

----- Original Message -----

Subject:IOWATER Informational E-mail - Happy Thanksgiving!

Date:Wed, 22 Nov 2006 18:09:57 -0600

From:Brian Soenen <Brian.Soenen@dnr.state.ia.us>

To:<iowater@iowater.net>

1. IOWATER Volunteer Nominations Deadline - December 1st - only 1 week left!!!
2. PUBLIC MEETING - Dec. 4 - North Fork Maquoketa River - New Vienna, Iowa
3. December PUBLIC MEETINGS - East Fork Des Moines (Algona), Raccoon River (Jefferson, Sac City & Guthrie Center) & Des Moines River (Des Moines)
4. \$1,000 IOWATER Mini-Grants Available - Deadline: December 31st
5. \$1,000 Watershed Cleanup Grants Available - Deadline: December 31st
6. River of Words Art & Poetry Contest - Let Your Creativity Flow!
7. 2007 Statewide Snapshot Sampling Event Dates Set - May 12, July 14 & October 13
8. Watershed Quality Planning Task Force Meeting - Dec. 6 - Des Moines - Public Welcome

1. IOWATER VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS DEADLINE - DECEMBER 1ST - ONLY 1 WEEK LEFT!!!

Ya' Gotta' Minute? It only takes a few minutes to complete and submit a nomination form to recognize efforts of yourself and/or others. If you know except

WHAT: IOWATER continually strives to honor the commitment, service, and generosity of outstanding volunteers, but due to their modesty and humbleness, we

WHO: Any IOWATER volunteer can be nominated (including YOU).

WHEN: Nomination forms must be postmarked by December 1, 2006. Recipients will have the opportunity to receive their awards at the Annual Water Monitoring

HOW: Complete the nomination form - found at www.iowater.net - save it as a Word document, and e-mail it as an attachment to iowater@iowater.net, or prin

Nomination Categories

- Volunteer of the Year
- Professional of the Year
- Event of the Year
- Classroom of the Year
- Watershed Group of the Year

The form can be downloaded directly from <http://www.iowater.net/Awards/Nomination%20Form.doc>

2. PUBLIC MEETING - DEC. 4 - NORTH FORK MAQUOKETA RIVER - NEW VIENNA, IOWA

DES MOINES - The DNR needs your input on a draft plan to improve water quality in the North Fork Maquoketa River.

The DNR will hold a public meeting to gather Iowans input at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the New Vienna Mutual Insurance Building, located at 7218 Columbus St. in Ne

The North Fork Maquoketa River is on the states impaired waters list due to sedimentation, nutrients and ammonia levels that adversely impact aquatic life

The DNR has developed a draft water quality improvement plan, also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, for the river. TMDLs are calculations use

Iowans unable to attend the meeting can submit comments on the draft plan until Dec. 18 via e-mail, phone or mail:

Internet: www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html

E-mail: chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us

Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791

Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After receiving public comments, the DNR will forward the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.

3. DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS - EAST FORK DES MOINES (ALGONA), RACCOON RIVER (JEFFERSON, SAC CITY & GUTHRIE CENTER) & DES MOINES RIVER (DES MOINES)

DES MOINES - From Algona to Guthrie Center, from Sac City to Des Moines - the DNR is seeking your suggestions, comments and questions on improving water q

While these rivers may not run directly through your town or farm, you may still live in the rivers watersheds. A watershed, also called a river basin, is

The DNR is developing water quality improvement plans for the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. The DNR will hold five public meetings in the watersheds to e

East Fork Des Moines River

- Algona: Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Algona Public Library, 210 N. Phillips

Raccoon River

- Jefferson: Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Jefferson Community Center, 204 W. Harrison
- Sac City: Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., Sac City Community Building, 1015 W. Main St.
- Guthrie Center: Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Springbrook Education Center (north of Guthrie Center on F-25)

Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers

- Des Moines: Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D. Ray Dr.

