



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2018

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Watershed project contracts on July 17 Environmental Protection Commission agenda

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

DES MOINES--Two contracts to reduce bacteria and nutrient loads in streams are up for commissioners' approval at the July 17 Environmental Protection Commission meeting.

DNR is also asking commissioners to increase contract funding for federally required archaeological and architectural surveys needed when using state revolving fund loans for drinking water and wastewater treatment improvements.

The meeting is open to the public and begins at 10 a.m. in Room 116 of the State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. At the discretion of the chairperson, requests to speak during the business meeting will be limited to comments that specifically address agenda items.

Please submit requests to speak and written comments to Jerah Sheets at Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-313-8909 or c/o DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319 by noon the day before the meeting.

Also on the agenda at 10:30 a.m. is a request to refer Walz Energy to the Attorney General's office for storm water violations in Clayton County.

At 11:30 a.m., Clark Farms has asked to appeal a proposed DNR decision that would prohibit Clark Farms from appealing an administrative order for violations of state solid waste and water quality laws.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Acting Director's Remarks
- Contract with IDALS for Silver Creek (Howard County) Water Quality Project
- Contract with IDALS for Yellow River Headwaters Water Quality Project
- Contract Amendment for Contract #14ESDWQBPCALE-0006-A06 with the University of Iowa on behalf of the Office of the State Archaeologist
- Referral to the Attorney General – Walz Energy LLC
- Clark Farms' Appeal of the Proposed Decision
- General Discussion
 - Aug. 21 – EPC Business Meeting and Educational Tour – Derby
 - Sept. 17 – EPC Educational Tour – Clayton County
 - Sept. 18 – EPC Business Meeting – Clayton County

The complete [agenda and item briefs](#) are available on the DNR website.

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

Water Summary Update: Wet and warm June for most of Iowa

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall at 515-725-8298 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — After a warm May, Iowa experienced a wet and warm June for most of the state, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

June 2018 was the 10th wettest June on record, with Iowa receiving an average of 7.53 inches of rainfall, 2.53 inches above the 30-year average. June was also the 10th warmest on record, following the third warmest May. Streamflows range from much above normal across much of northern Iowa to much below normal in southeast Iowa.

"The pattern of a wetter northern Iowa and a drier southern Iowa continues, however, with portions of southeast Iowa now classified as severe drought. These conditions have persisted for about two years, and it will take several months of normal or above normal rainfall for that part of the state to improve," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to 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.

Local Iowa groups can receive financial assistance to launch clean water campaigns

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Konrady, DNR, at 515-725-8388 or Steven.Konrady@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES — Beginning July 12, Iowa groups looking for help implementing innovative, regional and locally led Clean Water Awareness and Education Campaigns can apply for funding from the Iowa DNR Watershed Improvement Section.

Through a grant program, the DNR looks for proposals that clearly demonstrate an ability to put in place innovative, targeted, impactful and sustainable Clean Water Awareness and Education Campaigns.

The DNR seeks to award grants to eligible local entities to develop and implement locally led Clean Water Awareness and Education programs. Educational campaigns will improve public knowledge of and promote actions to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality. The DNR seeks projects that will use innovative methods for reaching diverse audiences and stakeholder groups.

Campaigns must be achievable in the grant's 18-month timeframe and within the funding amount requested.

Applications are due by close of business Aug. 31. Successful applicants will be awarded contracts likely beginning Nov. 20, 2018, and ending May 15, 2020 (18 months).

These grants were developed after the DNR contracted with the University of Northern Iowa to survey Iowa's residents in 2015 to measure their knowledge of water quality and identify potential behavior changes. This is the next step in the Nonpoint Source Management Plan. (For more details, see Objective 2.5 of Goal 2 of Iowa's [Nonpoint Source Management Plan](#) and the [results of the survey](#)). The survey will be repeated when grant-based educational campaigns are completed to track progress.

For more information and grant application materials, visit iowadnr.gov/watershed. Contact Steve Konrady, DNR, at 515-725-8388 or Steven.Konrady@dnr.iowa.gov with your questions.

