

Drainage Districts #8, #24 & #25
December 15, 2009

The Board met with representatives from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Etlar Engineering of Algona, Palo Alto County Supervisors Wirtz, Hofstad and Noonan, Clay County Engineer and the Clay County Drainage Technician. The topic of a pilot program for an Integrated Drainage and Wetland Landscape System was discussed for Clay County Drainage Ditches 8, 24, and 25 in Logan and Garfield Townships. The goal of the pilot program is to reduce surface runoff and field-to-stream transport of contaminants; reduce the export of subsurface flow contaminants (primarily nitrate), optimize crop production, and to increase habitat and ecological functions in the landscape. The recent Iowa I-Jobs legislation dedicated \$4 million to the pilot program. These pilot projects will be redesigned to enable the discharge of collected subsurface cropland drainage waters into a treatment wetland which will be constructed downstream of the district. Regulatory agencies will be engaged to assist in developing concepts of and to consider, how components of the treatment wetland may be made eligible for converted wetland mitigation and brought to full productive potential under the current long-term land use. Informal meetings with landowners in the drainage ditches to explain the project concepts and design will be scheduled in the near future. No Board action was taken throughout this presentation.