

Water Resources Coordinating Council

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM via Zoom. A roster showing members of the council in attendance is attached to these notes. Meeting logistics were briefly reviewed. Secretary Naig also acknowledged the recent passing of longtime WRCC designee Stu Schmitz from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

WRCC Member Agency Updates

IEDA (Geerts) - IEDA issued release announcing 14 new CDBG Water/Sewer projects. Several sanitary sewer projects forthcoming. IEDA will also extend agreement with IDALS for urban conservation assistance.

NWS (Zogg) - The summer temperature and precipitation outlook was discussed. For June, temperatures are forecast to be above normal with precipitation below normal. For the remainder of the summer, below average temperatures are anticipated with equal chances for above or below average precipitation. A copy of the slides presented is attached to the notes.

USACE (Smith) - Several updates were shared by USACE. A full summary of activities is attached to these notes.

UNI (Clayton) - Getting back in the field. Working to establish research protocols.

Univ. of Iowa (Weber) - Flood Center is working at full capacity. Classified as essential personnel to work in IIHR and to evaluate flood sensors. Working to add 30 additional stream sensors throughout the state, some funded by DNR and by EPA. Also working to assist with hydrologic mapping throughout the state and to develop several flood inundation maps. Also preparing to assist with an EDA funded recovery planning effort on the Missouri River in SW Iowa. Working with Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas on cooperative mapping and water information collaboration as well. International Flood Management Conference which was scheduled for August has been postponed by one year, to be hosted by IIHR.

ISU Extension (Helmert)- Conducting weekly virtual field days and webinars. Seeing noticeable increase in live attendance. Preparing for another one on saturated buffers next week. INRC is working on review of proposals received. 43 proposals will be reviewed with decisions anticipated by August. ISU is also working with DNR and IDALS to reconfigure NRS reporting in an effort to streamline annual feedback. The new report will endeavor to speed up turnaround time on the report and improve access to key metrics.

HSEMD (Marwedel/Bartlett)- Half of staff are in response mode for COVID-19 with other half working on 2019 flood recovery and starting to program pandemic relief funding that has come to the state. \$250 million in flood recovery funding is currently being programmed in the state with another \$45

million in HMGP funding for anticipated property acquisitions. \$36 million in Flood Recovery Funds have been obligated for federal project match and urgent levee repairs along the Missouri River.

USGS (Nania)- Field work is continuing somewhat normally, with a mild spring offsetting recent demand for flood response. Stream flows are largely normal statewide, slightly above normal in the northern part of Iowa.

EPA (Tate)- Working with communities in Region 7 to see about COVID-19 detection in water/wastewater sampling to determine predictability in areas prior to discovery of cases. Hoping to use research to predict locations of future infection spikes. Clean Water Section 401 Certification rule was released on Monday to update previous guidance. Publication is forthcoming in the Federal Register to be followed by a 60 day comment period.

DOT (Brink)- Continuing to work on overflow bridge projects in SW Iowa to also increase flood resiliency. Working with two ISU ABE interns this summer to incorporate resilient engineering on projects.

DNR (Schneiders)- Most of DNR staff is working virtually and conducting business with minimal disruption. Doing a lot of field work and seeing big jump in state park usage. Updated beach closure criteria has been developed in partnership with IDPH and will be used this year. Also working on general updates to cyanotoxin criteria with EPA. Looking at efforts in other states and in different segments of evaluation. Working with City of Dubuque on ag-urban collaboration that will be factored into permitting as a potential pilot for a nutrient exchange effort.

FSA (DeJong)- Working on bringing staff back into offices, accelerating in the last week. About halfway through reboarding process. During the current continuous CRP signup Iowa has 4,327 acres on 769 contracts. There have also been 252 CP43 contracts enrolling 1,140 acres, primarily for prairie strips. The SHIPP (Soil Health Income Protection Program) Pilot - 18 accepted offers for 141.31 acres in Iowa (63 offers nationally across the 5 prairie pothole states).

NRCS (Cagle)- EWP is moving briskly with construction on repair projects. New RCPP announcement is coming with applications opening next month. There will also be an RFP for Watershed Protection funding (formerly PL-566) this month with applications due in August. Staff is working to identify and prioritize repairs needed to existing flood control structures throughout the state.

