

**Minutes of the
Natural Resource Commission
Meeting**

**July 11,
2019**

Meeting Held at:
IA DNR Boone Research Station
1436 255th Street
Boone, Iowa

For Office Use Only

Date Minutes Approved By NRC: 08/08/19

Director's Signature:


Kayla Lyon, Director

RECORD COPY

File Name: ADM 1-1-1

NRC MINUTES

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Chair, Margo Underwood, on 07/11/19 at 1:00pm. Commissioners shared their appreciation for staffs’ informative presentations and field tour.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Present

- Marcus Branstad, Vice Chair [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Laura Foell [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Kim Francisco, Secretary [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Laura Hommel [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Tom Prickett (by phone) [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Dennis Schemmel [1:00pm–3:37pm]
- Margo Underwood, Chair [1:00pm–3:37pm]

Absent

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Name	Address	Representing	Topic
Janet Ashman	903 5 th Ave, IC, IA 52240	Johnson Co Humane, IC Deer Committee, IA Fed of Humane Soc.	Deer
Lori Kendrick	551 Bear Dr, Tiffin, IA 52340	icdeerfriends	Iowa City deer management
Eileen Gebbie	1365 Peony Lane, Boone, IA 50036	None, live N of Ledges	Trails
Karl Jungbluth	1372 Peony Lane, Boone, IA 50036	None, Ledges Park neighbor	Bike trails

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel
 Seconded – Commissioner Branstad
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF 06/13/19 NRC PUBLIC MEETING

Motion – Commissioner Foell
 Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

3. DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

Deputy Director, Bruce Trautman, provided greetings from the new Director, Kayla Lyon, and offered her regrets for not attending due to a previously scheduled appointment and looks forward to future meetings. He provided a summary of her background and goal of visiting staff in the field and engaging in Department activities. He also thanked the Commission for their support for the Department during the transition. He noted he attended a Safari Club International event and the Disabled Veterans deer hunt fundraiser.

4. DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

Dr. Dale Garner, Division Administrator, shared information regarding the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference he attended and a topic that sparked consideration for an increased partnership with the Blank Park Zoo.

5. REQUEST FOR IOWA CITY URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE – SPECIAL HARVEST REQUEST

The Department, on behalf of the Commission, has received a request from Iowa City to hold a special deer harvest.

Requestor: Iowa City, City Manager

Proposed Request Summary: Allow the City of Iowa City to hold a special deer harvest using sharpshooters.

Date to Present to NRC: 07/11/19

Jim Throgmorton, Mayor of Iowa City, introduced himself and the other Iowa City attendees with him today, Councilman Bruce Teague, City Attorney Sue Dulek, and City Manager Geoff Fruin. He offered thanks to the NRC and summarized Iowa City’s deer management history. Mr. Fruin briefly reviewed Iowa City’s proposed plan submitted to the NRC and noted his personal responsibility to complete the plan. Commissioners and Iowa City staff discussed the methods of take (bow hunting and sharp shooting), deer per square mile, consistent culling efforts, Iowa City’s Council deliberations related to deer management, and annual assessments for deer density.

Motion – Commissioner Hommel motioned to allow Iowa City to run a sharp shoot program the winter of 2019-2020 and report back to the NRC after the hunt.

Seconded – Commissioner Foell

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Branstad - nay
- Commissioner Foell - aye
- Commissioner Francisco - nay
- Commissioner Hommel - aye
- Commissioner Prickett - nay
- Commissioner Schemmel - nay
- Commissioner Underwood - nay

Decision – Motion Fails

Commissioners and Iowa City staff discussed revisions to the current plan: re-evaluate the deer per square mile, confirm the timeframe being held for the bow hunt, strengthen language in some areas of the plan, and include an annual deer density evaluation tool that will be used.

Motion – Commissioner Foell moved to approve the plan as originally submitted.

Seconded – Commissioner Branstad

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Schemmel - nay
- Commissioner Prickett - nay
- Commissioner Hommel - aye
- Commissioner Francisco - nay
- Commissioner Foell - aye
- Commissioner Branstad - nay
- Commissioner Underwood - nay

Iowa City representatives agreed to review the current plan and changes the Commissioners suggested and will bring it before Iowa City’s City Council on August 6, 2019, with the intention of bringing a revised plan to the NRC on August 8, 2019.

MOTION FAILED

6. DONATIONS

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Bellevue Fisheries	\$65.00	Aerator to keep fish alive in a regular cooler or live well such as for use during kids' programs.	Matt McFadden, Mac's Bait Shack
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery	\$50.00	Funds to support the hatchery.	Karina Palmquist
Lake Macbride State Park	\$4,000.00	Funds to improve North Shore Trail	Kevin Shima, Solon Area Community Foundation
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory John J. Hlavacek.	Jeff and Mary Ellen Anderson

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel with our thanks

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

***7. CONTRACT AMENDMENT-2 WITH FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Forum Communications Company, of Detroit Lakes, MN.

Amendment-2 Terms:

Amendment Amount: not to exceed \$35,000.00

Amendment Dates: 08/20/19-08/20/20

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Amendment Purpose: One year extension to print and distribute the 2020 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet.

Original Contract Purpose: Print 225,000 copies of the annual Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet and distribute it to approximately 700 locations (i.e. license sales vendors, natural resource agencies, and DNR locations). The DNR will provide the copy and artwork as well as the mailing list and quantities needed per address. The contractor will prepare a pre-press copy for DNR review and approval, print and package saddle stitch booklets, and ship the quantities designated to the identified locations.

Original Selection Process: In 2017, the DNR published a Request for Proposal and reviewed bids for services requested. Forum Communications Company was awarded the bid due to their ability to meet the printing and distribution requirements as well as being cost effective.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$31,142.62; Timeframe: 08/21/17-08/20/18; Purpose: print and ship Iowa Fishing Regulations

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount \$32,759.07; Timeframe: 08/20/18-08/20/19; Purpose: one year extension

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

***8. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT: CHAPTER 18 LEASE RENEWAL — BETTY GINGERICH – CLAYTON COUNTY**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 127-R with Betty Gingerich.

Location: An area approximately 8' x 24' adjacent to Lot 12 in Block 18, Section 22, Township 95N, Range 3W of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site contains an 8' x 24' portion of a garage for storage.

Lease History: The location has been under lease since 2013.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$300 with a condition 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.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

9. PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

9.1. COPELAND BEND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, FREMONT COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Fremont County near Copeland Bend Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 100 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$95,500

Appraised Value: \$99,700

Property Description: This property is located 12 miles west of Sidney in western Fremont County. The level tract is entirely enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and consists of a mix of sedge meadow, herbaceous plants, and open water wetlands. The Missouri River is located just one mile west of the tract. There are no building improvements. A 30-foot wide access easement provides ingress/egress extending east from a county road.

