



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Meeting.** The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) met on May 17 in Des Moines. The following contracts were approved by the Commission:

- A contract extension with Gresham, Smith and Partners for \$141,000 to provide assistance and training to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Council. The contract will be paid with funding from the solid waste tonnage that is deposited into the Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP).
- A contract for \$30,000 with the University of Northern Iowa Waste Reduction Center to provide technical assistance and training for the Iowa Waste Exchange program. The contract will be paid with funding from the solid waste tonnage that is deposited into the SWAP.
- A contract not to exceed \$300,000 with Iowa State University (ISU) for geographic information systems (GIS) work. The contract will be paid with federal funds and GIS infrastructure funds.
- Four contracts with the University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory:
  - \$535,000 for ambient stream water quality monitoring with funding from the Environment First Fund (EFF) appropriation for Water Quality Monitoring.
  - \$27,000 for state park beach monitoring with funding from the EFF appropriation for Water Quality Monitoring.
  - \$250,000 for Safe Drinking Water Microsystems Analytical support with funding from the State Revolving Loan Fund.
  - \$496,000 for environmental monitoring and laboratory services with funding from a federal Environmental Performance Partnership Grant.

**Air Quality Fee.** The Commission approved the air quality fee schedule that includes reducing the federal Title V emission fee from \$70.00 per ton to \$67.50 per ton.

**Rule Notice.** The Commission approved a Notice of Intended Action for a rule that would change the Iowa Antidegradation Implementation Procedure. The DNR received a Petition for Rulemaking from the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa League of Cities, and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry.

**Easter Lake Tour.** After the meeting was adjourned, the Commission members toured the Easter Lake Watershed project in Des Moines. This is the largest urban watershed project in Iowa that covers 6,380 acres. The land use in the watershed is 45.0% urban, 25.0% grassland, 14.0% forest, 13.0% cropland, and 3.0% other. Easter Lake Park is under the jurisdiction of the Polk County Conservation Board, but there are numerous partners involved in the watershed project. They include: the City of Des Moines, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the DNR, the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the local Easter Lake stakeholder Steering Committee. The park receives approximately 400,000 visitors per year, and it is estimated there will be more than 1.0 million visitors per year after all of the projects have been completed. This will include building a trail that will connect Easter Lake Park to the Cownie Soccer Park.



**Rich Leopold, Director of the Polk County Conservation Board, discusses park improvements.**

For additional information on the Easter Lake Watershed project, refer to the [website](#).

**Additional Information.** For additional information, refer to the EPC [website](#).

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