

Appropriations for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-SF 509

Following Senate and House debate and a series of conference committee meetings last week, a deal has apparently been struck between the House and Senate on natural resources and ag spending for the next two fiscal years.

SF 509, as amended, appropriates funds for FY12. The bill also appropriates 50% of the FY13 funds for each program. So, despite two year budgeting, the appropriations committees will have to meet again next year to fully fund projects and programs.

Below is a breakdown of the funding that has been proposed:

	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Soil Conservation Cost Share	\$6,300,000	\$3,150,000
Conservation Reserve	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Soil Conservation Admin by IDALS	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Ag Drainage Well Closure	\$ --	\$ --
On Farm Demonstration	\$625,000	\$312,500
Watershed Protection	\$900,000	\$900,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
REAP	\$12,375,000	\$ --

Other Appropriations:	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Keepers of the Land	\$100,000	\$50,000
State Park Ops and Maintenance	\$3,210,000	\$1,605,000
Forest Health	\$100,000	\$50,000
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,955,000	\$1,477,500
Water Quality Protection	\$500,000	\$250,000
AFOs	\$520,000	\$260,000
Water Quantity Regulation	\$495,000	\$247,500
GWPF - Water Quality	\$3,455,832	\$1,727,916

Other highlights:

- Establishes a Local Food and Farm Program and appropriates \$75,000 for the program and a program coordinator.
- Ag Drainage Well Closure Report - The Department of Ag is tasked with preparing a report detailing the ag drainage wells that have not been closed as provided for in code chapter 460. The report is to also include a timeline for the closing of unclosed wells along with the cost of each closure. The report is due by November 15th of this year.
- Soil Nutrient Mass Study - Allows the WIRB Board to allocate up to \$50,000 for the study to be conducted by ISU. The study will look at the leaching of nutrients from the soil; the related impacts on soil sustainability, water quality (including erosion,) sediment and phosphorus attached to sediment; and the soils capacity to absorb and hold water. The report is due by January 10, 2013.
- Code change to allow rural improvement districts (such as Lake Panorama) to invest in water quality projects and improvements upstream from the district.
- State Fish and Game Fund Interim Study Committee - The committee is tasked with reviewing

expenditures from the state Fish and Game Fund.

- Beginning on July 1, 2012 animal feeding operation fine money will be deposited for use by the WIRB Board, rather than deposited in the general fund of the state.
- Establishes a \$400,000 a year building demolition recycling program by re-tasking solid waste alternatives fund revenues.

Many of the other issues the Council has been following this session are still up in the air and will most likely be part of further spending negotiations. We will update you on those as we have information.