

# Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Teleconference: 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

Video Conference: [meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva](https://meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva)

Thursday, January 9, 2025

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov) or 6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *5. Donations *6. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area *7. Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest *8. Timber Sale Contract with Ken Knapp Logging for Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area *9. Public Land Management Projects (9.1-9.5)	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
*6.	Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*7.	Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*8.	Timber Sale Contract with Ken Knapp Logging for Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*9.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	9.1 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal, West Okoboji Lake – Dickinson County		
	9.2 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal, Mississippi River – Woodbury County		
	9.3 Right of Way Conveyance, Easement for Public Highway – Linn County		
	9.4 Water Navigation Permit, Sunny Brae Golf Course - Mitchell Co.		
	9.5 Interagency Transfer of Jurisdiction, Glenwood State Preserve – Mills County		
10.	Small Construction Projects- Concrete Removal and Fill at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park	Information	Travis Baker
11.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	11.1 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, FEMA Repairs – Fremont County		
	11.2 Volga River State Recreation Area, Bridge Replacement – Fayette County		
	11.3 East Twin Lake Wildlife Management Area, Water Control Structure Improvements – Hancock County		
12.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	12.1 Yellow River State Forest, Allamakee County – Corey and Tiffany Anderson	Decision	
	12.2 Heritage Valley Forest Legacy Area, Allamakee County – Howe	Decision	
13.	Contract with Solitude Lake Management-Alum Application at Green Valley Lake and Prairie Rose Lake	Decision	Travis Baker

14.	Contract with Wildlife Management Institute-Park Technician Specialists	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
15.	Contract with Sioux County Conservation Board-Cooperative Habitat Technician	Decision	Todd Bishop
16.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wednesday, February 12, Des Moines (10:00am)</li> <li>● Thursday, March 13, Des Moines</li> </ul>			

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx>

Comments during the public participation period regarding proposed rules or notices of intended action are not included in the official comments for that rule package unless they are submitted as required in the Notice of Intended Action.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or [Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov), and advise of specific needs.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, English-language proficiency, disability, or age in the administration of its programs or activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DNR will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law.

**MINUTES OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**December 12, 2024**

**Video Teleconference  
and  
6200 Park Ave.**

**Approved by the Commission **TBD****

RECORD COPY
File Name <u>Admin 01-05</u>
Sender's Initials <u>ap</u>

## Table of Contents

Call To Order .....	2
Commissioners Present .....	2
Commissioners Absent.....	2
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda .....	2
Approved as Presented .....	2
Approval of Minutes .....	2
Approved as Presented .....	2
Director’s Remarks.....	2
Division Administrator’s Remarks.....	2
Small Construction Projects- Sweet Marsh WMA Wetland Restoration and Lacey-Keosaqua State Park Lodge HVAC Replacement.....	3
Information.....	3
Large Construction Project- Lake Keomah State Park, Spillway Repair– Mahaska County .....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
Public Land Acquisition-Spring Run Wetland Complex Wildlife Management Area, Dickinson.....	3
County – Wetlands America Trust, Inc (Ducks Unlimited).....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
Public Land Acquisition- Saylorville Wildlife Management Area, Boone County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation .....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
Public Land Acquisition-Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Jackson County – Ivan R. Keil Trust .....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
Management Agreement Amendment-#1 with Buena Vista County.....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
ALJ Proposed Decision Review (No. 24DNRL0002)-In the Matter of Dock Permit # 17-9988-3 .....	4
Hoffman .....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
General Discussion.....	4
Adjourn .....	4
Adjourned.....	5

### Meeting Minutes

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Marcus Branstad at 9:35 am on December 12, 2024 via video/teleconference attendees.

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Laura Foell
- Uriah Hansen
- Tom Prickett
- Tammi Kircher
- KR Buck
- Laura Kudej
- Marcus Branstad

#### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- Donations
- Contract amendment with Dan’s Sanitation-Lake Anita State Park Waste Management Services
- Timber Sale Contract with Nelson Petersheim for Stephens State Forest
- Public Land Management Projects (8.1-8.6)

*Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

#### DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon announced the opening of the Cody Shooting Range, which also marks the closure of the Princeton Shooting Range. The Princeton Shooting range will go through the lead reclamation process and be restored to natural habitat. The restored property will become part of the Princeton Wildlife Unit. Director Lyon highlighted the partnership with Scott County in the Cody Shooting Range project, and gave an overview of the various construction phases and future development of the Cody Shooting Range.
- Director Lyon concluded her remarks by sharing about her ride along experience with Law Enforcement staff during the deer season shotgun opener. Director Lyon acknowledged the hard work of the Wildlife and Law Enforcement staff during the busy hunting seasons in December.

#### DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth gave a highlight of the 2024 deer hunting season to date, including harvest numbers by season and harvest trends by region. DA Hildreth also provided an in-depth update on EHD and

CWD in Iowa and how they are affecting the deer herd. He demonstrated the EHD online reporting tool and provided information about the continued research and work being done in Iowa to learn more about both diseases.

- DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by informing Commissioners that the latest Oxbow Ridge Outfitters petition has been denied.

**SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS- SWEET MARSH WMA WETLAND RESTORATION AND LACEY-KEOSAQUA STATE PARK LODGE HVAC REPLACEMENT**

Travis Baker presented a pair of construction projects at the Sweet Marsh WMA and Lacey-Keosaqua State Park as information items.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

**INFORMATION**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK, SPILLWAY REPAIR– MAHASKA COUNTY**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for spillway repair at Lake Keomah State Park.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the items as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION-SPRING RUN WETLAND COMPLEX WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, DICKINSON COUNTY – WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST, INC (DUCKS UNLIMITED)**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Dickinson County adjacent to Spring Run Wetland Complex Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the items as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.*

*Tom Prickett-aye, Tammi Kircher-abstain as a member of the Ducks Unlimited Board of Directors, Laura Foell-nay, KR Buck-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION- SAYLORVILLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, BOONE COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase two (2) tracts of land located in Boone County adjacent to Saylorville Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.*

*Tom Prickett-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Laura Foell-nay, KR Buck-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION-GREEN ISLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, JACKSON COUNTY – IVAN R. KEIL TRUST**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Jackson County adjacent to Green Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

*Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.  
Tom Prickett-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Laura Foell-nay, KR Buck-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT-#1 WITH BUENA VISTA COUNTY**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a management agreement extension with Buena Vista County to continue the management of Storm Lake Marina.

*Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.  
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**ALJ PROPOSED DECISION REVIEW (No. 24DNRL0002)-IN THE MATTER OF DOCK PERMIT # 17-9988-3 - HOFFMAN**

Mr. Eric Dirth with the Iowa Attorney General’s Office gave an overview of the ALJ proposed decision review process. Chair Branstad requested to hear from the Hoffman’s Attorney first, followed by the DNR’s response, and wrapped up with the SHE’s response. After hearing the oral argument and responses, Tammi Kircher made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to 21.5(1)(f) to discuss a decision to be rendered in a contested case. The motion was seconded by Laura Foell. A roll call vote was taken. There were no nay votes. Commissioners went into closed session to deliberate.

After deliberation, the Commissions rejoined the public meeting and a motion was made by Tammi Kircher to affirm and adopt the ALJ proposed decision as presented.

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to affirm and adopt the ALJ proposed decision. Seconded by Laura Foell.  
Tom Prickett-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Laura Foell-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-absent, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioners discussed their 2024 deer hunting experiences and upcoming scheduled deer hunts. Commissioner Branstad highlighted his son’s successful deer hunt.
- Commissioner Foell mentioned the need for CWD ambassadors and encouraged interested Commissioners to volunteer.
- Commissioner Kircher shared that she had harvested her first mallard.
- Commissioner Kircher noted that she had received comments on safety concerns with bow hunters and squirrel hunters hunting at the same time. Chris Ensminger noted that he would add it to the discussion topics for the 2025 hunter listening sessions.
- Commissioner Buck spoke of rare bird sightings at Ida Grove.
- Commissioner Buck mentioned exploring the need to limit nonresident pheasant hunting in Iowa in terms of hunting dates/length of season.

**ADJOURN**

*Chairperson Marcus Branstad adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:48 am on December 12,*

2024.

**ADJOURNED**



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item**

**\*Item #5** (*\*indicates proposed consent item*)

**Donations**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

<b>Donation to:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Donation Provided by:</b>
Iowa State Parks	\$1.00	Donation received through the Iowa State Parks Online Reservation System.	Matthew Moles
Dolliver State Park	\$1,944.00	Memorial Bench donated to Dolliver State Park in memory of Don and Doris Roosa.	Karen Hansen
Pikes Peak State Park	\$4,000.00	Donation of 200 hiking sticks to be sold at the concession stand.	Guenter Andert
Parks and Forestry	\$100.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Jeff Powers
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	Mary Fasse-Shaw

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: January 9, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

6. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Kendrick, Inc. of Edgewood, IA, for Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area

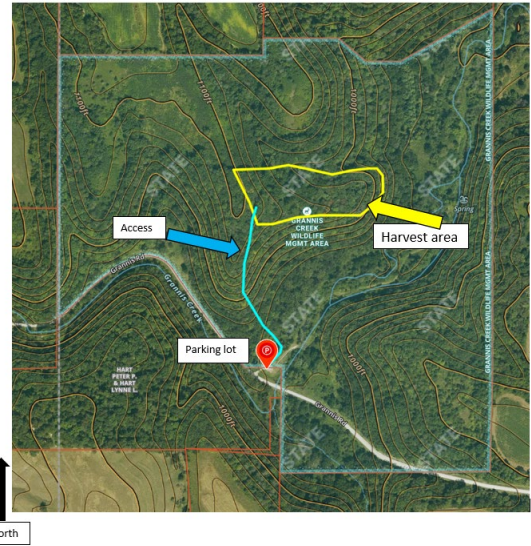
Contract Terms

Income: \$30,860.00

Dates: 1/10/25 – 3/31/26

Fund Deposited to: Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 32,700 board feet in 264 mixed hardwood trees at Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area in Fayette County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Grannis Creek Forest Stewardship plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.



Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of the adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

**Selection Process Summary:** An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 12/6/24

Number of Bids Received: 5

Recommendation: Kendrick, Inc.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$30,860.00
Flanagan Logging	Coggon, IA	\$29,500.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$26,540.00
Bruggeman Lumber	Bernard, IA	\$23,109.00
Ben Bruggeman	Monticello, IA	\$23,000.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
January 9, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

7. Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C, for Loess Hills State Forest.