Purpose: This tract is a part of a larger complex of wildlife habitat along the Missouri River that includes several hundred acres of permanent WRP lands both up and downstream. The property will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$54,500 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$41,000 Missouri River Valley Wetland Federal NAWCA

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

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.2. LANSING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent Lansing Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 197 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$730,000

Appraised Value: \$739,275

Property Description: This property is located 3 miles north of Lansing in northwestern Allamakee County. The moderately rolling to steep tract is characterized by narrow ridgetop field totaling 31 acres in grassland, and the remainder acreage covered by heavily forested bluffs and ravines. There are no building improvements. Access is provided through adjacent DNR owned and managed lands.

Purpose: This acquisition will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities, managed as a grassland and high quality hardwood forest community. Wildlife species in the vicinity include Bald eagle, Northern long-eared bat, Curealan warbler, and Timber rattlesnake.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Federal Pittman-Robertson

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

Motion – Commissioner Branstad
Seconded – Commissioner Prickett
Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

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
5/30/19	20-01-67-02 Wildlife	Upper Decatur Bend WMA	Monona	Minor grading, surface leveling and installation of Class "A" granular material with proper slopes for drainage.	\$32,500	\$28,510.00 \$28,626.00 \$43,201.50
5/30/19	20-01-21-01 Wildlife	Hawk Valley & Barringer Slough WMAs	Clay	Minor grading, surface leveling and installation of Class "A" granular material with proper slopes for drainage.	\$29,000	\$22,774.00 \$24,544.00 \$26,662.00 \$27,370.80 \$29,570.00 \$35,155.00
6/3/2019	19-06-92-03 Parks	Lake Darling State Park	Washington	Remove pavement over void and backfill with 1.5" roadstone.	\$10,000	\$6,195.21
6/13/19	19-01-30-06 Parks	Pikes Point State Park	Dickinson	Removal of all existing roof surfacing and damaged sheeting, replacement of ¾" thick roof sheeting, and installation of new asphalt shingle roofing and associated flashings.	\$14,000	\$4,950.84 \$12,816.88 \$17,251.20 \$211,500.00
5/30/19	19CRDLEBEW RIG-0001	Hawkeye WMA	Johnson	Re-frame and finish trim around new door opening. Install new 14'2" x 14' steel sectional overhead door with heavy duty opener and remote system	\$7,250	\$7,240.00

INFORMATIONAL

11. CONTRACT AMENDMENT #1 WITH QUAIL CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract amendment with Quail Construction, LLC of Spencer, Iowa.

Construction Project: Boat Storage Building and Shop, Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery - Dickinson County

Engineering Project #: 18-01-30-01

Amendment #1 Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$175,374.00

Funding Source(s): 50% Marine Fuel Tax, 50% Federal Coast Guard

Amendment Purpose: The existing foundation soils tested poorly for compaction and bearing capacity. In order to prevent future building settlement, the weak soils will be removed (to a depth of 6 feet) and replaced with rock fill, as recommended by a geotechnical engineer. This work will not affect the original contracted completion date.

Original Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to construct a 40' x 142' eight bay storage building to fit the larger Law Enforcement Bureau patrol boats, buoys, buoy chains and anchors, maintenance supplies and tools, and general boating supplies, as well as a work area to maintain equipment. These patrol boats will mainly serve the Spirit Lake area. Additionally, a 40' x 62' workshop will be attached to the boat storage pole building for use by DNR Fisheries staff. It will include two heated shop bays, one restroom, a mechanical room, and a storage room.

Original Cost Estimate: \$716,230.00

Operating Bureau: Law Enforcement & Fisheries

Funding Source: 50% Marine Fuel Tax, 50% Federal Coast Guard

Plans Issue Date: 08/29/2018

Bid Letting Date: 09/20/2018

Original Completion Date: 08/30/2019

Original Selection Process Summary: In 2018, the DNR used a formal competitive bid process; NRC approved: 10/11/2018. Quail Construction, LLC, was awarded the contract as the low bidder.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$716,140.00; Purpose: construct a boat storage facility and workshop

Motion – Commissioner Foell
Seconded – Commissioner Branstad
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION

• Commissioner Briefing Topics

- DNR Organizational Chart
- Roles: DNR, Natural Resource Commission
- Communication / External Contact Form

- **Commissioner Comments:** Commissioners noted appreciation for the July field tour and progress toward a resolution with the Iowa City deer management plan, as well as shared personal natural resource related experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Commissioner Schemmel
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Decision - Approved by Unanimous Vote
With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Chair Underwood adjourned the meeting on 07/11/19 at 3:37pm

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

UPCOMING NRC MEETING DATES

- Thu, 08/08/19, 9:30am, Business Meeting: IA DNR, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines, IA
- Wed, 09/11/19, 11:00 am, Field Tour: Cerro Gordo County (tbd)
- Thu, 09/12/19, 8:30 am, Business Meeting: Cerro Gordo County (tbd)
- Thu, 10/10/19, 9:30am, Business Meeting: IA DNR, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines, IA

VISITORS/ATTENDEES - SIGN IN SHEET

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 7/11/19

PLEASE PRINT

If you wish to speak before the NRC, also complete a Public Speaker Form.

NAME ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP	GROUP REPRESENTING (if applicable)	TOPIC OF INTEREST
Janet Ashmore	Johnson Co Home IA Fed of Home Societies	DEER

PUBLIC SPEAKER FORM

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

(Please review the Public Participation Procedure for presentation guidance.)

PLEASE PRINT

Date: 7/11/19

Name:

Karl Jungbluth

Address:

1372 Peony Ln

City, State, Zip:

Boone, IA 50036

Group Representing (if any):

^{None} Ledges Park neighbor

Subject Matter:

Bike trails?

PUBLIC SPEAKER FORM

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

(Please review the Public Participation Procedure for presentation guidance.)

PLEASE PRINT

Date:

11 July 19

Name:

ETLEND GEBBIE

Address:

1305 PEONY LANE

City, State, Zip:

BOONE 50036

Group Representing (if any):

NONE - LIVE N. OF LEDGES

Subject Matter:

TRAILS

PUBLIC SPEAKER FORM

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

(Please review the Public Participation Procedure for presentation guidance.)

PLEASE PRINT

Date: 7.11.2019

Name:

Lori Kendrick

Address:

551 Bear Dr. Tiffin, IA 53340

City, State, Zip:

Group Representing (if any):

Deer friends

Subject Matter:

Iowa City deer management

PUBLIC SPEAKER FORM

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

(Please review the Public Participation Procedure for presentation guidance.)

PLEASE PRINT

Date:

7/11/19

Name:

JANET ASHMAN

Address:

903 5th Ave

City, State, Zip:

IC IA 52240

Group Representing (if any):

LOWONCO HUMANS
12 Deer Committee, IA Fed of

Subject Matter:

HUMANE DEER

7/11/19 re item #5
Submitted by
Commissioner Francisco

Commissioner Francisco,

Iowa DNR Wildlife Depredation Biologists work with cities on an annual basis to evaluate the effectiveness of Urban Deer Management Zones (DMZs) with Archery Hunts. The measures are most meaningful when analyzed as long term trends. Evaluation criteria include: winter helicopter aerial deer surveys (estimate of minimal number of deer and their distribution), tracking of total deer harvest including the number of licenses sold and percent harvest success (estimate of deer abundance based on effort and success), and deer/vehicle collisions and property damage complaints. The first 2 measures are tracked over time by DNR biologists and the last 2 are tracked by city administrators. The cost of aerial surveys is shared between the cities and DNR.

