



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- [Water Summary Update: Nearly 90 percent of Iowa experiencing some degree of drought](#)
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Water Summary Update: Nearly 90 percent of Iowa experiencing some degree of drought

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DES MOINES — Precipitation averaged more than an inch below normal for the month of May, streamflows are dropping, soil moisture is low and shallow groundwater conditions are a concern in several areas of the state, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

Nearly 90 percent of Iowa is experiencing some degree of dryness or drought. The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 32 percent of the state rated as abnormally dry, 47 percent rated as in moderate drought and 10 percent rated as severe drought.

"Below average rainfall in May and for the start of June has pushed all of the drought indicators lower," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "Some water utilities are beginning to implement voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures, and with demand for water increasing with warmer weather, restrictions could become more widespread. Regular June and July rainfall of an inch or more per week is needed to reverse this trend."

Rainfall in the second week of May brought much needed relief, especially to the southern third of Iowa, where about 15 percent of abnormally dry conditions resolved. With warmer and drier conditions building in during the first week of June and below average rainfall over the last seven to 10 days, drought conditions significantly expanded across the northern two-thirds of Iowa with additional expansion into southern Iowa. Only southeastern Iowa is currently free of abnormally dry and drought conditions.

In May, Iowa's statewide average precipitation totaled 3.71 inches, or 1.13 inches below normal. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 1.95 inches in Akron to 8.53 inches near West Point in Lee County.

The statewide average temperature was 59 degrees, 0.9 degrees cooler than normal. Spencer Municipal Airport reported the month's high temperature of 97 degrees on May 1, 31 degrees above average. Estherville Municipal Airport reported the month's low temperature of 26 degrees on May 11, 18 degrees below normal.

Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across approximately half of the state are now classified as “below normal.” The Skunk, Des Moines, Raccoon, Floyd, Little Sioux, Nishnabotna and the Cedar river basins have below normal flow, while portions of the Raccoon and Des Moines river basins have much below normal flow.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers forecasts that runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City will be 17.9 Million Acre Feet (MAF), or about 69 percent of average runoff. Based on monthly studies, drought conservation measures of reduced navigation flow support on the Missouri River will be enacted on July 1.

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

Presentation, contracts head up Environmental Protection agenda

DES MOINES—A presentation on the State Revolving Fund will top the agenda at the June 15 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to approve the State Revolving Fund intended use plan for the upcoming fiscal year, along with 11 contracts and a grant proposal. Contracts run the gamut from air, land and water monitoring to laboratory analysis, inspections and watershed management.

Commissioners will meet by video conference at 10:30 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.

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

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.