Contract Terms

Income: \$40,000.00

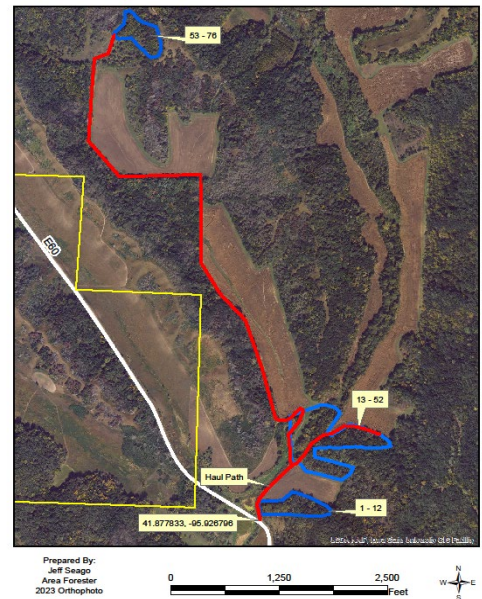
Dates: 1/10/25 to 3/31/25

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

**Contract Purpose:** A timber sale will be used to salvage trees damaged or killed in the 2023 Jones Creek Wildfire. This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 11,280 board feet in 76 black walnut trees at Loess Hills State Forest in Monona County. Seedlings will be planted following the harvest to supplement natural regeneration of bur oak and walnut. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

Wildlife den trees will not be marked and will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of an adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Loess Hills State Forest - Preparation Canyon Unit  
Jones Creek Wildfire Timber Sale #6



**Selection Process Summary:** An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 11/1/24

Number of Bids Received: 2

Recommendation: Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C.	Lansing, IA	\$40,000.00
Eric Freihage	Pisgah, IA	\$30,250.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
January 9, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

8. Timber Sale Contract with Ken Knapp Logging for Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Ken Knapp Logging of Fayette, IA, for Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Contract Terms

Income: \$38,925.00

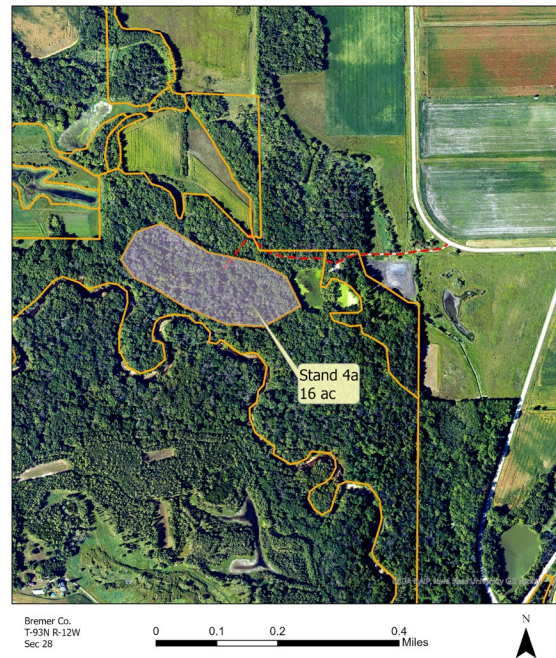
Dates: 1/10/25 – 3/31/26

Fund Deposited to: Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 89,722 board feet in 472 mixed hardwood trees at Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Bremer County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Sweet Marsh Forest Stewardship plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of the adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Sweet Marsh (Miller) WMA



**Selection Process Summary:** An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 12/4/24

Number of Bids Received: 4

Recommendation: Ken Knapp Logging

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Ken Knapp Logging	Fayette, IA	\$38,925.00
Brad Anthony Logging, LLC	Strawberry Point, IA	\$31,258.00
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$29,000.00
Deutsch Tree and Timber	Nashua, IA	\$10,520.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
January 9, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item** (*\* indicates proposed consent item*)

**\*9. Public Land Management Projects**

---

**9.1 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal, West Okoboji Lake – Dickinson County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease Number 30-R with Okoboji Yacht Club Sailing School, Inc.

**Location:** The lease area consists of 120 feet of frontage by 60 feet of depth, adjacent to Lots 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 in the Second Plat of South Manhattan Beach and Government Lots 1 and 2 in Section 23, Township 99 North, Range 77 West, in Dickinson County.

**Site Purpose:** The site is used for a boat ramp, crane facility, walkway, and access drive all associated with the yacht club.

**Lease History:** The location has been under lease since 1982.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee is \$446.40 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

**9.2 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal, Mississippi River – Woodbury County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State-Owned Land) Number 91-R with LG Everist, Inc

**Location:** The lease covers an area described as 184 feet of frontage and 40 feet of depth located 1.5 miles south of the 1-29 bridge at Missouri River mile 727.3 in Woodbury County.

**Site Purpose:** The site contains four timber dolphin pilings and a conveyor for the purpose of unloading and loading construction aggregates.

**Lease History:** The location has been under lease since 1993.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee is \$456.32 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

**9.3 Right of Way Conveyance, Easement for Public Highway – Linn County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for public highway at Matsell Park (also known as Matsell Bridge Access) in Linn County, Iowa.



**Project Description:** Linn County is requesting an Easement for Public Highway to facilitate the replacement of the existing bridge at Matsell Access. The bridge is being widened from 20 feet to 40 feet. The easement will be 0.29 acres. This was reviewed and approved through the Department's Sovereign Lands Construction permitting process.

**Compensation:** \$500.00

#### **9.4 Water Navigation Permit, Sunny Brae Golf Course - Mitchell Co.**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the permit renewal for Sunny Brae Golf Course for five years.

**Location:** The floating footbridge spans the Cedar River in Mitchell County at the Sunny Brae Golf Course.

**Site Purpose:** Sunny Brae Golf Course, a nine-hole golf course, was first established in 1915 and has maintained temporary bridges between the spring and fall months at this location for more than 90 years.

In 2010, in response to input from canoeists, kayakers, and other river users, Sunny Brae redesigned the footbridge, in collaboration with DNR staff, to accommodate other river users. Due to their cooperation and efforts, Sunny Brae was issued a permit.

Since its construction, Sunny Brae has continued to work with the DNR River Programs staff to review the function of the footbridge. Improvements made since its installation include an open 4'x24' span in the center of the channel, installation of warning signage, and a portage landing upstream of the bridge.