Following is a brief summary of the total program from this past hunting season:

During the 2018-19 Deer Season there were 21 Urban Archery hunts. A total of 3,800 antlerless licenses were available. Of those, 2,239 were purchased (59%) and 1,073 deer were harvested (48% success); 960 were females (89%). An additional 154 Incentive licenses were available. 145 were purchased and 68 deer were harvested (47% success).

Of Iowa's 947 incorporated cities, only 27 encompass more than 12 square miles within their incorporated boundaries. Of the 20 cities with the largest incorporated areas (in square miles), 17 have established archery hunts (highlighted in yellow) and 2 allow bow hunting within city limits (highlighted in green):

Des Moines, 82.53, Cedar Rapids, 72.03, Davenport, 65.09, Waterloo, 63.18, Sioux City, 58.56, Council Bluffs, 43.64, West Des Moines, 39.45, Clinton, 38.03, Dubuque, 31.22, Cedar Falls, 29.58, Ankeny, 29.31, Mason City, 28.07, Iowa City, 25.27, Ames, 24.26, Bettendorf, 22.37, Urbandale, 21.93, Marshalltown, 19.29, Johnston, 18.35, Muscatine, 18.34, Ottumwa, 16.52,

Specific information for a few of the urban hunts is as follows:

Cedar Rapids (Urban Archery Season Established 2004/2006) –In 2018, 400 licenses available, 206 purchased (52%), 108 deer harvested (52% success), 91% of deer harvested were females. In January 2017, the city reported a 57% reduction in deer killed on the road since the program began.

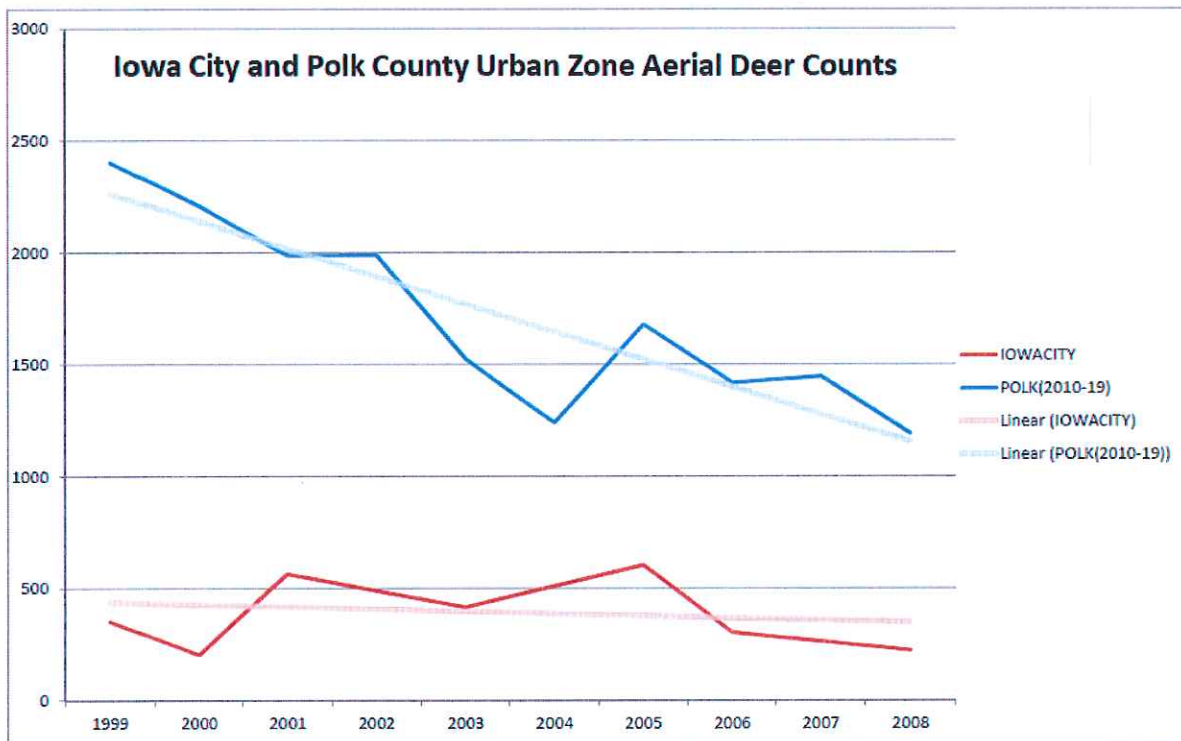
Coralville (Established 1999) - In 2018, 200 licenses available, 125 purchased (63%), 50 deer harvested (40% success), 90% of deer harvested were females.

Ames (Established in 2007) - In 2018, 50 licenses available, 14 purchased (28%), 6 deer harvested (43% success), 100% of deer harvested were females. Access is restricted to a small acreage of public lands in 5 areas, and there are fairly stringent requirements for hunting on private lands.

Council Bluffs (Established in 2008) - In 2018, 300 licenses available, 86 purchased (29%), 43 deer harvested (50% success), 100% of deer harvested were females. 40% reduction in deer/vehicle collisions.

Aerial Counts: Please refer to pages 5 and 6 in the attached 2018-19 Polk County Deer Task Force Report for the results of helicopter deer surveys over a 53.44 square mile area from 1996 to 2019. The

following graph shows the total deer count trend line for the past 10 years. For reference, the deer count trend line for the last 10 years (2001-2010) that counts were conducted in Iowa City are provided.



