



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2021

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## Easter Lake watershed improvement efforts receive national recognition

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Kyle Ament, DNR, at 515-725-8389 or [kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES -- A project behind a major renovation effort to improve water quality in Easter Lake, located on Des Moines' south side, has received national recognition.

Des Moines Public Works received the 2021 National Environmental Achievement Award in the Watershed Collaboration category for the Restoring Easter Lake initiative. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Polk County Conservation and other agencies partnered with the city on the effort.

"Over the years, increased nutrient loads and sediment diminished the water quality of Easter Lake," said Des Moines' Clean Water Program Administrator Patrick Beane. "The water looked like chocolate milk due to poor water clarity, algal blooms, high sedimentation rates and low oxygen levels."

While work in the lake included excavating 678,000 cubic yards of sediment, stabilizing 22,722 feet of shoreline and a fishery renovation that restocked more than 550,000 fish to the water, the project also focused on reducing pollution washing in from the 6,380 acres of land that drains into the lake.

The effort identified pollutant sources and priority areas for improvement projects, and also worked to educate residents in the watershed on water quality issues and helped them incorporate practices in their homes and yards to improve water quality in the lake.

"Since the beginning of the Easter Lake Restoration project, residents have always had high interest in doing their part to positively impact the lake. To date, more than 200 conservation practices have been installed by residents," said Julie Perreault, Easter Lake Watershed Project Coordinator with the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District. "Since the completion of lake renovations, interest is as high as ever to keep

Easter Lake clean. People can see the positive change in Easter Lake, and are consistently reaching out and taking action to find ways they can help keep it that way.”

Monitoring of conservation practices used in a single drainage basin adjacent to Easter Lake showed a 19 percent reduction in runoff over four years.

Amenities at the park received improvements as well, in order to help residents and visitors reconnect with the lake and park.

“This was truly a watershed approach,” said Kyle Ament, Watershed Basin Coordinator with the DNR. “Water quality improvements focused on solving problems on both public and private land, with residents, government agencies, businesses and other partners coming together to improve Easter Lake for the whole community.”

The national achievement award is presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies to public clean water utilities that have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection, their communities, ratepayers and the water sector.

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## Contracts up for Environmental Protection Commission’s approval

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

DES MOINES—Contracts and awards are up for the Environmental Protection Commission’s approval at the March 16 business meeting.

Commissioners will meet by video conference at 9:30 a.m. To join by video, connect with <https://meet.google.com/pcd-ryjg-uoqa>. To join by phone, call 240-794-2779, and enter the PIN code of 934 190 235 followed by the pound (#) sign. The meeting is open to the public. 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.

Up first, commissioners will be asked to approve the fourth quarter intended use plan update for the state revolving fund program. The state revolving fund provides low interest loans for drinking water and wastewater treatment projects.

DNR will ask commissioners to approve two recycling contracts for the Solid Waste Alternatives Program.

A contract to monitor 25 shallow lakes and provide chemical analyses to DNR is also up for approval. Monitoring information helps DNR evaluate the effectiveness of shallow lake restoration efforts.

Also up for commissioners’ approval, DNR will collaborate with the Department of Administrative Services to construct stormwater and erosion control practices at Terrace Hill, the Governor’s mansion. When completed, educational signage will help visitors learn how the stair-stepped gardens effectively improve water quality.

The complete agenda includes:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Monthly Reports

Director's Remarks

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund – FY 2021 Intended Use Plan Fourth Quarter Update

Solid Waste Alternatives Program – Contract Recommendations

Contract with University of Iowa - SHL - Lakes

Memorandum of Understanding with Iowa Department of Administrative Services

Air Quality – Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Budget Review

PFAS Informational Presentation

Antidegradation Informational Presentation

General Discussion

- Educational Tour Options for April
- Personal Financial Disclosure Reporting

Items for Next Month's Meeting

- April 19–Educational Tour Hamilton/Hardin County
- April 20–EPC Business Meeting
- May 18–EPC Business Meeting

Find more information at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Boards-Commissions>.

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights, vice chair; Bob Sinclair, Sigourney, Secretary; Rebecca Dostal, Traer; Stephanie Dykshorn, Ireton; Amy Echard, Farmersburg; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf; and Howard Hill, Cambridge. Kayla Lyon is the DNR director.

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## Input sought on sustainable materials management

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tom Anderson at [tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov) or at 515-240-6059

DES MOINES--DNR is gathering input and comment on a vision to conserve natural resources and protect the environment throughout a product's life. Known as sustainable materials management (SMM), this approach emphasizes waste prevention throughout the lifecycle of manufacturing and distributing products.

DNR will host a virtual public meeting from 9 a.m. to noon March 25 to gather input and comment on specific strategies to transform a vision into Iowa's reality. Register for [Iowa's SMM stakeholder meeting](#) to join us and share your view.

DNR worked with residents, businesses and institutions to craft the Iowa vision for SMM through 2019. This meeting will be the first of multiple stakeholder engagements to create specific SMM strategies through integrating technology, infrastructure, policies, funding and performance metrics.

Iowa's existing solid waste management system focuses primarily on waste discards and how to manage a material at the end of its useful life. This approach includes many positive attributes, such as recycling and composting waste discards into new products. However, it does not emphasize waste prevention or environmental impacts associated with the product's lifecycle.

The Iowa SMM vision promotes finding new opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, conserve resources and reduce costs associated with managing materials throughout their life cycle.

For additional information, email [dnrsmmiowa@scsengineers.com](mailto:dnrsmmiowa@scsengineers.com).

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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)

### Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 60 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

#### Jackson County

Roger Kilburg

Operate and maintain all animal feeding operation structures in compliance with applicable law; plant trees and shrubs as required by the facility's construction permit and a prior administrative order no later than July 1, 2021 and maintain and replace as needed; and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

#### Amendments

#### Sioux County

Steven and Jane Hemmingstad

Reconstruct the dam on their property no later than June 1, 2021 and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@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).

**Ida County**

Flint Hills Resources Arthur, LLC – 2585 Quail Ave., Arthur.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Industrial Organic Chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends April 3.

**Boone County**

Northern Natural Gas Company – Ogden – 608 210<sup>th</sup> St., Ogden.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Natural Gas Transmission facility. The public comment period ends April 3.

**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) OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

**Black Hawk County**

John Deere Product Engineering Center – 6725 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls. Project No. 21-043, The proposal is to increase the maximum rated capacity of the dynamometers from 1600 horsepower (hp) to 2300 hp. The public comment period ends April 7.

**Pottawattamie County**

Bunge North America – 19560 Bunge Ave., Council Bluffs.

Project No. 21-007, Modify dehulling, increase throughput. Public comment period ends April 5.