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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 6, 2023



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2023

**Meeting.** The [Environmental Protection Commission \(EPC\)](#) met on September 19, 2023. Among the topics discussed were the following:

**Contracts Approved.** The following contracts were approved:

- A contract with Caring Hands of Altoona, not to exceed \$250,000, to provide funding for a project to develop a comprehensive conservation site plan. The funding for this contract will come from a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with the city of Belle Plaine, not to exceed \$250,000, to provide funding for Belle Plaine to proactively improve both groundwater recharge and resilience to nonpoint source nitrate pollution. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), not to exceed approximately \$250,000, to continue to improve flood resilience and farm sustainability for beginning, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged, and U.S. military veteran producers in the region. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), not to exceed \$230,000, to provide technical air quality assistance to Iowa's small businesses. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with the Iowa Soybean Association, not to exceed approximately \$250,000, to assist in the education and adoption of oxbows and saturated buffers to reduce soil and nutrient loss to the Skunk River. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Iowa Valley RC&D, not to exceed approximately \$250,000, to develop a stormwater capture and reuse chapter for the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Maquoketa River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), not to exceed \$250,000, to provide underserved farmers with incentives for cover crop adoption. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Luther College, not to exceed approximately \$250,000, to develop farmer-driven educational programming, facilitate novel landowner confidence-building workshops, and perform individualized soil health assessments. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Northeast Iowa RC&D, not to exceed approximately \$230,000, to provide funding for local collaboration to strategically address contamination concerns and educate community residents and area landowners on source water protection strategies. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with Northeast Iowa RC&D, not to exceed approximately \$220,000, to work with targeted, underserved landowners to develop conservation plans, targeted outreach, and implementation efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution and increase soil health. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Farmer to Farmer Grant.
- A contract with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), not to exceed approximately \$320,000, to carry out the goals of the Silver Creek WMA. The funding for this contract will come from an EPA Clean Water Act 319 Grant.
- A contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), not to exceed approximately \$370,000, to retain the assistance of the USGS in the collection of real-time surface water flow and water quality concentrations. The funding for this contract will come from the Environment First Fund.

**Other Items.** The Commission approved the following other items:

- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds — FY 2024 Second Quarter Intended Use Plan.
- The Department of Natural Resources FY 2025 Budget Request.
- Three contracts through the Solid Waste Alternatives Program with the city of Coralville, the Clothes Bin in Des Moines, and the Mayflower Community in Grinnell. The contract amounts were for approximately \$220,000, approximately \$78,000, and approximately \$37,000, respectively. Funding for the Solid Waste Alternatives Program comes from a portion of solid waste tonnage fees assessed on municipal and solid waste construction and demolition waste that is landfilled in Iowa.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023, at 10 a.m.

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Doc ID 1386368