



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Services Division**

For Immediate Release

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**WATERSHED QUALITY PLANNING TASK FORCE TO MEET
DEC. 6; MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

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DES MOINES — A committee appointed by the Iowa Legislature to discuss a voluntary statewide water quality program has set its third meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Watershed Quality Planning Task Force will meet at the Metro Waste Authority, 300 E. Locust St., #100, in Des Moines.

Gary Stuhlfauth with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will present an overview of watershed credit trading. Trading programs help achieve water quality improvement at a lower cost. With watershed credit trading, facilities that face high costs to meet pollution regulations can purchase environmentally equivalent (or superior) pollution reductions from another source, such as paying for conservation practices on agricultural land.

In addition, the meeting agenda includes presentations on tax policy by Iowa State University, the legislative appropriations budget by the Legislative Services Agency, and an update on the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee. The task force will also review its legislative charges and will establish the committee's next steps.

An agenda and other information are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/water/taskforce/.

The Iowa Legislature called for creation of the committee during the last session. Specifically, the legislature is asking the committee to develop a report containing recommendations on the following issues:

- Improving water quality
- Creating economic incentives for environmental compliance
- Facilitating implementation efforts

- Developing quantifiable protocols and procedures
- Providing greater flexibility through community-based, non-regulatory, performance-driven watershed management planning.

The committee is comprised of representatives from both houses and both parties of the Legislature, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Water Pollution Control Association, Iowa Rural Water Association, Growing Green Communities, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Conservation Alliance.

The committee meeting is open to the public.