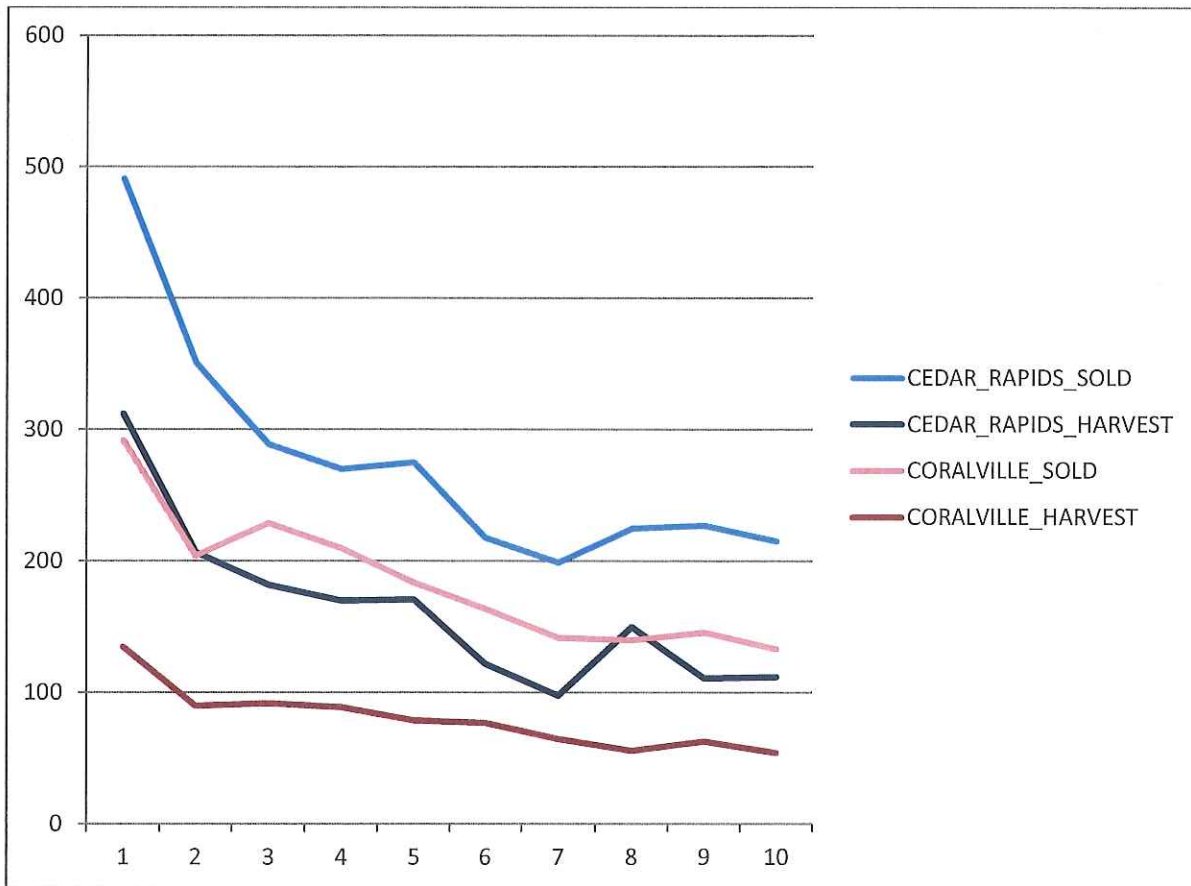
A second document is attached, submitted by Andy Kellner, showing the annual deer counts for Water Works Park from 1996 to 2019, with the following description:

"I've attached an example from Water Works Park (WW) in Des Moines that really illustrates the efficacy of the urban hunt. WW had a lot of deer before hunting was involved. The graph demonstrates the reduction in numbers as the hunt occurred over the years. Starting either in 2012 or 2013 WW changed administration and hunting was no longer allowed. The curve follows the models that Willie had put together in the past to a "T". I attached another graph that has the deer numbers for WW as well as a residential area immediately north of WW and is zoomed in to a few years before hunting was halted and a few years after. The effect of taking hunting out of the equation has been significant. I hope to meet with Water Works staff this summer to discuss the deer hunt and encourage them to reconsider taking part in the hunt program. Please see the attached document "WWDiscussion_DeerHunting_2019".

-Andy Kellner, Wildlife Depredation Biologist

2009 through 2018 Deer Harvest									
Year	Cedar Rapids			Ames			Coralville		
	License Sold	Deer Harvest	% Success	License Sold	Deer Harvest	% Success	License Sold	Deer Harvest	% Success
2009	491	312	64%	22	11	50%	292	135	46%
2010	351	207	59%	31	10	32%	204	90	44%
2011	289	182	63%	28	8	29%	229	92	40%
2012	270	170	63%	33	10	30%	210	89	42%
2013	275	171	62%	36	21	58%	184	79	43%
2014	218	122	56%	36	12	33%	164	77	47%
2015	199	98	49%	26	17	65%	142	65	46%
2016	225	150	67%	23	8	35%	140	56	40%
2017	227	111	49%	36	7	19%	146	63	43%
2018	215	112	52%	15	7	47%	133	54	41%
Totals	2760	1635	59%	286	111	39%	1844	800	43%

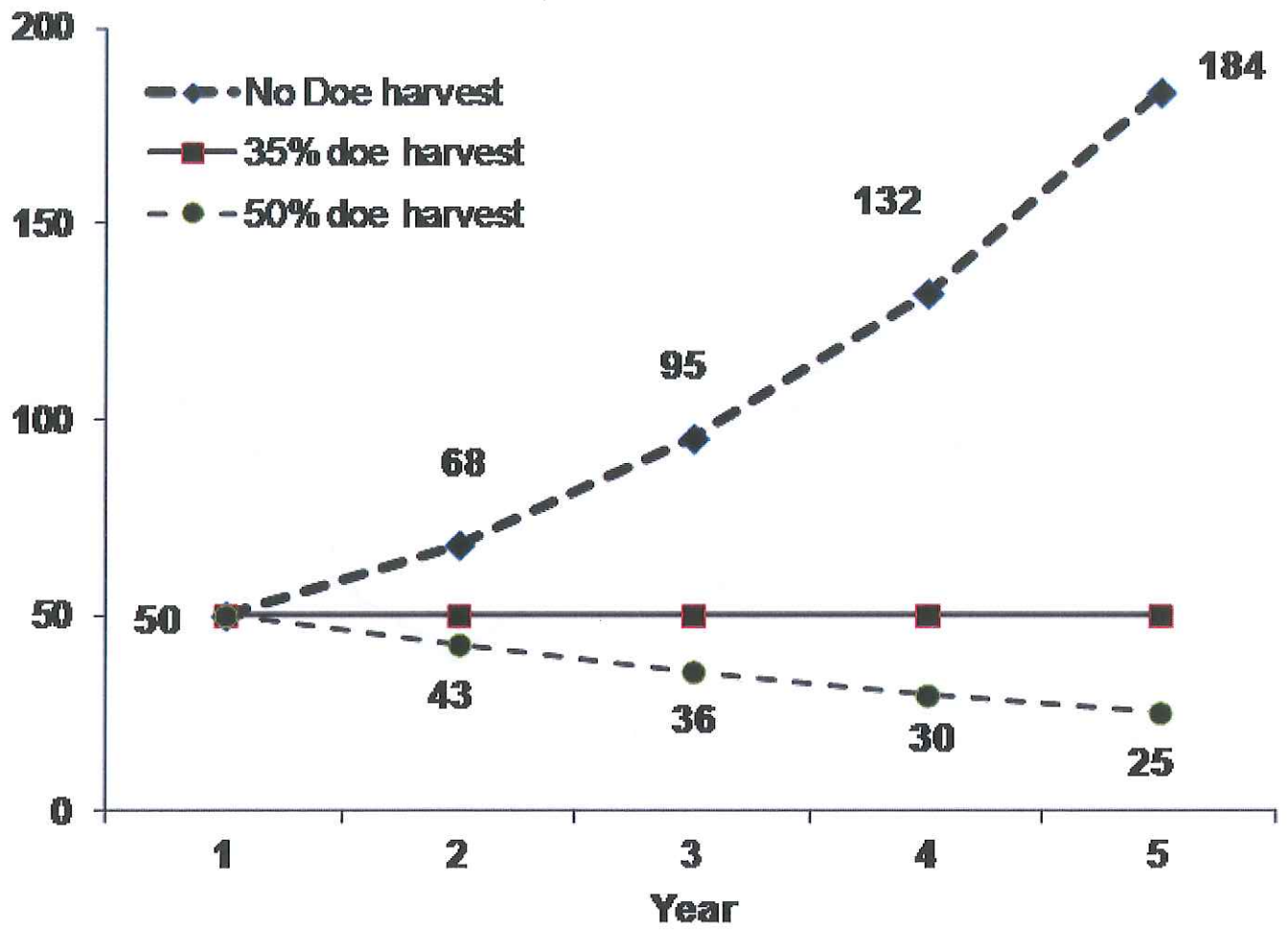
The City of Cedar Rapids, utilizing an urban deer hunt, harvested 1,635 deer over the past 10 years, averaging 90% female (1,471 females). Although direct comparisons are not appropriate, for reference, Iowa City DMZ harvest for 12 year period from 1999 to 2010 was 1,868, averaging about 68% female (1,270 females). License sales tend to decline in response to declines in deer numbers, especially since harvest tends to be concentrated in areas where access is available. Success rates are more stable, but also tend to decline in response to declines in deer numbers. Tracking license sales and harvest success provides an index to the status of deer numbers in urban areas. The graph below depicts the 10 year trends represented in the table above.