IDALS (Hansen) - Final numbers of Crop Year 2019 cover crop participation are being developed. In the statewide WQI management practices program, more than \$4 million was paid for cover crops, no-till/strip till, and nitrification inhibitor. We are also reviewing claims for participants in the cover crop insurance program, and have received applications for discounts on nearly 200,000 acres. We have also released guidance to our SWCDs on this year's statewide cover crop programs. In recent years we have obligated around \$5 million annually in WQI funds for management practices, and we anticipate obligating a similar amount again in 2020.

We have a total of 31 projects that are under development in various phases between CREP, WQI, and SF512 funding. All of those projects have partial obligations to cover preliminary engineering costs and are awaiting the availability of funds to make full obligations for all project costs through completion.

Another 50 sites are in various stages of preliminary design and permitting, and we are continuing to identify new sites for development.

IDALS has been selected to receive \$13 million for two RCPP projects, totaling \$13 million sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Department was selected for a \$10 million project to launch the Iowa Systems Approach to Conservation Drainage (ISACD) project in the Des Moines Lobe, which encompasses north-central Iowa. Another \$3 million project will help the Department and its Soil and Water Conservation District partners build upon water quality improvement projects already underway in the Turkey River Watershed in northeast Iowa.

IDALS is in the final stages of reviewing 13 applications for WQI Urban Demonstration program funds. The total WQI request for these projects is just over \$1.2 million and recipients will use funds to leverage more than \$3 million in other public and private investments. Approval of these projects will bring the total number of IDALS-supported demonstration projects to 68, with 36 of those projects fully completed.

The Fall 2020 Hypoxia Task Force meeting has been tentatively set to occur in Arkansas. A final date and location will be established in the next few weeks.

IDALS is transitioning staff back into offices gradually and is taking advantage of opportunities to increase field work. We are also working with partners to identify how to deliver future field days.

HUD Iowa Watershed Approach

Larry Weber, University of Iowa, discussed progress on the Iowa Watershed Approach initiative. Two watershed management plans are going to be approved in July, completing that activity. Nearly 1000 structural practices have been completed in the watershed projects with many more anticipated for late summer/fall work. Unspent funds have been recalled and redistributed in order to spend down all of the funding before the program expires in 2021. Significant amounts of the urban infrastructure component of the program are completed or nearing completion.

A virtual partner meeting was held in May and a meeting with Purdue University was held in the Spring. A report-out is expected later this year. DNR has replaced Marybeth Stevenson, who left to work for the City of Cedar Rapids, with Josh Balk, who has been working locally in the Cedar River watershed and is assuming many of Stevenson's prior IWA duties.

Public Comments

There were no requests by the public to address the Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM. The next meeting will be scheduled in September, but it is yet to be determined whether we will meet virtually or in-person.

June 4, 2020 WRCC Meeting Attendance

WRCC Representative		Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Mike Naig	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Kim Reynolds	Governor	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nate Ristow	Designee	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Kayla Lyon	Director	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam Schneiders	Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Susan Kozak	Director	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jake Hansen	Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Gerd Clabaugh	Director	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenneth Sharp	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Joyce Flinn	Director	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aimee Bartlett	Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Dan Robison	Dean	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matt Helmers	Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Susan Curry	Dean	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Thorne	Designee	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 John Fritsch	Dean	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maureen Clayton	Designee	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Scott Marler	Director	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tamara Nicholson	Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Brink	Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham	Director	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Geerts	Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Debi Durham	Executive Director	Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lori Beary	Designee	Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Alec Scranton	Dean	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Weber	Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 Jon Nania	Acting Director	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Kalkhoff	Designee	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Kurt Simon	State Conservationist	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scott Cagle	Designee	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16 Amanda DeJong	State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Grant Menke	Acting State Director	USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kate Sand	Designee	USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Jim Gulliford	Regional Administrator	EPA-Region 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Tate	Designee	EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Steven Sattinger	Rock Island District Commander	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Smith	Designee	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Angela Freyermuth	Designee	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Zogg	Designee	National Weather Service