Portions of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers are impaired by high levels of bacteria and nitrates. High levels of bacteria can cause people recreating in

With public help, water quality improvement plans, also known as a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), are being developed to address waters across the sta

For more information about these meetings, please contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Chris.VanGorp@dnr.state.ia.us

4. \$1,000 IOWATER MINI-GRANTS AVAILABLE - DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31ST

IOWATER is seeking proposals for a mini-grants program to help volunteers fulfill the mission of protecting and improving Iowas water quality. Grants of u

Mini-grant awards will be based on the merit of proposed projects, and will be competitively judged by an IOWATER Mini-Grants Committee. Priority for fund

Mini-Grant Applicant Requirements

- Applicant must be at least a certified IOWATER Level One Citizen Monitor.
- Grant recipients are limited to one grant per year.
- Upon approval of the grant, the applicant must sign a contract with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Local governments (cities, counties, school districts) and service organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to receive funds. Individuals and g

Mini-Grant Project Requirements

- A budget detailing how the money will be spent must accompany the application (NOTE: salaries, food, and political activities cannot be paid with grant
- Projects must include a water quality monitoring plan that uses IOWATER methods (other methods may be used side-by-side with, but not substituted for,
- Data collected using IOWATER methods during the project must be submitted to the IOWATER online database and included in the final report.
- Data collected by other means (meters, probes, etc.) should be submitted on the IOWATER database in the Other monitoring field on the Chemical/Physical
- A summary of the project and of the data collected must be presented to the public - public meetings, informational poster sessions, written reports ma
- A Project Report must be submitted upon successful completion of the grant (see Mini-Grant Project Report on the following page).

Mini-Grant Project Report (To be submitted upon completion of the project)

The IOWATER Mini-Grant Project Report should include:

- A summary of the project.
- A final budget.
- A three-quarter page (single-spaced, standard margins) article and two accompanying photos that may be printed in the IOWATER newsletter.

- An analysis of the data collected, along with any other relevant information.
- A copy (if applicable) or summary of the public presentation (Upon completion of the project, a summary of the project and of the data collected must be

For more information, please visit: <http://www.iowater.net/MiniGrant/MiniGrant.htm> or contact Jacklyn Gautsch - Jacklyn.Gautsch@dnr.state.ia.us or 319-335
Grant application forms may be downloaded at <http://www.iowater.net/MiniGrant/Mini-GrantApplication.doc>

5. \$1,000 WATERSHED CLEANUP GRANTS AVAILABLE - DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31ST

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeking proposals for a mini-grant river cleanup program, which is funded by REAP CEP (Resource Enhancement An
Wanna clean up your river? Six mini-grants are still available! All applications must be received by December 31, 2006 and will be reviewed and awarded on

Mini-Grant Project Requirements

- Applications can be submitted any time, but must be postmarked by December 31st, 2006. Grant designations will be announced January 12, 2007, with the
- A Project Report must be submitted to the CLEAR coordinator upon successful completion of the grant (see mini-grant project report requirements section
- It is the responsibility of the mini-grantee to write and distribute press releases regarding their REAP CEP/CLEAR funded cleanup to local media outlet
- It is the responsibility of the mini-grantee to distribute and collect river cleanup evaluations, which are to be completed by event participants and s
- Upon receipt of the grant award money, mini-grantees have no longer than one year to complete their proposed projects and spend allocated funds. Failur
- Administering organizations will be required to submit copies of all project records to the CLEAR Coordinator upon completion of the project, and retai

Mini-Grant Applicant Requirements

- A budget detailing how the money will be spent must accompany the application (NOTE: salaries, food, and political activities cannot be paid with grant
- Upon approval of the grant, the applicant must sign a contract with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Local governments (cities, counties, school districts) and service organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to receive funds. Individuals and g

Mini-Grant Project Report (To be submitted upon completion of the project)

The mini-grant project report should include:

- A general narrative of the event that includes what was planned, what happened, results, and future plans.
- List of volunteers who were involved in the event.
- Names of partners and sponsors who contributed to the event.
- Detailed summaries of the event that include:
 - Number of river miles impacted
 - Itemized list of trash items removed from the river
 - Pounds of trash removed and cubic yards removed
 - Pictures of cleanup trash and participants
 - Percentage of trash that was recycled
 - Percentage and pounds of trash that was landfilled, with an accompanying list of items that were landfilled.
 - Number of volunteers from each cleanup who have participated in other cleanup events, as well as the number of volunteers who would participate in

How will grant awards be determined?