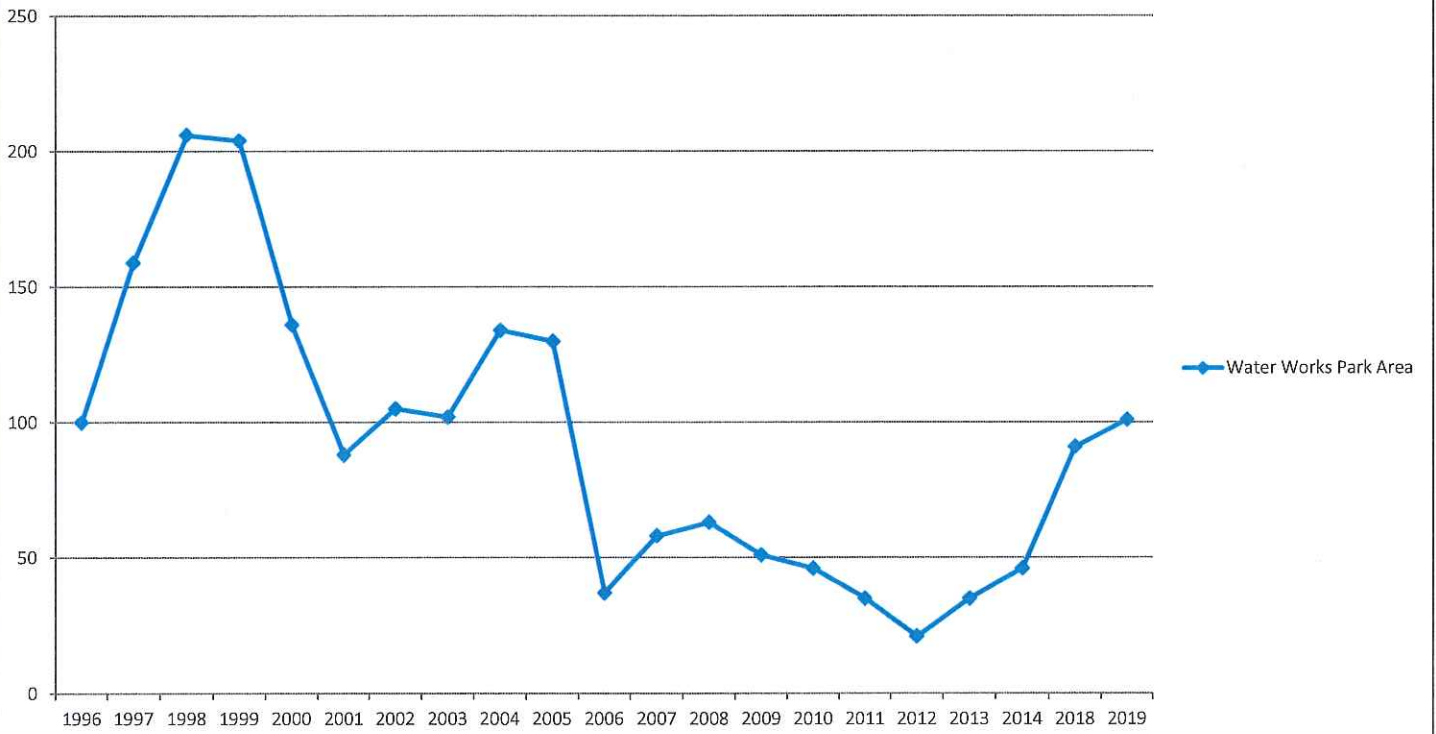
City administrators track social acceptance for deer numbers primarily through deer/vehicle collisions and property damage complaints. This information has not been compiled in a standardized format, and is more anecdotal, but it is definitely a primary concern of the city administrators. These statistics tend to follow similar trend lines to license sales and harvest.

