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Rachael Johnson, *Sioux City*  
Larry McKibben, JD, *Marshalltown*  
Subhash Sahai, MD, *Webster City*

Mark J. Braun, Executive Director

January 8, 2018

Mr. Charlie Smithson  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines IA 50319

Ms. Carmine Boal  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines IA 50319

Glen Dickinson, Director  
Legislative Services Agency  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines IA 50319

Re: Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Report

Dear Members of the Iowa General Assembly:

Pursuant to SF510 §33.2 2017 Iowa Acts, Ch. 168.33, attached is the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Report.

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Braun

\\Box Sync\Board of Regents Shared\BF\Legislative\2018 session\Reports\

Attachments

cc: Robin Madison  
Legislative Liaisons  
Legislative Log

**Report to Iowa General Assembly:  
Summary of Ongoing Activities and Expenses,  
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University,  
Senate File 510**

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University shall submit a report to the general assembly by January 10, 2018, which shall include a summary of the ongoing activities and expenses described in this section [Sec. 33, 266.39A] and the expected completion date of those activities and expenses. The bold type below indicates language from the approved Senate File 510.

**Until July 1, 2017:**

**The Leopold center shall not initiate any new activity that otherwise would be conducted under section 266.39 or 266.39B, including but not limited to research grants and projects. The center shall not incur any obligation or expense unless approved by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.**

The center initiated no new activities and initiated no new obligations or expenses through July 1, 2017.

**The center shall cancel any existing grant or project that is not in the process of being immediately completed. The center *shall not* cancel a grant or project that would result in a default of a legal or equitable obligation, including breach of contract.**

Forty-nine projects funded by the center's competitive grants program were active prior to July 1, 2017. The college and center notified principal investigators of the following actions to use the center's remaining FY17 state funds or carryover funds previously allocated to the center:

- 20 projects relevant to water quality and nutrient management were transferred to the Iowa Nutrient Research Center at Iowa State University, and will be completed under that center's mission and timeline.
- 16 projects scheduled to end in 2017 were completed: 9 completed by June 30, 2017, and 7 by December 31, 2017.
- 12 multi-year projects were canceled. 4 of the projects will be completed using non-state funds to help principal investigators continue in-state or multi-state partnerships and to honor commitments to graduate students or post-doctoral scientists.
- 1 project will continue due to legal or equitable obligations.

**On and after July 1, 2017:**

**The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences shall administer any ongoing activity that the Leopold Center had administered under section 266.39 or 266.39B prior to that date.**

The college followed the university's established policy related to budget-related workforce changes or reorganizations, continuing support for center staff until their final employment dates.

On July 1, 2017, the college, through its Agriculture Experiment Station funds, assumed financial responsibility for the salary and benefits of the center's director, a tenured professor, and half the salary and benefits of the center's distinguished fellow, also a tenured professor (the other half of the distinguished fellow's compensation continues to be provided by non-state funds). The college also assumed support for ongoing communications and website updates for the center.

The college is committing the center's remaining Agriculture Management Account (AMA) funds to strengthen the Iowa Nutrient Research Center's research effort, including installing new research infrastructure to evaluate nutrient use efficiency and loss and to study edge-of-field technologies; supporting erosion control research sites; and enhancing support for operations, including Iowa Nutrient Research Center leadership, communications, metrics collection and analysis.

**The college may expend monies appropriated from the Iowa Nutrient research fund created in section 466.B in order to pay for any necessary expenses associated with the Leopold Center and for completing any ongoing activity.**

Iowa Nutrient research fund monies were not required to meet any necessary expenses associated with the Leopold Center.

**The college shall cancel any existing grant or project that is not in the process of being completed. The college *shall not* cancel a grant or project that would result in a default of a legal or equitable obligation, including breach of contract.**

Actions taken prior to July 1 remained in force. On May 12, 2017, Governor Branstad signed Senate File 510 with a line-item veto of Section 34 and Subsection 2 of Section 35. The action preserved the existence of the Leopold Center while maintaining sections transferring funding to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to continue research in environmental and water quality issues. Under the direction of the college and the center, a task force held six listening sessions statewide in the fall of 2017 to gather input for a future vision for the center. The Leopold Center continues to use private resources — an endowment — to support targeted activities or programs.