
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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STATE SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING — DECEMBER 2018

Meeting. The State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee met on Thursday, December 6, 2018, in Des Moines. The meeting was conducted by Paula Ellis, Committee Chair.

Field Services. Vince Sitzmann, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs), discussed operations in the Field Services Bureau. DALs is updating its Updating Financial Accounts and Reports Management System with prospective vendor Global Outreach in Ames. The third Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) commissioners training video has been released on YouTube.

Mines and Minerals. Susan Kozak, DALs, updated the committee on the status of various Abandoned Mine Program projects affected by weather conditions.

Presentation. Theo Gunther and Peter Kyveryga, Iowa Soybean Association, presented their research on nitrate loss management and manure cover crops like rye.

Director's Report. Lori Kohlmeyer, Conservation Assistant in the Fayette SWCD office, was named employee of the month. The Water Quality Initiative received approximately 2,800 applications, including 1,000 first-time users. The Cover Crop Insurance Demonstration Project applications period is open through January 15, 2019.

Department of Natural Resources. Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), noted the preapplication process for Watershed Planning Grants has begun. DNR Field Office #5 will move to the Wallace State Office Building as part of a consolidation and cost-reduction process. "Source of Lake Geode" signs were installed at Cedar Creek at Geode State Park.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Select findings of the Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Survey 1982-2017 were presented. Ownership trends favor institutionalized ownership structures, such as trusts and corporations, while 49.0% of farmland is owned for current income. The statewide water education program, Water Rocks!, annual report details outreach to more than 36,000 students.

SWCD Calhoun. Alan Wedemeyer is expected to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Terry Finley.

Partnership Day. Partnership Day is scheduled for the afternoon of January 15, 2019.

Future Meetings. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

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