**Permit History:** This structure has been permitted in the modified form since 2010, without complaints from the recreational public.

**Permit Terms:** The term of this permit will be five years. The bridge may be installed after ice out, must be removed prior to ice-in, and include the safety design enhancements agreed upon by Sunny Brae and Iowa DNR River Programs staff.

#### **9.5 Interagency Transfer of Jurisdiction, Glenwood State Preserve – Mills County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an Interagency Transfer of Jurisdiction, between the Iowa DNR and Iowa DOT, for a road right of way corridor located at Glenwood State Preserves.

**Project Description:** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources acquired the 917-acre property, in 2009, via a Transfer of Jurisdiction from the Iowa Department of Human Services. Later that year the property was dedicated as a State Preserve and has since been managed by the Mills County Conservation Board. The now closed Glenwood Resource Center is located adjacent north of the Preserve and US Highway 34 bisects the Preserve. The Iowa Economic Development Authority has been

working with local leaders to reimagine the former resource center campus and provide Glenwood with an asset that can be a source of community pride.

This proposed Transfer of Jurisdiction will allow the Iowa DOT to improve access on and adjacent to existing roadways, from HWY 34 and through the Preserve, to the former resource center campus. The Iowa DOT have completed engineering design of the access development. The design process included consultation with DNR environmental review staff, the University of Iowa Office of State Archeology (OSA), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The size of the transfer will be 9.57 acres.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Information Item

10. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects have been let utilizing the Competitive Quotation process for projects \$100,000 or less:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
12/12/2024	25-06-89-03	LACEY- KEOSAUQUA STATE PARK	Van Buren	This project will remove a remaining concrete foundation and floors from a former Park Ranger house that was recently moved. Fill to be placed in remaining hole.	\$25,000.00	<b>\$17,500.00</b> \$23,195.00 \$23,400.00 \$42,250.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: January 9, 2024



Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

11. Large Construction Items

---

11.1 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, FEMA Repairs – Fremont County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Flooding around the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit in 2019 damaged multiple wildlife area roads. Roads and parking lots within Bartlett, Forney Lake, McPaul, Scott, and Waubonsie Access Wildlife Areas sustained flooding damage. These areas are made up of lake, marsh, upland and timber areas are primarily used for hunting deer, turkey, pheasant, waterfowl, squirrel, and rabbit and general outdoor recreation.

The repairs include removal of vegetation, blading and shaping to reclaim roads and parking lots. In addition, placing earth fill and aggregate on various roads and parking lots.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-04-36-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$112,000

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife

**Funding Source:** 75% FEMA, 25% Executive Council

**Bid Letting Date:** 12/12/2024

**Construction Completion Date:** 05/09/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 4

**Bidders**

Dovel Construction LLC	Hamburg, IA	\$122,926.00
Hendrickson Transportation LLC	Hamburg, IA	\$145,691.08
Western Iowa Utilities Inc	Council Bluffs, IA	\$153,095.10
Reilly Construction Co Inc	Ossian, IA	\$197,098.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Dovel Construction LLC.

## 11.2 Volga River State Recreation Area, Bridge Replacement – Fayette County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Volga River State Recreation Area is located approximately three miles northeast of Fayette in one of the most scenic parts of the state. The heavily wooded, rugged area of Volga River is a great setting for a variety of outdoor recreation activities throughout the year. Some of these activities include hiking, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, and horseback riding on the 5,700-acre area that includes a 137-acre lake.

The current bridge was constructed in the late 1950s. The approximately 65-year-old structure has deteriorated to the point that it is necessary to replace it to provide a safe stream crossing to the equestrian campground, farm fields, and a canoe access location.

**Engineering Project #:** 23-03-33-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$384,248

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

**Bid Letting Date:** 12/12/2024

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/15/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 7



### Bidders

Skyline Construction Inc	Decorah, IA	\$257,370.30
Bacon Concrete LLC	Postville, IA	\$311,941.10
K-Construction Inc	Elkader, IA	\$335,157.56
Peterson Contractors Inc	Reinbeck, IA	\$352,316.75
Matt Construction Inc	Sumner, IA	\$375,033.70
Shift General Contracting	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$381,481.00
Ludovissy Enterprises	Guttenberg, IA	\$426,267.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Skyline Construction Inc.

### 11.3 East Twin Lake Wildlife Management Area, Water Control Structure Improvements – Hancock County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** East Twin Lake Wildlife Management Area is located eleven miles northwest of Belmond. East Twin Lake WMA consists of 490 acres of marsh, timber, and grassland habitat. Game species in the area include deer, pheasant, and waterfowl.

The existing water control structure was constructed in the early 1950's and was designed to help control the carp population and promote the establishment of aquatic vegetation by manipulating the seasonal pool elevation. Concrete deterioration has been observed on the lower portion of the structure. The control structure floor and walls will be reconstructed, and the wooden deck will be replaced with a steel deck. This project will also add a steel walkway to the upper structure to allow easier access to the stop logs and foot traffic across the structure.



LOOKING WEST AT EXISTING LOWER STRUCTURE



LOOKING NORTH AT EXISTING UPPER STRUCTURE

**Engineering Project #:** 25-02-41-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$360,222

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife Bureau

**Funding Source:** 50% Lake Restoration, 50% NAWCA

**Bid Letting Date:** 12/12/2024

**Construction Completion Date:** 10/31/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

#### **Bidders**

A1 Excavating & Drainage, Inc.	Joice, IA	\$396,750.00
Graves Construction Co., Inc.	Spencer, IA	\$710,255.00
Jenco Construction, Inc.	Dallas Center, IA	\$792,035.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to A1 Excavating & Drainage, Inc.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
January 9, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item**

**12. Public Land Acquisition Projects**

---

**12.1 Yellow River State Forest, Allamakee County – Corey and Tiffany Anderson**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent to Yellow River State Forest.