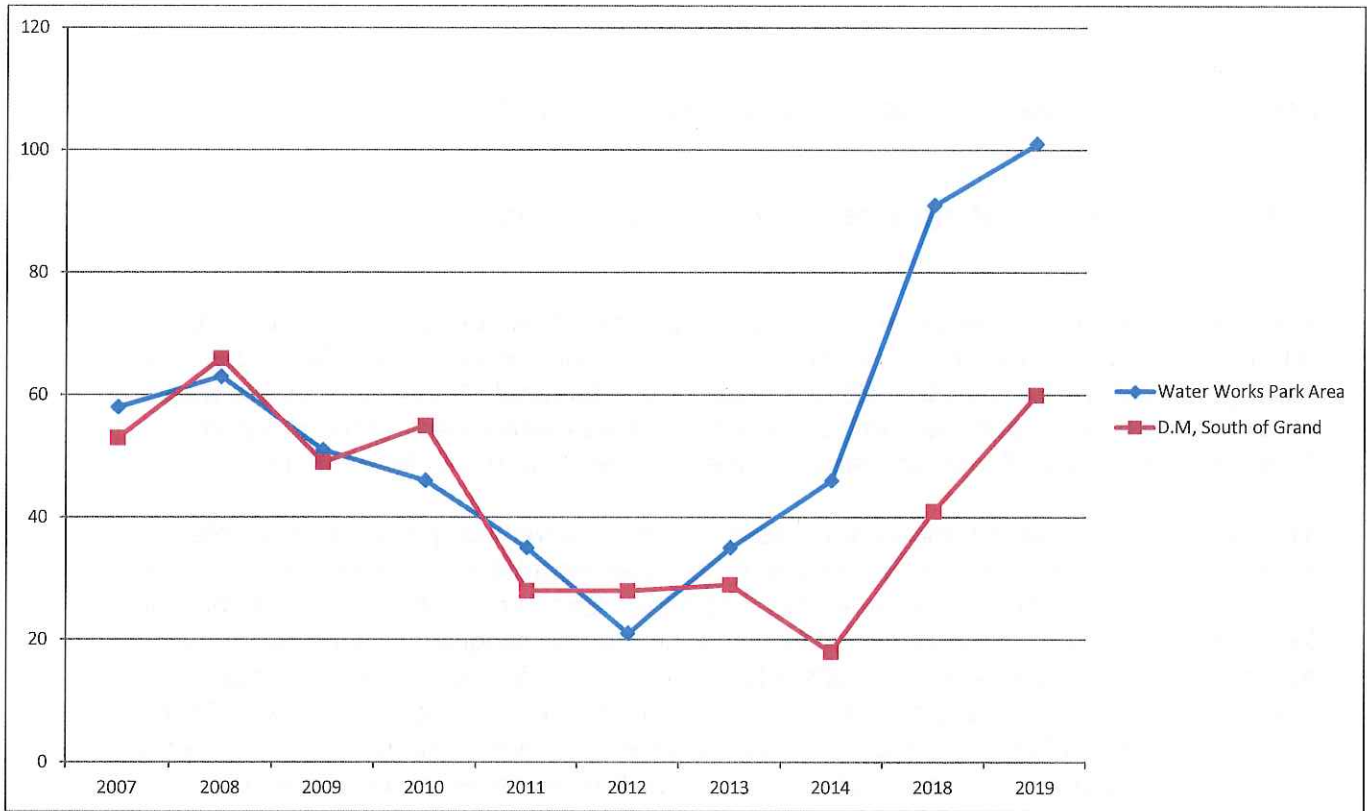
Access remains an important factor in the success of urban archery hunts. As the Water Works Park example demonstrates, refuge areas can result in locally abundant deer numbers, and associated issues with property damage, even when city-wide deer numbers are within acceptable levels. We see this to varying degrees in most of the urban DMZ areas. Ultimately, the best measure of success of the DMZ urban archery hunts has been their longevity and the strength of the partnerships between DNR, cities, counties, NGOs, private businesses and hunters that work together to administer successful hunts and manage urban deer herds. The attached letter from the Chair of the Polk County Deer Task Force is a good example.

Urbandale is another good example: "The City of Urbandale makes its hunters jump through more hurdles than most of the other hunts I work with but at the same time the hunt administrators (Urbandale Police Department in this case) are extremely appreciative of the hunt and see the impact in deer-vehicle accidents that they need to respond to. I'm working with Urbandale to help get another public park into the hunt system because they want to increase pressure in areas where we are observing more deer from our aerial deer surveys." -Andy Kellner, Wildlife Depredation Biologist



Water Works Park Area







Leading You Outdoors

www.leadingyououtdoors.org | pccb_info@polkcountyiowa.gov

11407 NW Jester Park Drive Granger, Iowa 50109 | Phone 515.323.5300 | Fax 515.323.5354

May 17, 2019

Dear City Administrator / Manager, and Bow-Hunt Coordinators:

2018-2019 Urban Deer Management Bow-Hunt Harvest Report

The Polk County Deer Task Force (PCDTF) is pleased to report another successful urban deer hunt. A total of 357 antlerless deer were harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone for the 2018-2019 season. An additional 18 incentive bucks were also harvested. As usual, no complaints were received with regard to the program. This completes the 21st year of managing the deer herd via urban bow hunting.

The aerial survey was completed for a second consecutive year providing valuable information on the success of the program. The deer population numbers remain stable or a slight decrease in the deer management zone. Each entity should consult the data for their respective areas to determine if expansion of the program is necessary. As a reminder, the IDNR biologists indicate a harvest of approximately 30% of the doe population in a given area is necessary to maintain the current population level. Thank you to each city for keeping amounts in their budget that directly fund the annual Aerial Survey. The reports from these surveys are a vital tool in managing our urban deer population.

Archery Field & Sports will offer proficiency testing starting June 1, 2019 and will provide program education to any new hunters. It appears the list of vendors providing zone 48 tags will remain the same. Look for the final list in the hunt brochure later this year. The PCDTF thanks those vendors who provide services that allow the urban hunt to continue.

The PCDTF continues to emphasize and asks each participating entity to support our efforts to ensure well qualified, law abiding, and ethical hunters are involved in the program. Please continue to use the watch list (to be distributed later) to make decisions regarding hunter participation in your program and contribute to the watch list if you have violations in your program. The IDNR conservation officers are committed to helping police the program. They have requested a list of hunters and hunt maps and I encourage you to provide those materials as well as to encourage your hunters to report any suspicious activity to the IDNR TIP line.



Leading You Outdoors www.leadingyououtdoors.org | pccb_info@polkcountyia.gov

11407 NW Jester Park Drive Granger, Iowa 50109 | Phone 515.323.5300 | Fax 515.323.5354

Once again, there will be no deer processing companies within Polk County that participate in the HUSH program. Please advise hunters of this fact and the PCDTF suggests the hunters share names of those who may be interested in receiving any extra deer. Participating HUSH lockers can be found on the DNR web site and are generally within 30 minutes of the hunt areas.

While the program has operated very well with minimal changes over the last few years, we are always discussing possible improvements. This year we are looking at adding hunter surveys to better understand the wildlife living in urban areas. This hunter reported data regarding deer sightings can be used to supplement the aerial survey information to fine tune the program.

Thank you for your support of this program and our goal to maintain a healthy and controlled population of the white-tailed deer in Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

Roger Jackson, Polk County Deer Task Force Chair

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2018-2019 Deer Report



Executive Summary
Post Season Reports
Aerial Survey Results
Bow-Hunt Administrators
Advisory Organizations

