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Iowa American Water to Present 2017 Environmental Grant to Clinton's Prince of Peace Catholic School Environmental Class

Five eastern Iowa programs that protect, improve and restore local watersheds to share grant funds totaling almost \$8,500.

CLINTON, IA (September 7, 2017) – Iowa American Water will present a 2017 environmental grant award to Clinton's Prince of Peace Catholic School Environmental Class tomorrow during a brief ceremony with teacher Katharine Atkinson and her students. Earlier this year, Ms. Atkinson applied for and was awarded a \$850 grant to help support a watershed restoration program that will be conducted by her current and future students.

In her grant application, science teacher Katharine Atkinson explained that students in her environmental class have begun a labor-intensive restoration of a small marsh invaded by Phragmites reeds. Over the next decade, her classes will continue removing this invasive plant and publicize their progress in restoring the watershed and encouraging other landowners' restoration efforts. The environmental grant will help support the project.

"Our Environmental Grant Program is designed to help organizations, like Prince of Peace's environmental class, carry out projects that benefit our waterways, raise awareness about the importance of water in our lives and promote community participation in the preservation and protection of our local watersheds," said Abdul Bouagadi, operations superintendent for Iowa American Water in Clinton. "We are pleased to support these worthwhile endeavors and extend our appreciation to the students in Ms. Atkinson's classroom for their concern and stewardship towards the environment and ultimately our drinking water sources."

Since Iowa American Water began its environmental grant program over a decade ago over \$60,000 has been awarded to local projects that improve, restore or protect local watersheds.

Four additional recipients have been awarded environmental grant awards in 2017 including:

- City of Davenport Parks & Recreation Department received \$2,500 for its Water Quality Improvement Project in VanderVeer Botanical Park's Lagoon. The project will decrease the level of nitrates, nitrites and phosphates with the installation of BioHaven floating islands.

- Scott Community College Environmental Club was awarded \$2,000 for its Crow Creek Watershed Protection and Biodiversity Project. The project will restore six acres of tallgrass prairie in the Crow Creek drainage basin. Erosion and runoff to the creek will be reduced resulting in better water quality. Biodiversity will be increased on the site as native species of grasses and forbs will be restored
- Nahant Marsh Education Center received an \$1,875 grant to expand its Sedge Meadow Restoration and Enhancement Project to include an additional eight acres, for a total of 15.5 acres. Success of the project will be measured by a reduction of invasive species and an increase of native plants and animals at the site.
- River Action, Inc. was awarded a \$1,200 grant for its Retain the Rain Interactive Display project. The project will update an interactive Retain the Rain kiosk to include bio-reactors and floating wetland islands, increase kiosk visibility and usership. Kiosk will be upgraded from 250 lb. unit to a light 55 pound unit with a touchscreen display.

Grant applications were evaluated by a panel of judges based on criteria such as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

About Iowa American Water

Iowa American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 212,000 people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly-traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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