



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2021

- [DNR and partners to host free online panel discussion on drought conditions](#)
- [DNR announces grant opportunity for food storage capacity](#)
- [Contracts, presentations head up Environmental Protection agenda](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)
- [DNR enforcement actions](#)

DNR and partners to host free online panel discussion on drought conditions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, Iowa DNR, 515-452-6633 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — The Iowa DNR and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with other state and federal partners, will host a free online webinar May 26 to discuss drought conditions in Iowa.

“April was a very dry month for most of Iowa, and that means there’s a growing concern for potential drought as we move into this summer,” said Tim Hall, DNR’s coordinator of hydrology resources. “In this webinar, our panel discussion will cover a number of conditions as well as outlooks for the coming months.”

The webinar, hosted on Zoom from 10 to 11 a.m., will update stakeholders on current and projected drought conditions in Iowa. Panelists will include state and federal experts who will provide information on precipitation, streamflow, groundwater, and spring and summer outlooks.

Information on joining the webinar is available at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/WaterSummaryUpdate>

DNR announces grant opportunity for food storage capacity

MEDIA CONTACT: Tom Anderson, DNR, at Tom.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-240-6059.

DES MOINES — The DNR is offering a third and final targeted food storage capacity grant opportunity to help address food waste, an issue that negatively impacts environmental, economic and social sustainability in Iowa and across the country.

The competitive grant opportunity helps efforts to expand storage and cold storage of donated food. Food banks, food pantries and other non-profit organizations receiving donated food for distribution to food insecure lowans are eligible to apply. The final round of grant funds has \$135,000 available.

Information and application materials can be downloaded at www.iowadnr.gov/FABA under the “Food Waste” tab. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until available funds have been awarded.

Contracts, presentations head up Environmental Protection agenda

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

DES MOINES—Four contracts and four presentations top the agenda at the Environmental Protection Commission’s May 18 meeting.

Commissioners will also elect officers after three new commissioners are sworn in.

Presentations on Iowa’s groundwater status, improvements protecting Rathbun Lake’s watershed, derelict building grants and the Iowa Waste Exchange will bring commissioners up-to-date on ongoing projects.

Commissioners will meet in person, while DNR staff and the public participate virtually. To join by video at 10:30 a.m., 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.

Commissioners will be asked to approve four contracts, including one for the Iowa Waste Reduction Center. In other action, the water quality standards final rule is up for approval.

The complete agenda follows:

Approval of Agenda

Oath of Office

Welcome & Introductions

Election of Officers

Approval of the Minutes

Monthly Reports

Director’s Remarks

2021 Groundwater Status Report (Packet Page 17)

Rathbun Lake Watershed Improvement and Source Water Protection

Contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (Protect Rathbun Lake Project)

Contract with The Office of the State Archeologist at the University of Iowa

Adopted and Filed Rules – Chapter 61 – Water Quality Standards (Section 401 Water Quality Certification)

Contract with the University of Iowa

Derelict Building Grant Program Overview

Derelict Building Grant Program – Grant Recommendations

Notice of Intended Action – 567 IAC Chapter 215 - Mercury-Added Switch Recovery from End of Life Vehicles

Grant Agreement Amendment with Region XII Council of Governments

Iowa Waste Exchange Program Overview

Contract with the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC)

Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 70-73 – Dam Safety Rules Update

Notice of Intended Action: Air Quality Rules Update - Chapters 20, 22, 23, and 25

General Discussion

Items for Next Month's Meeting

- June 15 – EPC Business Meeting
- July 20 – 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; Brad Bleam, Rockwell City; Rebecca Dostal, Traer; Stephanie Dykshorn, Ireton; Amy Echard, Farmersburg; Patricia Foley, Huxley; Lisa Gochenour, Logan and Mark Stutsman, Hills. Kayla Lyon is the DNR director.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or 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.

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

Monroe and Wapello Counties

Cargill, Inc. – 17540 Monroe-Wapello Road, Eddyville. Project No. 21-017, Modification of exhaust flow rates and two operating limits. The public comment period ends June 21.

DNR 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.

Fayette County

West Union Branch of Nutrien AG Solutions, Inc.

Comply with laws and regulations applicable to discharging pollutants into a water of the State and pay \$2,299.37 in fish restitution and investigation costs; and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

Kossuth County

William Smidt

Withdraw appeal of permit denial; move the dike out of the floodway and reestablish original site conditions; if sufficient area outside of the floodway exists, work with a professional engineering firm to design a new pond layout and submit a joint application to DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

Sioux County

Greg Koenen

Develop a plan of action for irrigation events to prevent future manure releases and submit to DNR for approval; once approved, immediately implement said plan and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

Wright County

ReNew Trient I, LLC dba NuOrganics, LLC

Comply with all conditions of its storm water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit No.1 and No. 2; cease all illegal discharges and pay a \$8,000 administrative penalty.

Administrative Orders

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