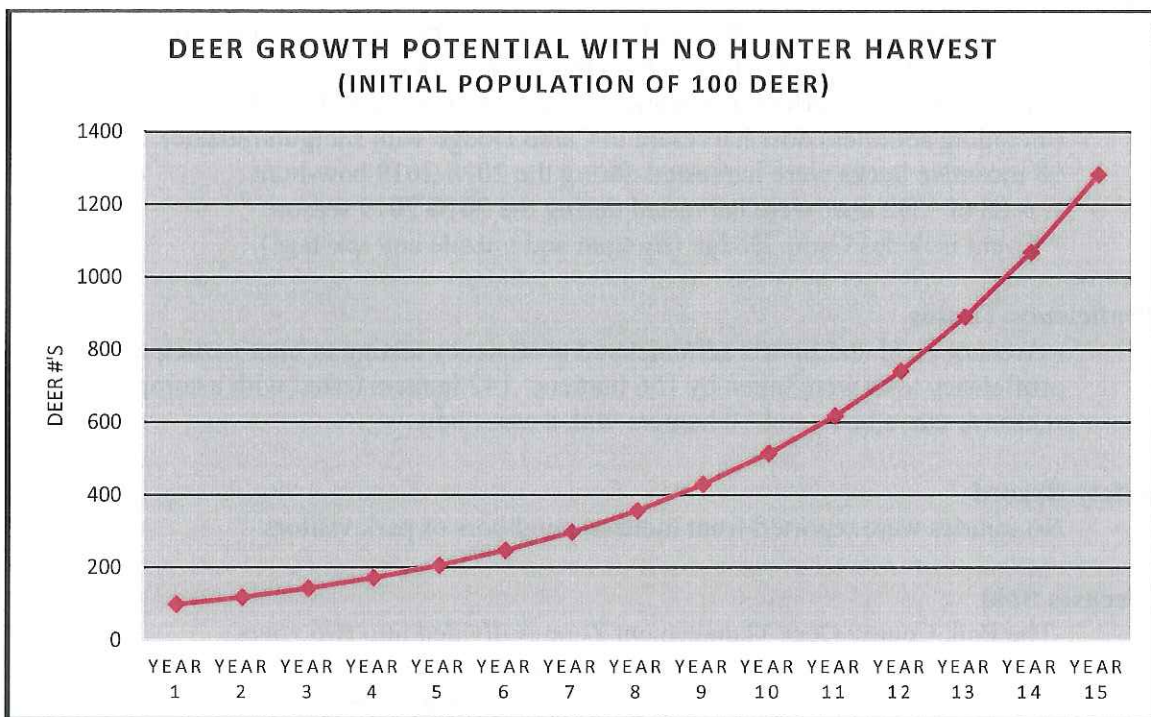
Compiled by the
Polk County Deer Task Force

The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the White-tailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage. We support the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically acceptable levels.

-1997 Position Statement of the Polk County Deer Task Force

Executive Summary

Based on harvest records and agency observations, it is recommended that the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt should be continued for the 2019-2020 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. Agencies are encouraged to continue or expand hunting opportunities in their areas of control. Deer population numbers may have been reduced to target goals in some areas but still remain higher in neighborhood habitats where hunting may not be a control option. Agencies may need to remember that an uncontrolled deer population can double every three to four years. Continued hunting pressure within the Deer Management Zone has produced remarkable results in managing deer populations across the area.



The graph above depicts potential population growth of a deer herd where no hunting is allowed. The growth takes into account average population structure based on probable gender and age distribution. Considerations are also given to related fecundity rates. Distribution of these animals over time and as densities increase can vary. A relatively confined population will probably contribute to an increase in deer numbers over an increasingly larger geographical area over time.

Post Season Reports

Hunting Season

-This year the IDNR allowed participating entities to use September 15, 2018 through January 27, 2019, for the Polk County Deer Management Zone bow-hunting season. Agencies could choose to use these dates for their season, or tailor their hunt to suit individual needs (as long as the dates were within the allowable season above). Pending approval from the Natural Resource Commission, the proposed hunt dates for the 2019 - 2020 season will be September 14, 2019 through January 26, 2020.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 318 antlerless deer were harvested during the 2018-2019 bow-hunt, which is an increase from 279 in the 2017-2018 season.

- A total of 357 antlerless deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antlerless deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).

18 incentive bucks were harvested during the 2018-2019 bow-hunt

A total of *392 deer were harvested during the 2018-2019 season.

* Count includes Camp Dodge (shotgun and muzzle any sex-tags)

Proficiency Testing

- Archery Field and Sports administered proficiency testing to hunt participants. 163 proficiency tests were taken by 156 hunters. 142 hunters tested with a compound bow, 4 with a re-curve bow, and 10 hunters with a cross bow.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from hunters, neighbors or park visitors

Licenses Sold

-The Polk County Deer Management Zone is divided into two zones.

1000 licenses were available for zone 48 which includes all of the cities, Polk County Conservation areas and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers areas.

75 licenses were available in zone 61 which is comprised of mostly rural areas not included in zone 48. Hunters purchased 570 antlerless licenses in zone 48 and 25 antlerless licenses in zone 61 for use in the Polk County Deer Management Zone.



Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2019

By Andy Kellner
Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were flown on February 15th using a Hughes-OH6 helicopter piloted by Bachman Aero, Inc. Observers were Andy Kellner and Jenny Swanson. Conditions for the survey were good with >6" of snow. The sky was partly to mostly cloudy and winds were light out of the northwest. Temperatures started in the single digits and were in the lower teens by end of the day. Sighting conditions were good. Some deer beds were visible.

The number of deer sighted for each area is reported in Table 1. The number of deer recorded should be viewed as a minimum count. Each area listed was divided up into discrete units and circled or flown systematically. Where necessary the helicopter was brought around to count areas more thoroughly. Deer activity largely varied with the passing of the helicopter with some deer remaining still and others vacating the area.

Overall, the numbers are similar to or slightly lower from the last aerial surveys flown in 2018. With year-to-year variability in a number of things (weather, winter severity, construction, etc...) there are some significant changes in localized survey areas. Water Works and surrounding survey areas (East of Fleur, South of Grand survey area) continue to see increased deer numbers since hunting was halted in Water Works Park. The numbers in those areas are approaching the historical high counts in the mid-2000s. Quail Park was flown but not the area immediately adjacent to the airport. The Pleasant Hill survey areas were combined this year. The survey intensity in the rural areas on the north end of Saylorville Reservoir (from Hwy 17 to Mile Long Bridge) were decreased due to time and fuel constraints. This likely resulted in the lower numbers of observed deer for those survey areas.

Overall counts are considerably lower than we would expect if the controlled hunts had not been initiated in 1998. This hunting pressure has helped bring numbers down from the highest counts observed in 2007 in certain areas. Some areas appear to be stabilizing but doing so at levels originally deemed acceptable by the task force. Areas with little or no hunting pressure appear to be keeping overall numbers slightly above acceptable density levels.



Table 1. Results from the helicopter deer surveys in Polk county, 1996 to present.

