



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2017

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Meeting to discuss Avenue of the Saints Lake water quality improvement plan

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Berckes at 515-725-8391 or jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov.

WAVERLY – Iowans interested in the results of a DNR study to improve water quality in Avenue of the Saints Lake in Bremer County can attend a meeting Aug. 9. Citizens are encouraged to bring their questions and ideas to improve the lake to the meeting for discussion.

Avenue of the Saints Lake is on the state's list of impaired waters for high levels of algae, low water clarity, and high levels of pH. The current study, or DNR water quality improvement plan, shows how these problems are caused by too much phosphorus in the lake. These problems may impact aquatic life.

The plan explores the amounts and sources of phosphorus entering the lake and offers potential solutions to reduce those levels and work toward fixing the problem. The document is designed as a guide for local resource agencies, partners, stakeholders and residents to improve the lake. Staff from the DNR's Watershed Improvement Program will be on hand to answer questions.

The Aug. 9 meeting will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Waverly Room at the Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Ave. in Waverly. 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 Aug. 28 via:

E-mail: 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.

Volunteers muscle 28 tons of trash from the Upper Cedar River

MEDIA CONTACT: Lynette Seigley at 319-351-9393 or Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov

CEDAR RIVER – The upper stretch of the Cedar River in north-central Iowa is now 28 tons of trash lighter, thanks to the efforts of 469 volunteers.

This July, 469 volunteers took part in the 15th annual Project AWARE, paddling 55 miles of the Cedar River through Mitchell and Floyd counties from the Iowa-Minnesota state line to Howard's Woods Rec Area near Nashua.

Project AWARE, which stands for A Watershed Awareness River Expedition, is the Iowa DNR's volunteer river cleanup event which involves hundreds of people who spend anywhere from one to five days exploring Iowa's rivers and picking up trash.

"Project AWARE was such an awesome experience and we were truly thankful to be part of it," said Adam Shirley, Mitchell County Conservation Board Director. "It was impressive to watch the volunteers at work and we appreciate all of their hard work to improve the Cedar River."

Scrap metal was the heaviest item removed. Mitchell County Conservation and Floyd County Conservation handled the 15 tons of scrap metal removed during the event. Volunteers also removed 368 tires. This year, 88 percent of the trash pulled from the river was able to be recycled.

A total of 169 volunteers participated all five days of the event, but with some participating single days, there were about 250 volunteers on the water each day, ranging in age from 2 to 77. About 15 percent of this year's participants at the family-friendly event were under the age of 18. In addition to Iowa, volunteers hailed from 14 other states. Fifty-one of the volunteers were from Mitchell or Floyd counties.

"Project AWARE provided me with the motivation to visit the upper Cedar River and all the quaint towns that surround it. I never thought it possible that the Cedar River could be that beautiful! It's a gem of a river," said Jodi Gerot, a third-year volunteer from West Branch.

"I didn't know anything about Mitchell or Floyd counties and really enjoyed the scenery and the towns. I would love to go back to this area to paddle. The river was gorgeous and well-cared for by the locals," said Rose Danaher, an eight-year volunteer from Amana.

Photos from the event can be found on the Project AWARE website at www.iowadnr.gov/aware.

Event sponsors included:

Platinum Paddle Sponsors: Alliant Energy Foundation · Bridgestone's Tires4ward Program · Bug Soother · City of Charles City · Firestone Complete Auto Care · Flint Hills Resources · Floyd County Conservation · IIHR - Hydroscience & Engineering at The University of Iowa

· Iowa DNR – IOWATER, Rivers Programs · Iowa Flood Center · Iowa Rivers Revival · ITC · Mitchell County Conservation Board · N-Compass · State Hygienic Laboratory at The University of Iowa · Zanafel Laboratories, Inc.

Golden Yoke Sponsors: Ansell Protective Products · Iowa Whitewater Coalition · Rockwell Collins

Silver Stern Sponsors: Cedar Run Canoe & Kayak Rental · DuPont · Hy-Vee, Inc. · Nathan and Jamie Lein · Stine Seed Company · Upper Iowa University

River Steward Sponsors: B4 Brands · Caterpillar Inc. · Cedar Springs Camp & Retreat · Connie Struve and Bill Covington · Environmental Advocates · Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association · Iowa Limestone Producers Association · Mitchell County Farm Bureau · Mitchell Soil and Water Conservation District · Rapids End Outfitters · Senator David Johnson · Snyder & Associates, Inc. · Touch the Earth Outdoor Recreation and Education - University of Iowa · University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist · University of Northern Iowa Outdoor Recreation · Zimmerman Buildings Inc.

River Rescue Sponsors: Allison Boehm · Anonymous Nature Lover · Boy Scout Troop 242 · Butler Soil and Water Conservation District · Can Shed LLC · Casey's General Stores, Inc. · Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency · Cedar Valley Paddlers · Central Iowa Paddlers · Charles City Family YMCA · Charles City Immaculate Conception Parish · Charles City Senior Center · Chickasaw County Conservation · City of Ames A.O.C. Resource Recovery System · CrawDaddy Outdoors · Darrel and Jean Brothersen · Dean and Linda Tjaden · Des Moines Area Community College · Don Wall · Eaton Corporation's Community Involvement Team, Shenandoah Plant · Environmental Professionals of Iowa · Eric Boehm · Floyd County Historical Museum · Floyd County Ikes · Floyd Lions Club · Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Authority · Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation · Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District · Iowa Geological Survey · ISG · Jendro Sanitation · John and Shawanna Larison · Kim Watkins · Linda Appelgate · Mark Bohner · Nashua Fire Department · Nick and Maureen Gaeta · OmniTel Communications · R Campground Inc. · Rick Dietz · Rivers and Streams LLC · Rod, Ronnie, and Randie Brodigan · Skunk River Paddlers · Sqwincher/PMG · St. Ansgar Community Schools · Sunny Brae Golf Course and Country Club · The Dental Practice · Timothy S. Fox · Tony Geerts · University of Iowa Research Park · White Pine Group, Iowa Sierra Club · William & Joan Kauten

Life Jacket Sponsors: Andrew & Maureen Johnson

For more information on this event, please visit www.iowadnr.gov/aware.

Enforcement Actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Ed Tormey, DNR, at 515-725-8373 or Ed.Tormey@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/InsideDNR/AboutDNR/EnforcementActions.aspx.

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.

Fremont County

City of Hamburg

Consent Amendment to Administrative Order 2007-WW-02 (Amend compliance schedule for wastewater improvements)

Sioux County

Jochum Agri-Services, Inc.

Ensure manure handling is done in a manner to prevent release to a water of the state, develop and implement Standard Operating Procedure for proper manure handling, and pay \$1,500 penalty

Union County

CHS, Inc.

Pay \$10,000 penalty for violations of facility's air quality construction and Title V operating permits