specific needs.

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## Air quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525  
or [Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit

comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

### **Title V Operating Permits**

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at [www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

**Johnson County** Enterprise Products Operating LLC – Iowa City Station – 5354 American Legion Rd, Iowa City. The application was submitted to operate their existing Pipelines, NEC facility. The public comment period ends May 4.

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## **DNR enforcement actions**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Kelli Book, DNR, at 515-725-9572 or [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions)

**Consent Orders** A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

### **Emmet County**

Farmers Union Industries, LLC d/b/a Central Bi-Products and Redwood Farms Meat Processors

Cease illegal discharges; obtain professional engineer to identify and eliminate the source of the discharge; and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$7,000.

### **Lyon County**

Chad Hansmann

Operate and maintain all operation structures in compliance with applicable permits, rules, and regulations; regrade open lot pens; remove all blockages from discharge pipes to the SOFEB; Remove all solids from basins on annual basis; and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$6,000.

### **Scott County**

Cities of Bettendorf, Davenport, Panorama Park, and Riverdale

Amendment to Consent Order 2013-WW-17. Extends the required date for construction permit application submittal.



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