National Weather Service Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

Jeff Zogg, Senior Hydrologist

National Weather Service – Des Moines, IA

June 4, 2020



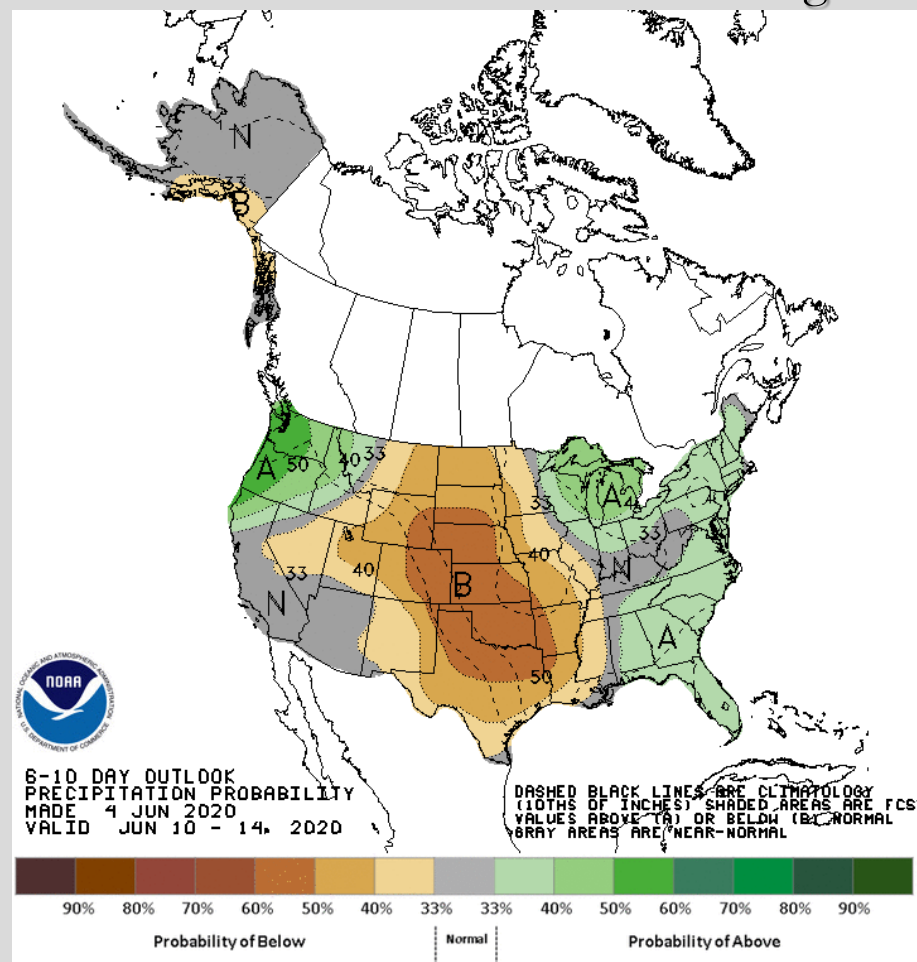
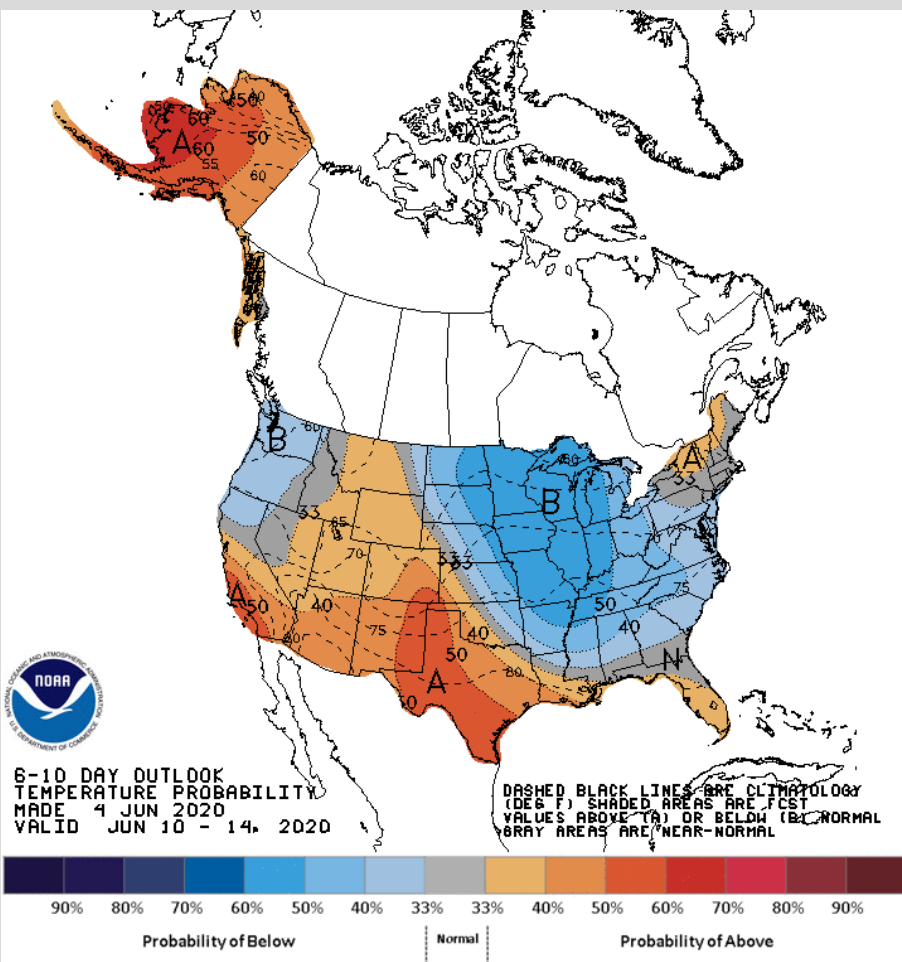
Temp/Precip Outlooks

