
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE WORKING GROUPS

Meeting. The Agriculture and Finance Working Groups of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met via conference call on July 17, 2019. The Agriculture and Finance Working Groups are two of the six working groups created by the Board and are being supported by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), respectively.

Flood Damage and Funding Discussion. The following topics were discussed during the call:

- Executive Director Amanda De Jong, Iowa Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provided an update on the [federal disaster aid bill](#), which is estimated to appropriate \$3.0 billion in funding to address a variety of issues arising out of March 2019 flooding in Iowa. Executive Director De Jong stated that although there is no timeline available as to when funding can be expected, the funding package will likely include some sort of buy-up of prevented planting indemnity programs for postcertified acreages. Currently, over 370 applications for funding from the USDA [Emergency Conservation Program](#) have been received, for a total requested funding amount of \$2.1 million. More applications are expected.
- Resource Conservationist Robert Mier, representing State Conservationist Kurt Simon from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provided information on the USDA [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#). The Program provides options to landowners and local communities to reduce the hazards from floods, droughts, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Over 100 landowner requests for funding have been received, for a total of approximately \$148.0 million in requested assistance. Currently, only \$102.0 million is available for landowner funding requests.

Additional Information. The following websites have additional information related to Iowa's flood and disaster recovery:

- [2019 Iowa Floods](#) has flood-related information, including flood recovery and road closures.
- [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#) includes federal information on disaster assistance programs.
- [USDA Recover](#) has information on crops, livestock, conservation, and other programs.
- [Emergency Conservation Program](#) aids by repairing farmland damage caused by natural disasters.
- [Rebuild Iowa Office](#) has archived information from the flood event in 2008.

Next Meeting. No additional meetings dates for either the Agriculture or Finance Working Group were discussed by the Board at this meeting.

LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.250.0458) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

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