

**Environmental Protection Commission  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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**ITEM**

**8**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

**Contracts - IDALS Division of Soil Conservation and with Soil and Water Conservation Districts for Watershed Management Plans**

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**Recommendations:**

Commission approval is requested for contracts with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS DSC), the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and the Johnson County SWCD, respectively, to develop watershed management plans (WMPs) that meet EPA planning requirements for restoring impaired waters in the Price Creek, Duck Creek, and Rapid Creek watersheds. The completed WMPs will follow EPA's 9 elements of watershed planning, will provide detailed strategies to restore impaired waters, and may be used as the basis for future targeted watershed project grant applications. The total amount of these contracts shall not exceed \$129,200.

**Funding Source:**

These contracts will be funded through EPA Section 319 grant funds.

**Background:**

The following WMP contracts are presented for approval:

Price Creek (IDALS DSC)	\$58,700
Duck Creek (Scott County SWCD)	\$36,500
Rapid Creek (Johnson County SWCD)	\$34,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,200</b>

**Purpose:**

The parties propose to enter into these contracts for the purpose of developing watershed management plans for the watersheds selected.

**Contractor Selection Process:**

These projects were chosen using a grant proposal application and committee review process.

Steve Hopkins  
Coordinator, Nonpoint Source Program, Watershed Improvement Section  
Geological and Water Survey Bureau, Environmental Services Division  
September 28, 2009

Attachment(s): WMP Summaries

## Watershed Management Plan Summaries

### **Project Name: Price Creek Watershed Planning Project (IDALS DSC)**

**Amount:** \$58,700

**Time Frame:** November 1, 2009 through August 15, 2010

**Purpose:** This project will develop a watershed management plan which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Elements for watershed planning. This project will also focus on testing DNR's guidebook for watershed planning. The final product will be an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to be used for project implementation.

**Summary:** Price Creek is a 13-mile long stream located in SE Benton County and the NE corner of Iowa County. It ends below the village of Amana where it flows into the Iowa River. Price Creek is the first stream to enter the Iowa River after its designation as a 303d-listed impaired water body for bacteria. The Hydrologic Unit is 070802081002. Water monitoring has identified five sites with high *E. coli* levels (1200-5400 CFU/100 ML) on Price Creek since it began testing in 2005. Sixty-four percent of this 18,838 acre watershed is considered to be highly erodible land and 58% of the watershed is in crop production with another 34% in pasture, hayland or CRP. Fifty percent of the farmers in the watershed raise cattle that either graze in pastures or are kept in open lots and most have access to Price Creek and/or its tributaries. Bacteria (specifically *E. coli*) and nutrients are the primary water quality concerns for Price Creek. Problems contributing to these concerns include: livestock access to the creek, lack of open lot manure storage facilities, the absence of nutrient and manure management plans and practices, and inadequate septic systems emptying into Price Creek. A secondary water quality concern is soil erosion. Over 4,000 acres have been identified that have soil loss exceeding 5 tons per acre per year.

The Iowa and Benton SWCDs have completed 2 full years of a watershed project funded jointly by DNR Section 319 and IDALS DSC funds. The current 319 contract is set to expire on March 2010. A 3-year project extension application was submitted to the DNR Section 319 program by the SWCDs in April 2009 and approved contingent upon the completion of an IDNR/EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan. The following provides a timeline and budget for the WMP activities. The goal is to complete the WMP by March 2010.

### **Project Name: Duck Creek Watershed Planning Project (Scott County SWCD)**

**Amount:** \$36,500

**Time Frame:** November 1, 2009 – August 15, 2010

**Purpose:** This project will develop a watershed management plan which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Elements for watershed planning. This project will also focus on testing DNR's guidebook for watershed planning. The final product will be an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan to be used for project implementation.

**Summary:** The Duck Creek watershed, located in Scott County, is approximately 40,786 acres. Duck Creek is the most prominent creek, by name and location, in the Iowa Quad Cities. There are 14 miles of multi-use trails surrounding Duck Creek that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, urban housing areas, two golf courses and eight city parks. Duck Creek is heavily used as a recreational source and is classified as an A1 stream designated for human contact. Currently, a rural section of Duck Creek is used as a "living lab" for inner city school children's outdoor environmental education. Duck Creek empties directly into the Mississippi River, the drinking water supply for the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

Over the past five years, IOWATER data, DNR reports, and municipal analysis have shown continuously high levels of *E. coli* bacteria and high levels of turbidity (sediment). Duck Creek has been placed on IDNR's 2008 303d list of impaired waters due to high levels of bacteria. The

305b report indicates a biological impairment on Duck Creek due to levels of silt, lack of in-stream cover and eroding stream banks. The fish index of biotic integrity completed by IDNR, scored Duck Creek as 24, "Very Poor". DNR anticipates completing a TMDL for Duck Creek in the fall of 2009, which will be used to provide pollutant loading data needed for the completion of the WMP.

A Duck Creek watershed project application was submitted to the DNR Section 319 program by the Scott SWCD in April of 2009. Instead of approving the project application, the DNR Section 319 program is offering funding to the SWCD to first complete an EPA-approved WMP which may later be used for a targeted watershed project application.

**Project Name: Rapid Creek Watershed Planning Project (Johnson County SWCD)**

Amount: \$34,000

Time Frame: November 1, 2009 through July 15, 2011

Purpose: This project will develop a watershed management plan which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Elements for watershed planning. This project will also focus on testing DNR's guidebook for watershed planning. The final product will be an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan to be used for project implementation.

Summary: The Rapid Creek watershed comprises 25 square miles or 21,645 acres. It is one of three sub-watersheds of the drainage area that flows into the segment of the Iowa River between the Coralville Lake Dam and the Burlington Street Dam (8.75 miles) that is listed on the 2008 Iowa 303(d) list for excessive indicator bacteria. Besides the Coralville Lake dam release, Clear Creek and Muddy creek are the other two sub-watersheds contributing to this impaired segment of the Iowa River. The majority of the land use in these watersheds is row crop, and pasture, along with a large part in metropolitan area, including city of Coralville, Tiffin, and North Liberty.

Bacteria testing in Rapid Creek show *E.coli* being a main contributor, exceeding standards of 235CFU/100 ml in 76 of 92 samples taken during the 2008 testing year. It also is documented a sediment delivery rate of 10,166 tons/yr from untreated upland areas.

A Rapid Creek watershed project application was submitted to the DNR Section 319 program by the Johnson SWCD in April of 2009. Instead of approving the project application, the DNR Section 319 program is offering funding to the SWCD to first complete an EPA-approved WMP which may later be used for a targeted watershed project application.