6-10 Day Outlook



Temperature
on Left

Precipitation
on Right





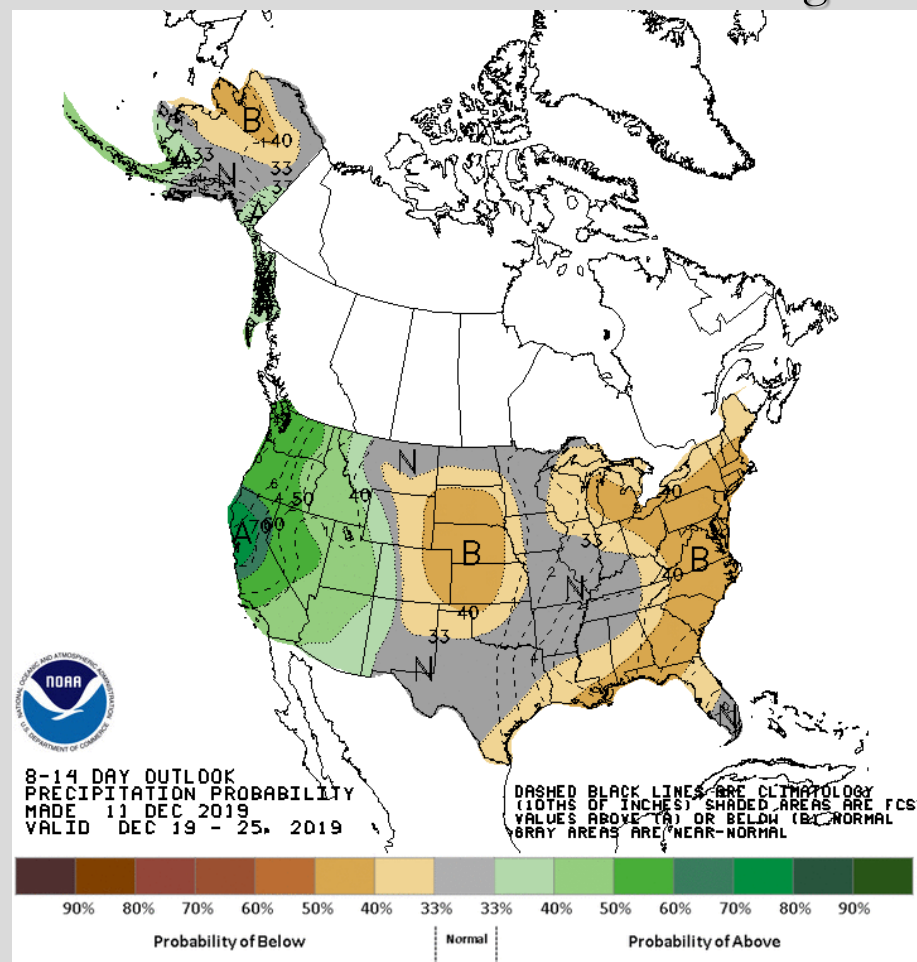
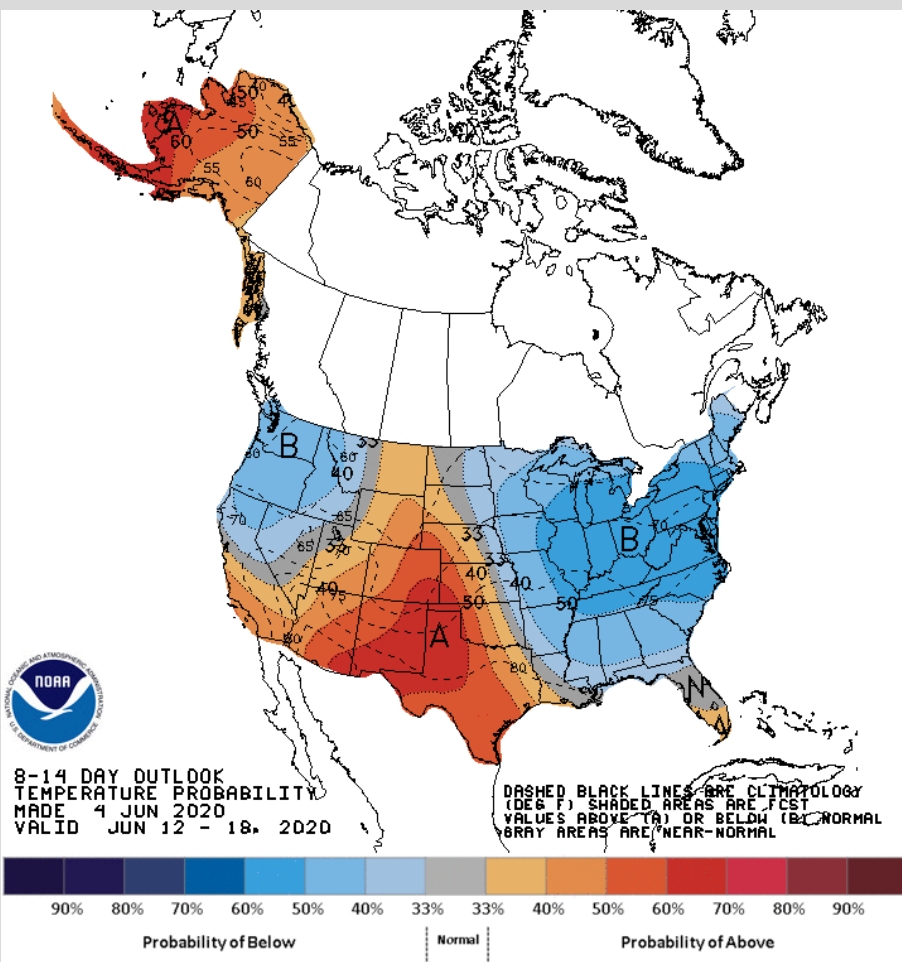
Temp/Precip Outlooks

