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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 6, 2021



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### STATE SOIL AND WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING — DECEMBER 2021

**Teleconference.** The State Soil Conservation and Water Quality [Committee](#) held a teleconference meeting on December 2, 2021.

**Updates.** Employees from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and partners provided the following updates:

- DALS Bureau Chief Will Myers, Field Services Bureau, reported Districts have been given notice of end-of-the year cost share program recalls for the Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) and Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program.
- DALS Bureau Chief Vince Sitzmann, Mines and Mineral Bureau, reported [HR 3684](#), the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, reauthorized the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program. The AML budget is expected to increase from \$3.0 million to \$9.0 million annually for the next 15 years.
- DALS Bureau Chief Jake Hansen, Water Resources Bureau, reported the Bureau has six projects under construction in various phases between Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Water Quality Initiative (WQI), and [SF 512](#) (Water Quality Act) funding. He also noted the next Water Resources Coordinating Council Meeting (WRCC) is on December 17, 2021.
- DALS Division Director Susan Kozak, Soil Conservation and Water Quality Division, reported signup for the Crop Insurance Discount Program, funded through the IDALS, opened December 1, 2021, and will remain open until January 14, 2022. Participants in this Program receive a \$5 per acre discount on crop insurance premiums for acres planted with cover crops that are not enrolled in other federal or state cover crop programs. An application for the Program can be found at [apply.cleanwateriowa.org](http://apply.cleanwateriowa.org).
- Executive Director John Whitaker, Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), reported that CDI will not hold an in-person Partnership Day at the Capitol in March 2022. Instead, members will communicate locally with legislators in their respective districts.
- Coordinator Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), reported the DNR is accepting applications for the DNR Comprehensive Water Quality Planning Grant. The purpose of this grant is for the awarded entity to complete a comprehensive water quality management plan. Applications are due on December 30, 2021. The DNR is also accepting applications for the [DNR State Revolving Fund \(SRF\) Sponsored Project](#). The Program allows communities or wastewater utilities with Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) loans to finance watershed-based projects that implement nonpoint source best management practices. A pre-application conference call with the DNR must be completed by December 17, 2021, and final applications are due March 1, 2022.
- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach promoted its Iowa Learning field days and webinars on water quality, conservation, and other related areas. Field days and webinars are listed on the Iowa Learning Farms [website](#). Also, a new edition of [Cover Crops Field Guide](#) will be released in December 2021.
- State Conservationist Jon Hubbert, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provided information on Iowa NRCS FY 2021 accomplishments. Information can be found [here](#), specifically on the “At-a-Glance” document.

**Special Presentation.** Adam Schnieders, DNR, gave a presentation on the DNR Cover Crop Initiative. He discussed the benefits of growing cover crops and described the process DNR is using to produce cover crop seed for DNR use on some of the land in the DNR Land Management program.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will take place on January 6, 2021.

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