**Seller:** Corey and Tiffany Anderson

**Acreage:** 5.0 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$25,000.00

**Property Description:** This rectangular shaped property is located fifteen (15) miles northeast of Monona in southeastern Allamakee County. This tract is bounded on three sides by Yellow River State Forest. This property is completely forested and has a ravine that runs west to east through the middle of the property. There are no building improvements. Access is provided through Yellow River State Forest.

**Purpose:** Acquisition of this parcel will eliminate an inholding. This will elevate issues with boundary maintenance and allow for easier property management. The State Endangered Red Shouldered Hawk and the Species of Greatest Conservation Need Cerulean Warbler have been documented as nesting in the vicinity of this property. The acquisition will allow for public hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

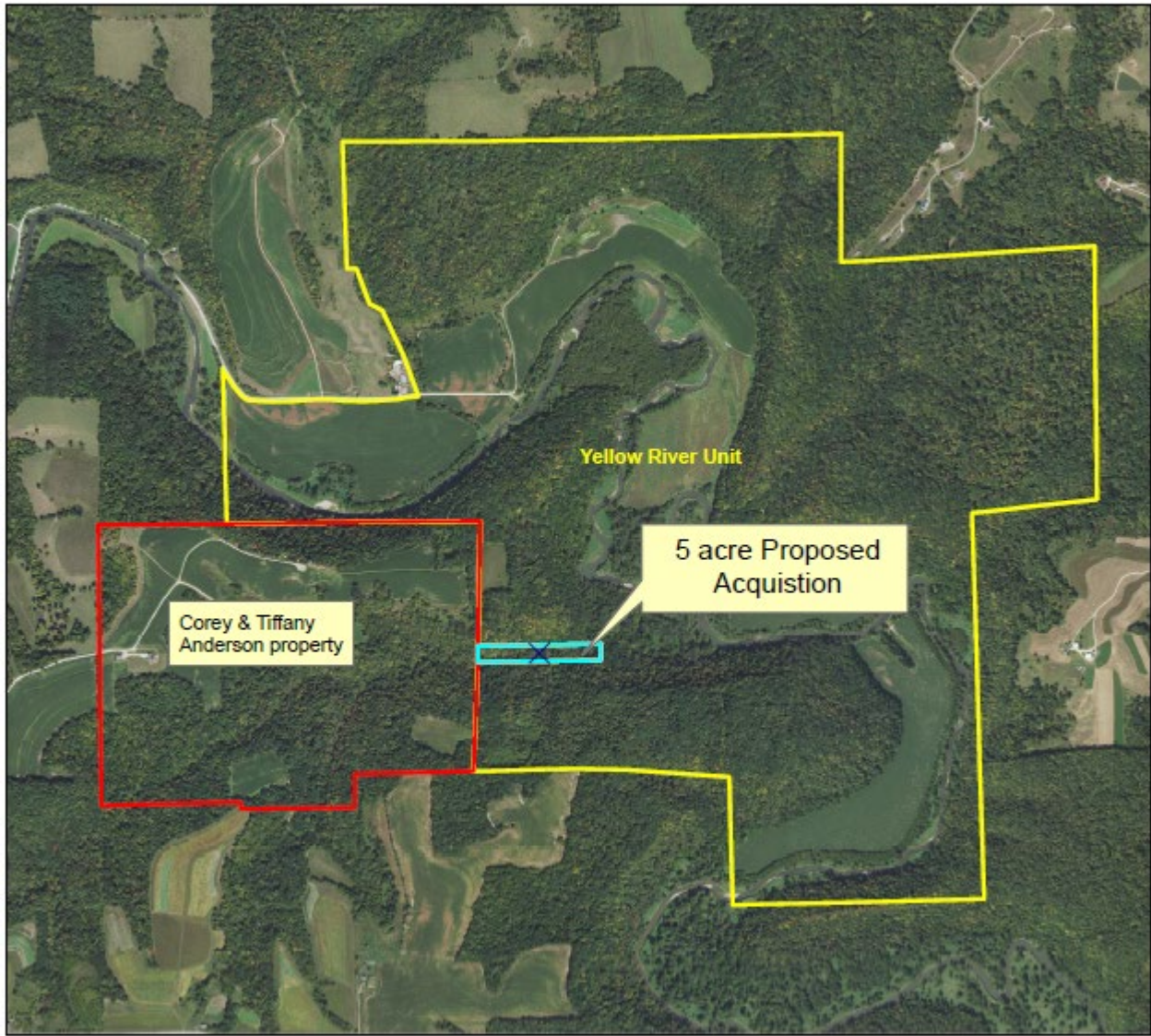
**DNR Property Manager:** Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau

**Funding Source(s):** \$25,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

**Incidental Costs:** Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This property will remain on the tax rolls.



Realty Services / Yellow River State Forest  
Allamakee County/ Corey and Tiffany Anderson



0 0.5 1 Miles



## **12.2 Heritage Valley Forest Legacy Area, Allamakee County – Howe**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to acquire a permanent conservation easement on a tract of land located in northwestern Winneshiek County.