8-14 Day Outlook



Temperature
on Left

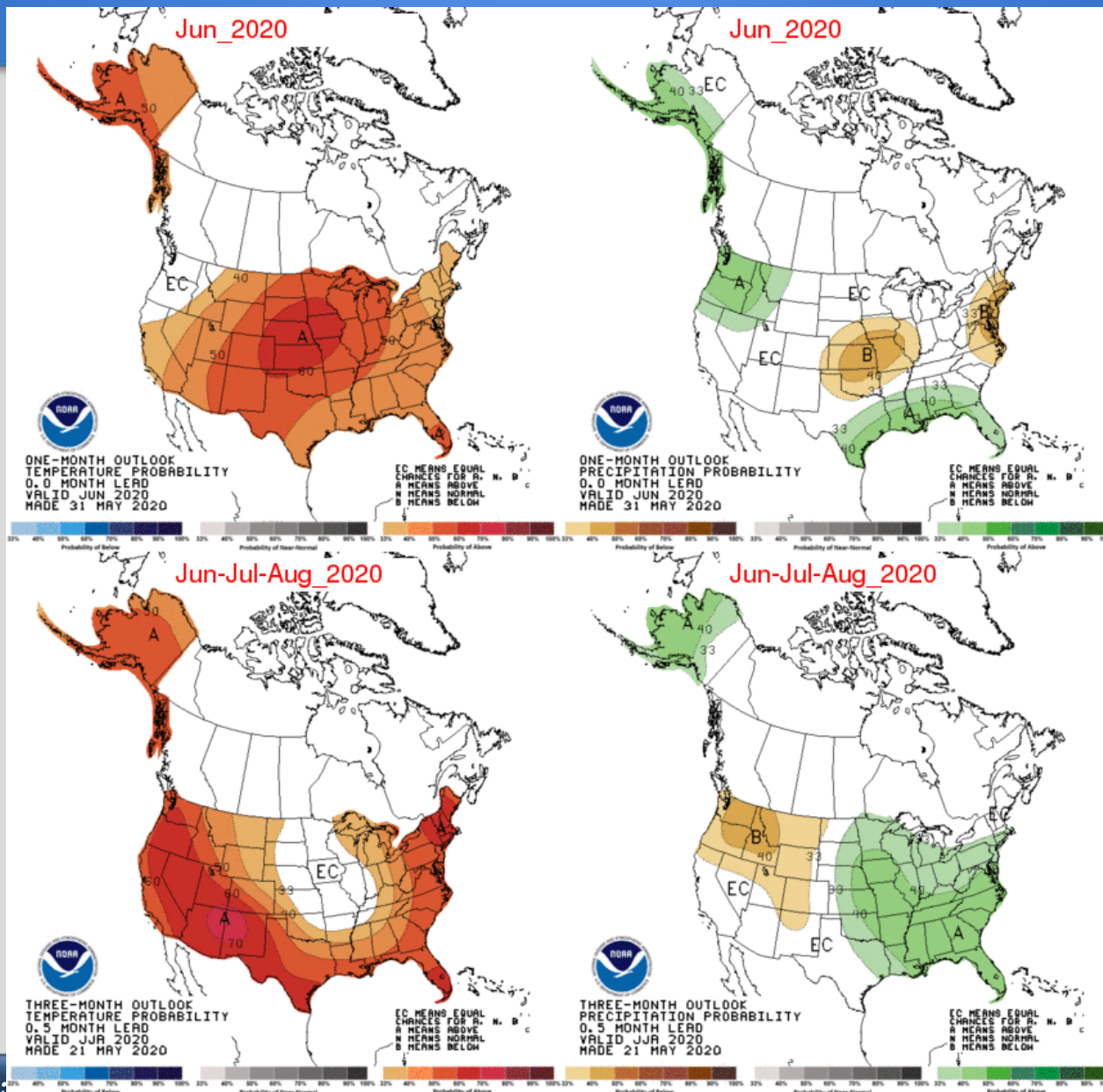
Precipitation
on Right



Temp/Precip Outlooks

Temperature
on Left

Precipitation
on Right



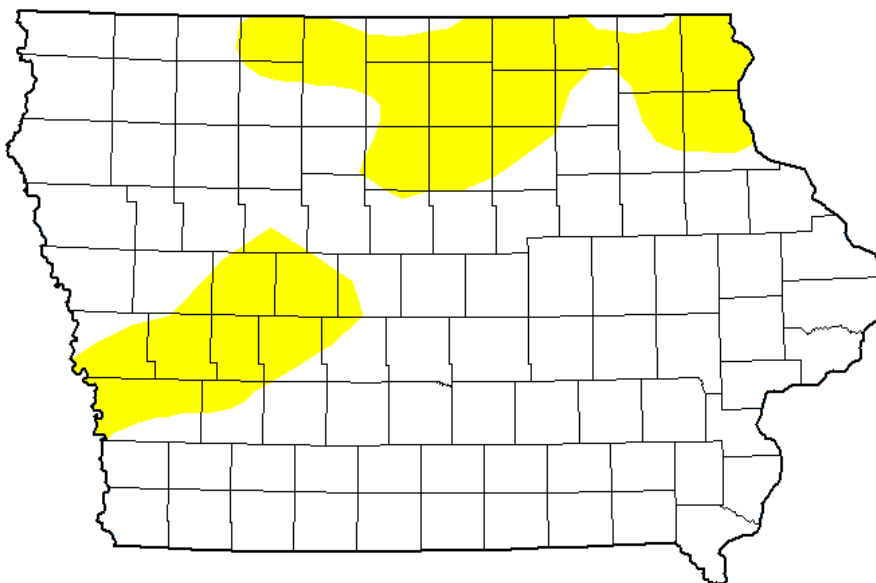


Iowa Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor Iowa

May 26, 2020
(Released Thursday, May. 28, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

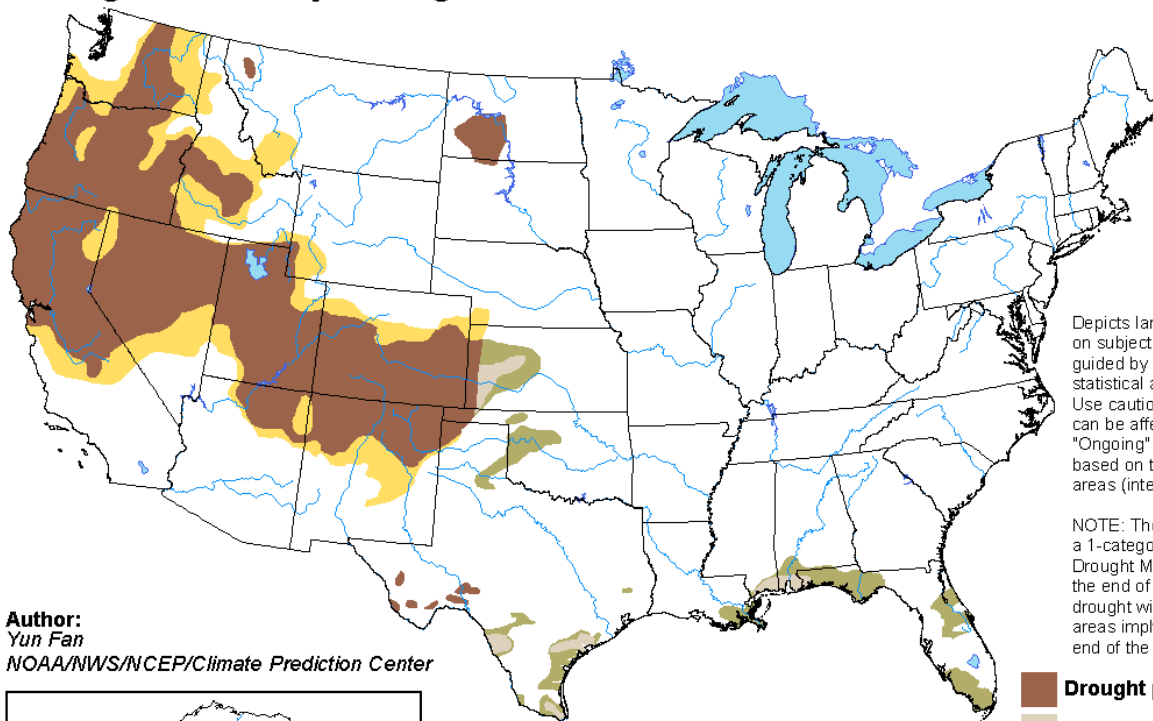
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



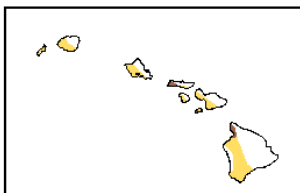
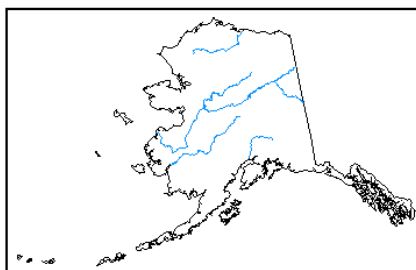
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 21 - August 31, 2020
Released May 21



Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Committee Meeting

USACE Brief

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- No EM actions right now in Iowa. Potentially remnants of the recent thunderstorms may cause some flooding next week, but it's too early to say yet.

SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

- Lake Red Rock Hydropower Facility – Almost complete. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for 19 August.
- Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers – Completing last 2 downtown closures on IAIS railroad bridge. Working on a design documentation report to address an under-seepage concern at Birdland Park Levee. After report is complete Congress will need to authorize a higher project cost to go and build seepage management measures
- Cedar Rapids – Road Closure, Levee, and Pump Station projects are actively under construction. Designs are nearing completion on other features. Real estate acquisition is next step and the construction.

OPERATIONS

- Coralville Water Control Plan Update - The PDT is working to finalize the draft report for internal review (DQC). Plan to publish the report, with recommended changes to the water control plan, this summer for public and agency review. Due to COVID19, public meetings are planned to be held virtually.

SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM

- Developing an Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan for the Des Moines River. Emphasis to utilize conservation bands established during the Water Control Plan update for Red Rock and Saylorville.
- Developing contracts for research at Lake Red Rock that will measure lake level management effects on migrating waterbirds, vegetation and denitrification potential.
- Finalizing ACPF for all 33 HUC 12 watersheds around Saylorville and Red Rock. Story Map viewers will support the product and make available to the public. Working with local SWCD to develop outreach plans.
- Conducting field survey, model refinement and geo-technical evaluation for Des Moines River oxbow restoration below Saylorville dam.
- Added Coralville dam to the Sustainable Rivers Program. Conducting initial stakeholder outreach. Funding a literature review and plan to host an environmental flows workshop in FY21.

PL 84-99 Levee Repairs

- Clinton – doing final wrap up on O&M manual, project repairs complete
- Cascade - in the bid process right now
- Marshalltown – waiting on RE approvals from City, then out for bid
- Muscatine – waiting on Marshalltown then out for bid (joint contract)
- Keokuk – waiting on RE approvals from City, then out for bid

- Green Bay - at 65% review of P&S package
- Sabula – new request from May 2020, starting process now

408 LEVEE SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS

- Green Bay Levee - Applicant has completed a 10% design and is beginning the environmental review process by gathering data. There is no date set for making a final determination on the Section 408. The additional data being gathered will dictate the process.
- Des Moines – Des Moines Downtown on east side of Des Moines River has been submitted to USACE for review to raise levee 6”-2’ in portions to meet FEMA accreditation requirements. All of this area has been reviewed and some has been approved for modification and is advancing in construction.

UMR WATERSHED

- PAS/Watershed Study - The report is currently being drafted. Our partners asked for an extension due to resources being directed towards the COVID-19 response. The new completion date for the report will likely be Nov./Dec. 2020.
- UMRS - Hydraulic Model Phase II and IV (Keokuk, Iowa to Anoka, MN) The model is currently being reviewed by Corps Hydraulic Engineers. Our State/Federal technical partner team will have the opportunity to review and comment on the model in Mid-July. We are still tracking to have the model complete by Sept. 30.
- Congressman Leutkemeyer proposing under HR 5288 to restart the old UMRS Comp Plan as means to increase levee elevations on the UMR mainstem. Others calling for a fair and equitable plan for the UMR. Neighbors of the MS group released video highlighting their case last week:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whs8tUDE73o&feature=youtu.be>

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

Funding (Maximum)

- FY 21 Presidents Budget \$33,170,000

Feasibility Reports

- Steamboat Island Pool 14 Feasibility Report is out for Public Review.
- Lower Pool 13 June planning workshop
- Green Island Pool 13 IDNR sponsored, feasibility study underway
- Pool 12 Tree planting underway
- Beaver Island Pool 14 Dredging work ongoing and tree planting anticipated this year
- Huron Island Pool 14 Construction nearly complete and wetland plants are being planted
- Lower Pool 10 Island and Backwater Complex
- Conway Lake HREP construction

Monitoring

- Iowa and Missouri are the only two states allowing field work due to COVID 19 restrictions.

MVD COMMAND CHANGE

- June 30 will be change of command introducing our incoming CG Maj. Gen. Diana M. Holland