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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

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## **GOVERNOR CULVER, DNR ANNOUNCE NEW I-JOBS GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

*Funds to help Iowans develop green urban stormwater practices and create jobs*

DES MOINES — Governor Chet Culver and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are encouraging cities, schools, businesses and other groups to apply for a new grant program to help improve urban water quality while also creating jobs for Iowans.

I-JOBS, the Culver-Judge job and infrastructure initiative, includes \$80 million in funds for water quality and environmental projects.

"I believe job creation and environmental stewardship can and should go hand in hand," said Governor Culver. "I-JOBS is an essential tool in helping put people back to work, and to improving Iowa's groundwater, lakes, rivers and streams."

Through the I-JOBS Green Urban Stormwater program, the DNR has more than \$1.4 million available in grants to help Iowa organizations design and build post-construction green urban stormwater practices.

“Most urban green stormwater practices help stormwater soak directly into the ground, instead of running off with pollutants to storm sewers and into our waters,” said Richard Leopold, director of the DNR. “They can be a real asset to the community, so we’re looking forward to helping Iowans install more stormwater practices.”

Urban green stormwater practices, such as bioswales, rain gardens and permeable pavement, help slow and filter rain water as it runs off urban surfaces. As it runs across lawns and pavement, stormwater can pick up pollutants like soil, fertilizers, pet waste and oil. Rain water washes into storm sewers, which dump the water into a local stream or lake without any treatment.

Organizations may apply for \$10,000 to \$100,000, or 50 percent of installation costs, whichever is less. They must also provide a 50 percent local match of funds. Practices must be innovative, fully accessible to the public for educational purposes, and include a public outreach campaign. Applications may be for multiple practices at more than one location.

The DNR will give special consideration to applications from the Cedar and Iowa river basins, which were both heavily hit by the 2008 floods.

To apply, visit [www.iowadnr.gov/rfp.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/rfp.html) beginning Oct. 15 and click on “I-JOBS Improved Green Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices.” Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 1, 2009.

The Culver/Judge I-JOBS infrastructure and job creation initiative will invest a total of \$830 million over the next two years to create and retain jobs, strengthen the economy, recover from last year’s natural disasters, and improve Iowa’s infrastructure. The funds will be used to upgrade Iowa’s roads and bridges, invest in renewable energy projects, improve water quality and upgrade public facilities. I-JOBS is funded with existing gaming revenue, with no increase in taxes. For more information, visit I-JOBS online at [www.ijobsiowa.gov](http://www.ijobsiowa.gov).

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## **DNR COMPLETES MAJOR REGIONAL GROUNDWATER STUDY ON JORDAN AQUIFER**

**MEDIA CONTACTS: Mike Gannon or Bob Libra, DNR Iowa Geological and Water Survey, at (319) 335-1575 or [Mike.Gannon@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Mike.Gannon@dnr.iowa.gov) or [Robert.Libra@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Robert.Libra@dnr.iowa.gov)**

IOWA CITY — A new DNR study is shedding light on the future of the Jordan aquifer – a drinking water source for approximately 300,000 Iowans and widely used for industrial water supplies.

The DNR’s Iowa Geological and Water Survey recently completed a regional groundwater study and predictive model for the Jordan (Cambro-Ordovician) aquifer. The groundwater model uses information from thousands of well records, hundreds of water production tests, current and historic water levels, and water withdrawal records dating back a hundred years.

The completed and tested model can estimate changes in water levels decades into the future, for a wide range of anticipated or possible future demands.

“Assuring the long-term sustainability of the aquifer is critical. The Jordan aquifer is the most dependable, productive, and widespread source of groundwater in Iowa, underlying most of the state,” said Mike Gannon, a DNR research geologist who developed the model. “However, the aquifer is relatively deep over much of the state, and its rate of replenishment or recharge is exceeded by the over-all pumping rate. As a result, water levels have declined by as much as 250 to 300 feet since it was first used in the 1800s.”

While most of the aquifer has experienced a smaller reduction in the water level, the model forecasts areas where significant declines can be anticipated over coming decades, which is a needed tool for water planners.