The CLEAR mini-grants are intended to reward cleanup projects that focus on community involvement, natural resource stewardship, and environmental educati

CLEAR Mini-Grant Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a 60-point scoring system. Grants must receive an average score of at least 35 points in order to be funded through CLEAR

1. Please provide a narrative of your plan - what do you want to do and why do you want to do it? (10 points)
2. How does your project seek out and include a diverse mix of partnerships, participants, and sponsorships? (10 points)
3. Does your event have the potential to be self-sustaining in the future? If so, please explain how. (10 points)
4. Does your project provide educational opportunities that focus water quality, watersheds, best management practices, or other conservation efforts? Ple
5. Please explain how a cleanup might benefit your local community. (10 points)
6. Please identify your need for these funds and explain how these funds may be used in conjunction with other funds (grants, donations, etc.) to complete
7. Extra points may be awarded for creativity, uniqueness, impact, and/or success. (5 points)

For more information visit www.iowater.net or contact Brandon Harland at (515) 281-3150 or at brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us.

Grant application forms may be downloaded at http://www.iowater.net/ClearMiniGrant/CLEAR%20Mini-Grant_Third%20Cycle%20Updates.doc

6. RIVER OF WORDS ART & POETRY CONTEST - LET YOUR CREATIVITY FLOW!

IOWATER is pleased offer the children in your lives the opportunity to express themselves through art and poetry via the River of Words (ROW) program, an

If you know children 5-19 years of age who may be interested and willing to share their talents, we want their artwork and poetry. Entries for River of Wo

Participation in ROW is free (minus postage). Heres how it works*

- Entries must be postmarked and submitted to ROW by February 15 (this is an annual deadline - entries received after Feb. will be entered into the next
- ROW returns Iowa's entries to IOWATER in April for state competition.
- State winners are chosen in May.
- An award ceremony is held in June, together with the conclusion of the Iowa DNRs annual Project AWARE.

If you'd like more information on ROW, please contact Brian Soenen at Brian.Soenen@dnr.state.ia.us or 515-205-8587 or visit <http://www.iowater.net/Riverof>

Entry forms may be found at <http://www.iowater.net/RiverofWords/ROW%20Entry%20Form.pdf>

Guidelines and Rules may be found at <http://www.iowater.net/RiverofWords/ROW%20Guidelines%20%20Rules.pdf>

Good luck and happy ROW-ing!

7. 2007 STATEWIDE SNAPSHOT SAMPLING EVENT DATES SET - MAY 12, JULY 14 & OCTOBER 13

The 2007 Statewide Snapshot Sampling Events dates have been set, the details are as follows:

- May 12, 2007 - IOWATER Spring Statewide Snapshot - Monitor your regular IOWATER site from 10 AM-2 PM (or any time that best fits your schedule) on May
- July 14, 2007 - IOWATER Summer Statewide Snapshot - Monitor your regular IOWATER site from 10 AM-2 PM (or any time that best fits your schedule) on Jul
- October 13, 2007 - IOWATER Fall Statewide Snapshot - Monitor your regular IOWATER site from 10 AM-2 PM (or any time that best fits your schedule) on Oc

If you have questions about the IOWATER Statewide Snapshot contact Katie Foreman at kforeman@igsb.uiowa.edu or (319) 335-1571.

8. WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING - DEC. 6 - DES MOINES - PUBLIC WELCOME

DES MOINES - A committee appointed by the Iowa Legislature to discuss a voluntary statewide water quality program has set its third meeting for Wednesday,

Gary Stuhlfauth with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will present an overview of watershed credit trading. Trading programs help achieve water qu

In addition, the meeting agenda includes presentations on tax policy by Iowa State University, the legislative appropriations budget by the Legislative Se

An agenda and other information are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/water/taskforce/.

The Iowa Legislature called for creation of the committee during the last session. Specifically, the legislature is asking the committee to develop a repo

- Improving water quality
- Creating economic incentives for environmental compliance
- Facilitating implementation efforts
- Developing quantifiable protocols and procedures
- Providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory, performance-driven watershed management planning.

The committee is comprised of representatives from both houses and both parties of the Legislature, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa League o

The committee meeting is open to the public.

For more information, please contact Sharon Tahtinen at (515) 281-7066 or Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

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