
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 21, 2019



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STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING — AUGUST 2019

Meeting. The State Soil Conservation Committee met on August 20, 2019, in Ames. Chairperson Paula Ellis called the meeting to order.

Field Services. Susan Kozak, Soil Conservation Division Director, announced that Will Meyers will be the new Field Services Bureau Chief. Kozak also announced that additional conservation assistants have been hired for the field offices. Currently, there are three field offices still sharing staff. The plan is to have all these positions filled by December 2019.

Mines and Minerals. Vince Sitzmann, Bureau Chief of Mines and Minerals, reported that there are seven active ongoing projects. Three of the projects are in the design phase. Sitzmann also reported that his staff had investigated two emergency sinkholes that were reported by landowners.

Water Resources. There are 23 agriculture drainage wells open and the water resources staff has contacted landowners to determine the cost to close the wells. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship estimates that the funds that have been appropriated will cover the cost of closing the remaining wells.

Department of Natural Resources. Kayla Lyon is the new Director at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She is reviewing the operations of the DNR and will eventually name a new Deputy Director. The DNR also awarded federal money to several watershed management authorities and related nonpoint source projects. The total awarded was \$2.0 million.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be a teleconference on October 3, 2019.

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