

Editors Contact: Lynn Laws

Iowa Environmental Council

515-244-1194, x13

lynnlaws@iaenvironment.org

OR

Linda Kinman

Board President, Iowa Environmental Council

515-283-8706

cell: 515-669-4899

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Iowa Environmental Council Appoints Executive Director

The Iowa Environmental Council is pleased to announce Marian Riggs Gelb, from Des Moines, has accepted the position of Executive Director.

“I’m excited and I’m looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of this position. Public awareness of environmental issues has grown considerably in Iowa in the last few years; more and more people want to know what their community leaders are going to do to protect our precious natural resources. The Iowa Environmental Council works with leaders to find non-partisan policy solutions that clean up and protect our air, soil and water. And now—with the public looking for solutions to the most pressing issue of our time: global warming—the Council is particularly poised to successfully advocate for non-partisan energy solutions.”

In the late 1970s, Gelb worked as an analyst in the Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau. In the early 1980’s, Gelb worked on the staff of Senator Alan Dixon. From 1985 to 1991, Gelb served as Vice President of the commercial loan department, of Bank 2000, in McLean, Virginia. More recently, she has been a consultant to Growing Green Communities, the REAP Alliance and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Gelb dedicated a significant amount of time to supporting her children’s schools, often taking leadership roles in supporting the staff and the parent/teacher organizations

Gelb also serves as Vice-Chair of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board, of which she has been a member since 2001. She is a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy Conservation and Environmental Enhancement, member of the Polk County Conservation/DM Parks Task Force; and Chairperson, Urban Conservation Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board. In 2006, she was appointed to sit on the North River Basin Study Steering Committee and appointed to the Downtown Des Moines Planning Project Steering Committee.

Gelb begins her position with the Council on April 30, 2007. The position of Executive Director was vacated in January by Rich Leopold, when he accepted an appointment by Governor Culver, as Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

"On behalf of the Iowa Environmental Council Board of Directors we are excited and looking forward to having Marian on board. She brings a commitment to the environment, financial management experience, and a vision of an Iowa that is prospering and sustainable. With the Board reorganization and a new Executive Director the Council is well poised for strategically moving the State toward an environmentally sound future," Linda Kinman, Council Board President, said.

Editors note: A photo will be available today after 2:00 p.m. CDST, upon request.

- 30 -

About the Iowa Environmental Council

The Iowa Environmental Council actively works in public policy to provide a safe, healthy environment for all Iowans. The Council focuses on public education and coalition building to give Iowans a voice on issues that affect their quality of life and to protect Iowa's natural resources for current and future generations. For more information contact the Iowa Environmental Council at 515-244-1194, visit www.iaenvironment.org, or email iecmil@iaenvironment.org.