



Legislative Proposals for 2011

- 1) **Crep/Wetlands Funding** – The IDDA supports an increased state appropriation from the “Environment First” fund for the Crep/Wetlands program. Every dollar appropriated by the state is able to leverage four federal dollars. The current state appropriation level is \$1.5 million. The program currently has a waiting list of interested landowners. An increased state appropriation would allow increased construction of nitrate removal wetlands providing increased protection for Iowa’s water. The state Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa have requested that the appropriation level be increased to \$3 million. IDDA supports this request.
- 2) **Regulation of Wetlands** - The IDDA opposes any legislative proposal to empower the state of Iowa to regulate the dredging or filling of isolated wetlands. The dredging or filling of the majority of these isolated wetlands is already subject to review and regulation under provisions of the farm bill or local subdivision approval and building permit authorities. The state of Iowa cannot afford and ought not to divert precious resources toward creation of a needless regulatory bureaucracy.
- 3) **Ag Drainage Well Closure** – There are currently about 140 Ag drainage wells in active use – acting as direct chemical pipelines into drinking water supplies. IDDA supports an increased state appropriation for the Ag drainage well closure program. Funding for this program was previously at \$1.5 million but was cut to \$1.25 million in FY ’10. The state Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa are requesting that the appropriation be restored to the \$1.5 million level. IDDA supports this request.
- 4) **Protection of Drainage District Funds** – When a landowner takes action that damages existing drainage district structures, the district should be able to restore or repair the damage. Such damage could include, for example, redirecting water so that it overburdens an existing tile or ditch. Restoration or repair would be done according to the recommendations of an engineer retained by the district. The district should also be able to recover the costs relating to correcting that action including attorney and engineering fees.
- 5) **Five Island Lake (Palo Alto County) drainage assessment** – The IDDA supports Palo Alto County in its efforts to obtain state funding of \$96,633.83 for improvements to Five Island Lake and surrounding area. The lake, which is state owned, clearly benefits from the drainage project. The state avoided paying the assessment on a legal technicality.