



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2020

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## Water Summary Update: Drier February improves stream levels across Iowa

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, Iowa DNR, 515-725-8298 or [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — With a drier February, stream levels have improved across much of the state, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

"The recent drier than normal conditions are welcome statewide," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "The winter was drier and warmer than normal, and hydrologic conditions are in good shape. However, the chance of flooding remains elevated on both the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers."

The winter months of December, January and February had a total precipitation of about 3 inches, which is 0.33 inches less than normal. In February, the statewide average precipitation totaled 0.43 inches, or 0.62 inches below normal. Almost all reporting stations across Iowa observed below average precipitation, with the driest areas across the southern quarter of Iowa.

Much of Iowa experienced below normal snowfall with the preliminary average statewide total of 3.3 inches, or about half the average February snowfall.

Streamflow conditions in the majority of the state have decreased over the last month. Flows that were much above normal condition have dropped to normal condition. There are a few areas where flows remain high, including the Little Sioux, Boyer, Floyd and Missouri rivers.

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.

## Meetings to discuss statewide lake bacteria water quality improvement plan

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jeff Berckes at 515-725-8391 or [jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES – Iowans interested in the results of a DNR study to improve water quality in lake environments for bacteria can attend one of three meetings across the state Mar. 18, Mar. 24, and Apr. 1. Citizens are encouraged to bring their questions and ideas to improve the lakes to the meeting for discussion.

Multiple lakes throughout the state are on the state's list of impaired waters for high levels of indicator bacteria. The current study, or DNR water quality improvement plan, focuses on three lakes to show where the bacteria comes from and how these problems can be addressed. This first phase of the document focuses on Nine Eagles Lake, Hickory Grove Lake, and Clear Lake. More lakes will be added to the document as additional information is collected and analyzed.

The plan explores the amounts and contributing source areas of bacteria entering the lake systems and offers potential solutions to reduce those levels and work toward fixing the problem. The document functions as a guide for local resource agencies, partners, stakeholders and residents to improve the lakes and specifically the beach and swimming area. Staff from the DNR's Watershed Improvement Program will be on hand to answer questions.

The meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- Mar. 18, Lamoni Community Center, 108 South Chestnut St., Lamoni.
- Mar. 24, Nevada Community Senior Center, 1231 6th St., Nevada.
- Apr. 1, Lake View Room, 10 North Lake View Dr., Clear Lake.

Those not able to attend the public meeting can receive more information at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedResearchData/WaterImprovementPlans/PublicMeetingsPlans.aspx> and submit comments on the plan by April 20 via:

E-mail: [jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov)

Mail: Jeff Berckes, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St. Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After gathering Iowans' comments, the DNR will forward the final plan, also called by its technical name of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tamara.McIntosh@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.

### **Cerro Gordo County**

Jeff Moellers

Operate in compliance with applicable laws, pay a \$1,000 administrative penalty.

### **Cherokee County**

Robert Bryant dba Grand Meadow Feeders

Operate in compliance with applicable law, monitor the stockpile during wet conditions to ensure the retention of all manure, pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.

### **Clayton County**

Gary and Darlene Kregel

Operate in compliance with applicable laws, develop and submit a plan of action for manure storage and stormwater controls, pay a \$3,600 administrative penalty.

### **Hamilton County**

City of Blairsburg

Consent Amendment to Administrative Order 09-WW-07. Award contract and complete construction of previously agreed to wastewater improvements by specified dates.

### **Howard County**

Mary Jo and Doug Engle dba Jo's Longbranch Bar and Grill

Comply with public water supply system permit and pay permit fees, comply with previously-issued administrative order, and pay a \$4,500 administrative penalty.

### **Kossuth County**

Keith and Krystal Johnson (Butler Sow Farms, LLP)

Operate in compliance with applicable laws, submit a complete MMP with an Iowa Phosphorus Index, pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

### **Louisa County**

Casey's General Store, Inc.

Comply with public water supply system permit and pay a \$4,400 administrative penalty.

### **Muscatine County**

Richard and Dorothy Tompkins

Consent Amendment to Administrative Order 19-AQ-26/19-SW-14. Amended the administrative penalty to \$2,400

### **Scott County**

Chisagkumar Patel (Cody Mart)

Comply with all applicable laws, pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

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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; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

### **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).

### **Black Hawk County**

Bertch Cabinet Manufacturing, Inc. – Oasis Facility – 4714 Brookpark Road, Waterloo. The application was submitted to operate their existing Plastics Plumbing Fixtures facility. The public comment period ends April 4.

### **Webster County**

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency (NCIRSWA) Sanitary Landfill – 2240 S 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Fort Dodge.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Refuse Systems facility. The public comment period ends April 4.

### **Construction Permits**

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch).

### **Black Hawk County**

Deere & Company – John Deere Product Engineering Center – 6725 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls.

Project No. 19-407, Amended permits to correct stack diameters. Public comment goes from March 6 to April 6. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted by March 20.

**Monroe County** Cargill Inc. – 1540 Monroe-Wapello Road, Eddyville.

Project No. 20-003, Replace baghouse. Public comment period ends April 5.