The Jordan study is the second major aquifer assessment completed under the state’s new Water Resource Management program, following similar work characterizing the Dakota Sandstone aquifer in northwest Iowa.

“This effort is the key to long-term management of our underground water supplies,” said State Geologist Bob Libra. “Water demands and supply change through time, hand-in-hand with economic and urban development, changing energy sources and our uncertain climate. These groundwater studies provide predictive tools that can be updated through time, and will be used by Iowans for the next generation.”

For more information on Jordan aquifer, or other aspects of Iowa's groundwater and geologic resources, contact Mike Gannon or Bob Libra, Iowa Geological and Water Survey, at (319) 335-1575.

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## **DNR DIRECTOR'S PUBLIC FORUM HEADS TO STONE STATE PARK IN WOODBURY COUNTY**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tammie Krausman, DNR, at (515) 402-8763 or [Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov).**

SIOUX CITY– Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Richard Leopold will hold a public forum at Stone State Park main lodge in Sioux City on Thursday.

Leopold is holding forums across the state again this year to discuss natural resource issues with Iowans.

"I really look forward to hearing from Iowa's citizens. Last year, we got great feedback and ideas from more than 300 attendees," said Leopold about the seven forums held last year. "Our relationship with Iowans is something we highly value within the DNR and we will work together on the things most affecting our natural resources."

Each public forum begins at 6 p.m. with Leopold outlining the DNR's top priorities, the environmental report card, providing an update on budget cuts and discussing local issues. Another hour-and-a-half will be devoted to answering questions from the public.

Leopold has hosted more than 200 people at forums at Honey Creek Resort, Dolliver, Macbride, Bellevue and Lake of Three Fires State Parks so far this summer.

Upcoming public forums scheduled for Leopold are as follows, listed alphabetically by city:

### **Council Bluffs**

Hitchcock Nature Center

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m.

**Sioux City**

Stone State Park Lodge

Thursday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** The following article is a joint release from the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa DNR.

**WATER RESOURCES COORDINATING COUNCIL  
SUBCOMMITTEE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT**

*Feedback Will be Used to Finalize Recommendations for the Iowa Legislature*

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tina Potthoff, Rebuild Iowa Office Communications Director, at (515) 242-5232.**

DES MOINES— The Flood Plain Management Subcommittee of Iowa’s Water Resources Coordinating Council will host a series of public input meetings to gain feedback from Iowans about recommendations for a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on the state’s residents, businesses and communities, as well as on soil and water quality.

The first two meetings will be in Mount Pleasant and West Branch on Tuesday, Sept. 29, and additional meetings will be held in Ankeny and Waverly on Oct. 6 and Lewis and Storm Lake on Oct. 8.

Public attending the meetings will have an opportunity to give feedback on draft recommendations, which may be viewed prior to the meetings at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov). Subcommittee members will take feedback from all six meetings into consideration as they create the final version of recommendations for the upcoming session of the Iowa Legislature. The recommendations are required by a law passed in the 2009 Legislative session.

Bill Ehm of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Chuck Gipp of Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, co-chairmen of the Flood

Plain Management Subcommittee, encourage public participation in hopes of making the most complete recommendations possible with the assistance of the state's residents.

**What:** Public Input Sessions

**Who:** The meetings are being hosted by the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee of the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council.

**Subject:** Feedback on draft recommendations for watershed management created by the subcommittee in response to House File 759, legislation passed in 2009.

**When and where:**

- **Sept. 29**
  - o 2-4 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 307 East Monroe Street, Mount Pleasant
  - o 6-8 p.m. at the Hoover Library and Museum, 210 Parkside Drive, West Branch
- **Oct. 6**
  - o 10 a.m. to noon at the Ankeny Public Services Building, 220 W. First St., Conference Room A, Ankeny
  - o 5-7 p.m. Waverly Civic Center, 200 E. First St. N.E., Waverly
- **Oct. 8**
  - o 10 a.m.-noon at the Wallace Foundation Learning Center, Armstrong Research Farm, 53020 Hitchcock Ave., Lewis
  - o 4-6 p.m. at the Sunrise Pointe Municipal Golf Course, 1528 E. Lakeshore Drive., Storm Lake

**Who May attend:** Open to the public