**Seller:** Mark D. Howe and Barbara Anne Howe Revocable Trust

**Acreage:** 58.9 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$117,219.00

**Appraised Value:** \$156,292.00

**Property Description:** This property is located 21 miles northeast of Decorah, in the Driftless Area of northeast Iowa. The easement will encompass two blocks of heavily-wooded forestland located on the western and southern portion of the parcel. The topography within the easement area varies greatly (approximately 260 ft.), reflecting ridgetop and hillside. Forest species are primarily hardwoods of oak, walnut, and hickory. There is a pasture area of approximately 13.39 acres that is included as part of the easement. The north parcel is bounded to the West and South by property that is enrolled in the Forest Legacy Easement Program. The South parcel is bounded on the West and North by property enrolled in the Forest Legacy Easement Program.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this conservation easement is to protect environmentally important privately-owned forests which are threatened by conversion, and to provide for sustainable management of the working forest. The easement provides for land conservation of the forest land, forest resources, water quality protection, wildlife habitat, and oak savanna and prairies, all while maintaining the continuity of the forested area. This easement acquisition will also help meet Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan (2006, 2012, 2015), as well as provide for continuous open-space views. The Forestry Section will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms of the easement.

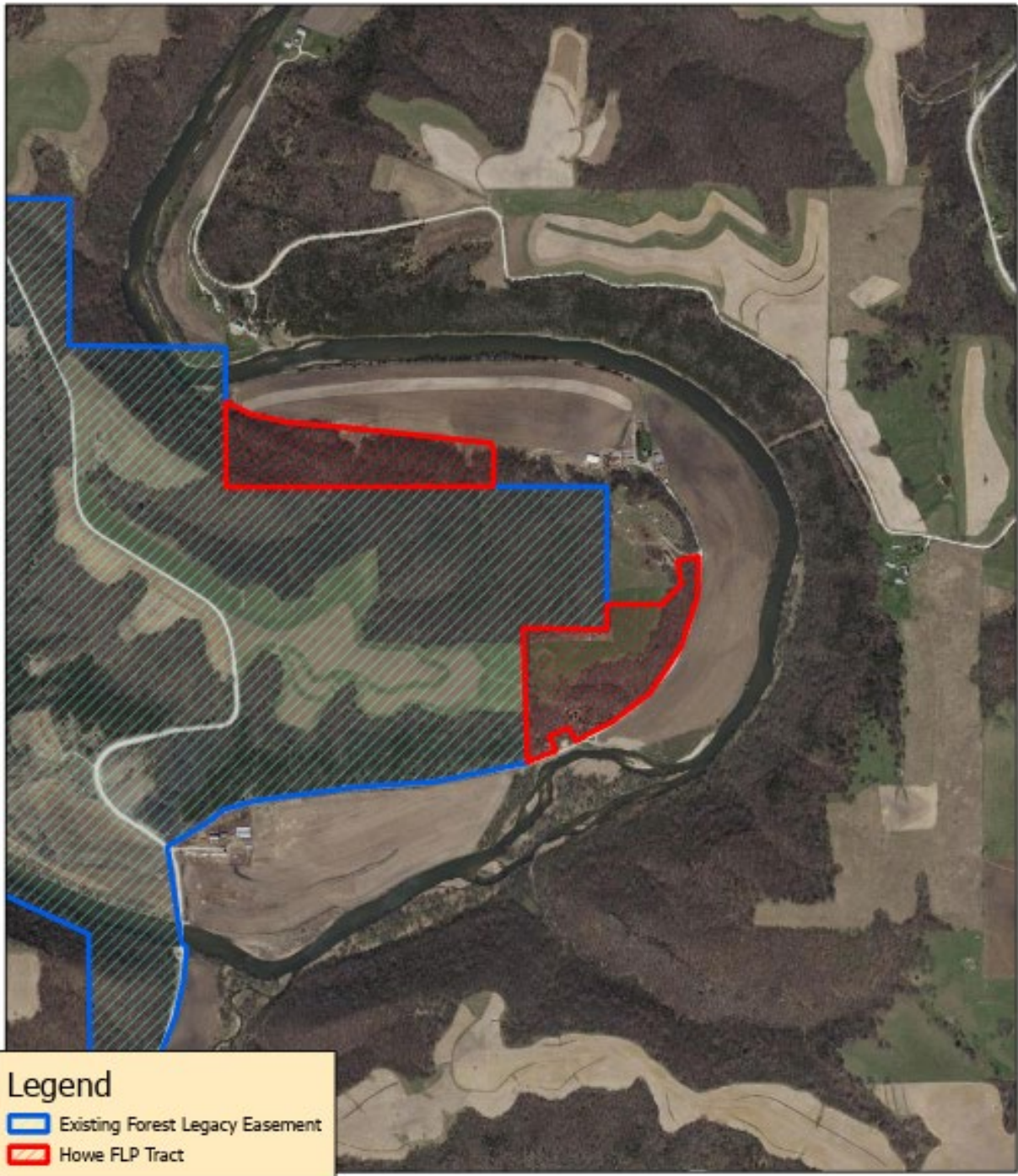
**DNR Property Manager:** Forestry Section

**Funding Source(s):** Forest Legacy Program grant through USDA Forest Service

**Incidental Costs:** Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.



Realty Services/ Allamakee Co./ Heritage Valley Forest Legacy Area/ Howe  
Section 20 and 21, Township 99N -Range 6W



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
01/09/2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

13. Contract with Solitude Lake Management

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Solitude Lake Management, Shrewsbury, MA

Contract Terms:

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$1,789,374.99

**Dates:** February 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025

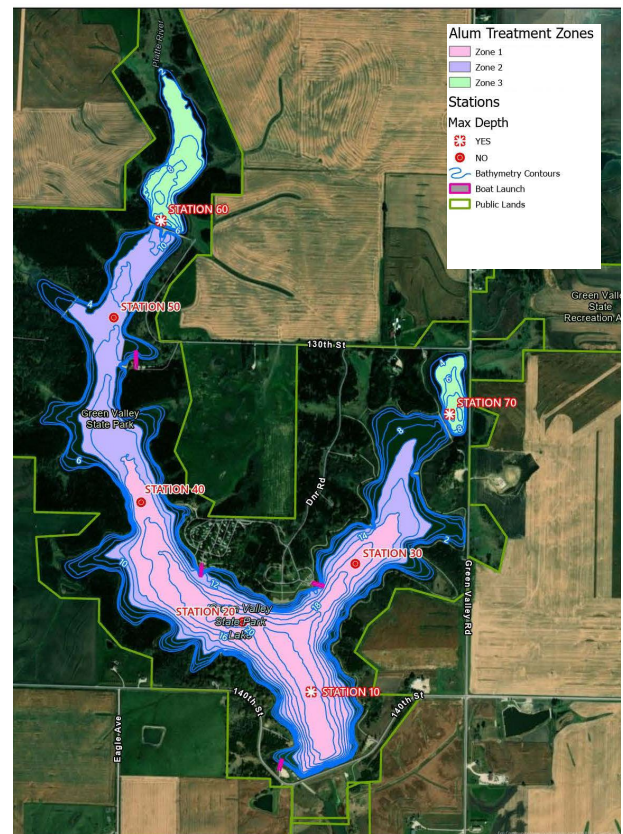
**Funding Source(s):** Lake Restoration Program

**Contract Background:** High nutrient loading in Iowa Lakes, particularly phosphorus, has accelerated eutrophication of lakes and consequently degraded their water quality, impacted their ecological health and diminished recreational opportunities. Frequent and pervasive algal blooms, low water transparency, noxious odors, depletion of oxygen, and fish kills have been observed and are even common in Iowa lake systems during the open water season.

The Lake Restoration Program (LRP) has been working to develop new tools for managing phosphorus in lakes over the past five years, particularly those that are effective at treating internal phosphorus recycling. The LRP first worked with researchers from Iowa State University and the University of Wisconsin – Madison (Contracts 18CRDLWBMBALM-0013 and 22CRDLWBMBALM-0002) to better understand mechanisms for internal loading in Iowa Lakes (2020-2023 study) and develop strategies for managing different pathways of internal loading.

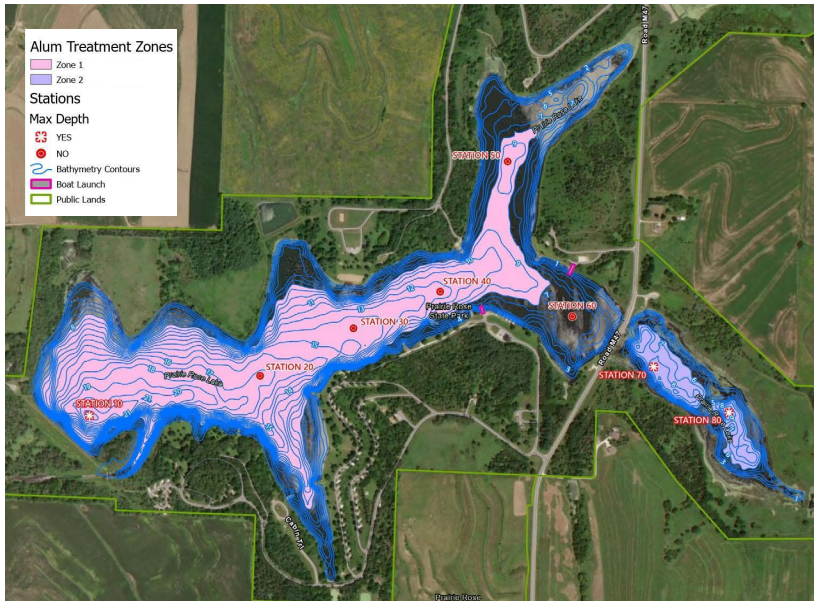
In 2023, the LRP hired Barr Engineering to investigate the utility of alum as a tool in nine Iowa Lakes, including Green Valley Lake and Prairie Rose Lake (Contract 23CRDLWBMBALM-0003). As a part of this study, sediment cores were collected and analyzed for each lake to estimate internal loading rates and develop a dosing strategy and cost benefit analysis for treating each lake. Green Valley Lake and Prairie Rose Lake, both of which are high priorities for the program, were determined to be good candidates for alum applications, as both exhibited high rates of phosphorus release from the sediments and exhibited favorable conditions for an alum application program. Additionally, water quality modeling showed that phosphorus would be reduced substantially with alum at both lakes.

**Green Valley Lake:** Located in Union County, Green Valley Lake is a 390-acre lake that has a long history of frequent algae blooms and high phosphorus concentrations. The DNR implemented a limited lake restoration project through the State and U.S. EPA’s Clean Lakes Program in the mid-1980s, however additional watershed and in-lake work was needed. A diagnostic and feasibility study was completed on the lake in the early 2000s and project partners worked to implement a water watershed project to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake. The lake’s spillway was repaired in 2009 and a larger scale restoration project was initiated at the lake shortly after, which included targeted removal of excess sediment, shoreline protection, installation of fish habitat, and installation of a new sediment dike to capture sediment from a major contributing tributary from the watershed. Additionally, the park has undergone several major upgrades over the past 20 years, including a campground renovation and trail





connection to the City of Creston. The lake remains a popular destination for recreation; however, water quality remains an issue. Monitoring data collected over the past five years indicates there is a substantial issue with internal phosphorus recycling and that the lake would benefit from an alum treatment program to curb phosphorus inputs to the lake.



