

Our Water Scripts – July- August 2017

Our Water # 1- Why we chose this name

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Water quality is important to all Iowans. It is the subject of lawsuits and legislative spending fights as we seek effective ways to protect it. This is Prof. Neil Hamilton from Drake University with today's Our Water.

The topic is why we call this series Our Water? We chose the name for many reasons but primarily because it is the best way for all of us to think about our role in protecting the water.

It is our water – it is not someone else's to pollute and it is not someone else's job to protect it. We drink the water, we use it to support our factories and farms – we recreate in it – we rely on it in so many ways.

The water in Iowa's rivers, streams, and lakes is a public resource – it belongs to all of us. This means we need to understand the issues. And - if it is "our water" we need to appreciate our personal interest in how water is used.

Talking about our water helps us recognize our own responsibility – not just for how we use water but also our stake in shaping Iowa's water quality policy – such as court decisions on whether those who pollute water are held responsible - and political debates over providing the funds needed to help us protect the water.

Our goal is to provide Iowans with balanced and realistic information about what is being done to protect our water and the progress we are making.

This has been Prof. Neil Hamilton for Our Water – a production of the Drake University Agricultural Law Center.