



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2021

- [Iowa Finance Authority and DNR announce Hometown Pride Water Tower Contest](#)
- [Rule cleanups top the Environmental Protection Commission agenda](#)
- [Enforcement actions](#)

Iowa Finance Authority and DNR announce Hometown Pride Water Tower Contest

Video Contest Highlights the Importance of Water Quality and Gives Communities a Chance to Win a Custom Water Tower Design



DES MOINES—The Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources today announced a water tower contest that challenges Iowa communities to show off their hometown pride in a short video for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind water tower design by Iowa artist Laura Palmer as well as design installation. The contest is in recognition of the importance of water quality and the State Revolving Fund’s efforts to assist nearly 700 communities in financing water quality improvements.

To enter the contest, communities need to create a video, no longer than one minute, that showcases their hometown pride and features a water element in their community. Video submissions will be accepted through the official contest entry page from Oct. 19 - Nov. 16. A public voting period will be held from Nov. 17 - Nov. 24 to determine the winning video.

“The State Revolving Fund has assisted nearly 700 Iowa communities in advancing their water quality efforts and we look forward to helping even more,” said Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Debi Durham. “This water tower contest is a fun way to highlight the fundamental role that water quality plays in making Iowa the first choice for families and business.”

“I encourage all communities to submit a video showcasing their hometown pride and the essential role water plays in how they live, work and play, for the unique chance to

win a custom water tower,” said Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Kayla Lyon.

Videos may be created by an individual or group representing the community, but the video must be submitted by the city with authority over the water tower. The full contest details are available at iowasrf.com.

The State Revolving Fund is one of Iowa’s primary sources for financing projects designed to improve Iowa’s water quality. Two funds, one for drinking water and one for wastewater and pollution control, have provided a total of more than \$4.3 billion in water quality assistance to nearly 700 Iowa communities in addition to farmers, watershed groups and others for water quality projects. The program is jointly administered by the Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Rule cleanups top the Environmental Protection Commission agenda

MEDIA CONTACT: Jerah Sheets at 515-313-8909 or Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES—Proposals to clean up water quality rules will be up for approval at the Oct. 19 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

The business meeting will take place by video conference and in person at 10 a.m. To join by video, connect with <https://meet.google.com/pcd-ryjg-uoq>. 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 or to DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

With stakeholder input, DNR water quality staff have been reviewing administrative rules to clarify requirements, refine definitions, and ensure rules align with the current state and federal laws. Commissioners will be asked to approve proceeding with rule changes in four areas: wastewater, sewage sludge, water supply, and drinking water and wastewater treatment operator certification.

Commissioners will be asked to approve contracts for:

- Geographic Information Services
- Visits to and monitoring of leaking underground storage tank sites, and
- Conducting the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey required by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

In other action, a plan supporting redesignation of the Muscatine area from nonattainment to attainment with the sulfur dioxide national air quality standards is up for approval.

Find the complete agenda and more information under [Environmental Protection Commission](#).

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights, vice chair; Stephanie Dykshorn, Ireton, secretary; Brad Bleam, Rockwell City; Rebecca

Dostal, Traer; Amy Echard, Farmersburg; Patricia Foley, Huxley; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; and Mark Stutsman, Hills. Kayla Lyon is the DNR director.

Any person participating in 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, and advise of specific needs.

Enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242
or 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

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

Wright Materials Company.

Pay a \$2,500.00 administrative penalty.

Mitchell County

A to Z Drying, Inc.

Cease all illegal discharges to waters of the State; conduct training to all employees regarding how to legally manage wastewater and stormwater associated with industrial activities; and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

Mitchell County

Jon Krebsbach.

Pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.