**Prairie Rose Lake:** Prairie Rose Lake is a 173-acre constructed lake with a watershed to lake area ratio of 24:1. Low fish populations, siltation, and poor water quality plagued the lake in recent years, thus watershed and lake improvements were planned to bring this popular recreation destination back to life. Previous lake improvements included; jetties and fish structures (1998), sediment basin and shoreline riprap (2001) and sediment basins (2004); however, water quality in the lake remained poor. Prairie Rose was on the the initial list of 35 lakes prioritized for restoration by the program. A diagnostic and feasibility study was completed in

2009 to better understand nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake. Additionally, an extensive effort to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake began in 2008 through the Prairie Rose Lake Water Quality Project. As a part of this project, over 40 miles of terraces were installed in the watershed, numerous grassed waterways and nutrient management plans were implemented to reduce watershed sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake. In 2011 the lake was dewatered to allow DNR to construct a large silt basin about the lake. Additionally, 66,000 CY of excess sediment were removed from the lake and shorelines around the lake basin were stabilized to improve water quality. An additional large sediment detention basin was constructed in 2015 to help protect the lake. Today, the lake is reputed as being one of the best fishing lakes in the state and has become an extremely popular recreation destination. While water quality at the lake has improved overall following the watershed and lake restoration work, there has been a recent increase in late summer algae blooms frequently associated with internal loading. Additionally, concentrations of phosphorus in the bottom waters are very high, indicating the potential for large blooms when the lake de-stratifies. Utilizing alum at the lake will help reduce the overall internal nutrient recycling and help limit large periodic algae blooms.

**Contract Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to hire a qualified firm to complete alum applications at Green Valley Lake (Union County) and Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby County). Applications will be completed both in the spring of 2025 and the fall of 2025 to inactivate sediment phosphorus and improve water quality.

**Selection Process Summary:** The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a Request for quotes (RFQ) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

**Proposal Due Date:** 12/12/2024

**Scoring Criteria:** Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFQ and costs.

**Proposals Received:** 1

**Recommendation:** Solitude Lake Management

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item**

**14. Contract with Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. (WMI)**

---

**Commission approval is requested for a contract with Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. (WMI), of Cabot, Vermont.**

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$683,000

**Dates:** January 10, 2025 to December 31, 2026

**Funding Source(s):** General Fund (100%)

**Contract Purpose:** The purpose in entering into this Contract is for the DNR to provide funding for WMI to hire and employ up to 10 Park Technician Specialists for a period of up to two years.

The DNR Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau has a long history of providing recreational opportunities in a natural setting across the State of Iowa. The bureau maintains Iowa's state parks and recreation areas including grounds and facilities maintenance, facility use management, natural resource management, and limited seasonal park enforcement. The DNR has a need to increase staffing capacity to complete the work to effectively operate and maintain the state park system.

WMI is an organization that works in conjunction with DNR to provide administrative support and facilitate and promote conservation and professional management of wildlife. The DNR and WMI have a long history of working together to advance shared priorities. One of WMI's primary goals for 2025-2030 is to provide novel business solutions to wildlife management partners' business processes and administrative challenges. WMI's purpose in entering into this Contract is to help achieve joint goals and objectives with DNR by employing up to 10 Park Technician Specialists.

The DNR will:

- Provide the funding for the Park Technician Specialists and will coordinate with WMI on the work performed by these individuals.
- Create priorities for each Park Technician Specialist and monitor day-to-day work.
- Provide the Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau structure within which the Park Technician Specialist(s) shall work.
- Provide vehicles, computers, communication and training to each of the Park Technician Specialists.

**Selection Process Summary:** The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

**Criteria Reviewed:** Criteria reviewed for this work included the ability to provide the services required to employ up to 10 State Park Technician Specialists in partnership with the DNR.

**Proposal Due Date:** December 9, 2024

**# of Proposals Received:** 2 – One bid was determined as nonresponsive and rejected.

**Recommendation:** Wildlife Management Institute, Inc.

Sherry Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief

**Conservation and Recreation Division**  
**NRC Meeting Date:** January 9, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

**Decision Item**

**15. Contract with Sioux County Conservation Board**

---

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Sioux County Conservation Board

**Contract Terms:**

**Amount:**

- Not to exceed \$62,941 in FY25
- Not to exceed \$63,961 in FY26
- Not to exceed \$65,011 in FY27

**Dates:** March 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027

**Funding Source(s):** DNR Funding Source: Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

SCCB Funding Source: Sioux County Conservation Board annual operation appropriation

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR's purpose in entering this Cooperative Agreement is to provide funding for SCCB to hire and employ a Cooperative Habitat Technician (CHT). This position will be based out of Oak Grove in Sioux County to work primarily within the Big Sioux River Corridor. Work area may expand as needed. Public lands positively impacted include State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), State Parks and Preserves, and SCCB properties.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Wildlife Unit has been seeking a way to improve efficiency and enhance public lands management on the Big Sioux River Corridor. DNR would like to continue to develop and expand a strong, successful partnership with the Sioux County Conservation Board (SCCB). The SCCB is strategically located at Oak Grove State Park which provides an excellent opportunity for improving state and county public land management in the Big Sioux River Corridor. This agreement intends to establish a Sub-Unit at this location in partnership between the SCCB and the DNR Great Lakes Wildlife Unit to be known as the Great Lakes Big Sioux Sub-Unit (GLBSS).

**Selection Process Summary:** DNR enters into this Cooperative Agreement based on statutory authority provided in Iowa Code section 456A.23 and 456A.24(7).

Todd Bishop, Chief, Wildlife Bureau  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: 01/09/2025