Urban Areas Surveyed	Area (Square Miles)	Deer Sighted																					
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2018	2019	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46	35	21	35	46	91	101	
D.M., South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55	28	28	29	18	41	60	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												150	164	188	103	76	76	74	49			
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151	189	182	238	165	153	159	
Baster Lake & DSM River East	6.74	26	43	58	135	145	110	163	132	146	239	84	418	233	209	254	195	142	174	112	127	93	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61	33	19	51	44	40	30	
Four Mile Creek:																							
I80-Des Moines River	5.29	7	41	51	99	79	39	83	87	100	107	118	174	165	179	164	87	113	114	91	50	47	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	39	86	63	53	43	70	77	63	128
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												25	31	150	162	128	90	71	138	123	126	
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177	125	71	98	167	176	118	
Marga Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	17	25	18	21	14	12	2	7		
Rook Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47	41	46	34	33	38	23	
Des Moines River:																							
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	83	115	83	150	124	122	162	209	296	184	153	278	238	143	155	150	123	193	148	200	170	
North of I-80*	2.81														173	122	124	111	82	118	97	138	106
South of I-80*	1.85														63	21	31	39	41	75	51	62	64
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.26										63	56	38	10	25	35	30	33	15	17	14	18	18
Quail Park, W. DSM	0.90																			101	92		35
Walnut Creek:																							
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	7	5	23	14	14	25	42	19	30	50	19	40	40	27	22	13	11	33	11	
Clive Area, west of I-35*	0.30														23	15	10	5	8	6	4	3	9
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17	24	18	22	29	14	51	
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186	170	127	154	111	152	103	
Beaver Creek (Johnston):																							
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	41	92	117	133	125	89	113	135	230	135	89	198	150	166	268	142	118	99	81	114	87	
Total	53.44	482	1,080	1,275	1,448	1,345	1,149	1,165	1,317	1923	1543	1091	2401	2205	1986	1987	1524	1240	1678	1418	1446	1190	
Rural Areas																							
Saylorville Reservoir																							
Camp Dodge	2.23	55	71	93	105	108	69	73	68	195	165	148	234	148	109	93	107	49	91	101	64	82	
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136	84	115	94	36	20	36	
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55		41	72	94	83	85	86	50	137	94	55	66	127	91	90	105	110	67	67	97	83	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178	179	201	225	184	126	57	
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	88	158	161	95	95	132	127	108	189	82	110	133	221	165	187	201	238	132	133	118	56	
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	143	366	421	371	401	400	347	276	630	529	503	655	818	585	684	676	713	609	521	425	314	

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

Table 1. Results from the helicopter deer surveys in Polk county, 1996 to present.

Urban Areas Surveyed	Deer per Square Mile																				Change (2013 to 2019)		
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2018		2019	
Water Works Park Area	26	41	53	52	35	23	27	26	34	33	9	15	16	13	12	9	5	9	12	23	26	189%	
D.M. South of Grand	0	0	41	33	28	36	36	26	46	41	13	39	48	36	40	20	20	21	13	30	44	110%	
DSM airport west-63rd*												84	92	106	58	43	43	42	28	0	0	-100%	
Browns & Walnut Woods	10	31	35	25	30	20	22	37	54	40	33	72	51	55	36	45	43	57	39	36	38	-33%	
Enster Lake & DSM River East	4	6	9	20	22	16	24	20	22	35	12	62	35	31	38	29	21	26	17	19	14	-46%	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	14	30	35	44	38	70	46	56	44	45	17	63	53	44	35	19	11	29	25	23	17	-41%	
Four Mile Creek:																							
I-80-Des Moines River	1	8	10	19	15	7	16	16	19	20	22	33	31	34	31	16	21	22	17	9	9	-59%	
Pleasant Hill west*											48	71	63	92	68	57	46	75	76	68	138	84%	
Pleasant Hill east											26	31	66	71	56	40	31	61	54	56			
North of I-80	13	29	29	36	26	23	19	18	23	29	4	28	45	31	40	28	16	22	38	40	27	23%	
Margo Frankel Woods	19	18	45	5	29	15	8	0	36	19	10	19	19	22	32	23	27	18	15	3	9	-50%	
Rock Creek	9	25	13	18	17	27	8	13	15	9	18	23	32	20	16	14	16	12	11	13	8	-33%	
Des Moines River:																							
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	18	25	18	32	27	26	35	45	64	39	33	60	51	31	33	32	26	41	32	43	36	-12%	
North of I-80*													62	43	44	40	29	42	35	49	38	-10%	
South of I-80*													34	11	17	21	22	41	28	34	35	-15%	
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0								242	215	146	38	96	135	115	127	58	65	54	69	69	6%	
Quail Park- W. DSM																		112	102	0	39	-63%	
Walnut Creek:																							
Raccoon River to I-80	0	1	9	6	29	18	18	32	53	24	38	63	24	51	51	34	28	16	14	42	14	-13%	
Clive Area; west of I-35*														77	50	33	17	27	20	13	10	30	50%
Living History Farms				49	49	24	102	39	83	63	73	61	105	56	41	59	44	54	71	34	124	130%	
West of I-80	43	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135	123	92	112	80	110	75	-33%	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)													169	125	136	103	46	123	115	115	115	-8%	
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	13	30	38	43	40	29	36	43	74	43	29	64	48	53	86	46	38	32	26	37	28	-13%	
Total	9	20	24	27	25	22	22	25	36	29	20	45	41	37	37	29	23	31	27	27	22	-29%	
Rural Areas																							
Saylorville Reservoir																							
Camp Dodges	25	32	42	47	48	31	33	30	87	74	66	105	66	49	42	48	22	41	45	29	37	-10%	
Dam to MLB (west side)	-	32	32	13	20	18	32	26	57	24	35	51	59	45	71	44	60	49	19	10	19	-61%	
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	-	16	28	37	33	33	34	20	54	37	22	26	50	36	35	41	43	26	26	38	33	27%	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	-	8	8	13	18	19	-	-	34	29	30	50	32	43	43	48	54	44	30	14		-74%	
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	18	33	33	20	20	27	26	22	39	17	23	28	46	34	39	42	49	27	28	24	12	-56%	
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	-	23	27	24	26	25	22	18	40	34	32	42	52	37	44	45	39	33	27	20	-49%		

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

Bow-Hunt Administrators

- City of Des Moines: Mike Gaul (515)-248-6329
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Johnston: Jim Sanders (515) 727-7760
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Polk County Conservation: Brian Herrstrom (515) 967-4889, c (515) 249-1753
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Saylorville Lake): Coty Thompson (515) 276-4656 x 6514
- City of Urbandale: Holly Pickett (515) 278-3910
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Walnut Woods State Park (IDNR): Tim Gedler (515) 285-4502
- City of West Des Moines: Sally Ortegies (515) 222-3447 Dave Sadler (515) 222-3444
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Clive: Jeff Theilen (515) 238-0648, Joel Pasco (515) 210-7581
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis (515) 208-5212, Rick Courcier (515) 208-8214
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting

Advisory Organizations

The following organizations serve in an advisory capacity to the Polk County Deer Task Force (in addition to the organizations listed above).

- Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources: Andy Kellner (515) 975-8318
- City of Ankeny, City of Des Moines Animal Control, City of Grimes, City of Polk City, Dallas County Conservation Board, Des Moines Water Works
- Archery Field and Sports, Des Moines Audubon, Des Moines Founders' Garden Club, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, IDNR Law Enforcement, Iowa Bow Hunters Assoc. (IBA), National Field Archery Association, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Sierra Club and Westwood Neighborhood Association.

2018 - 2019 Deer Harvest

POLK-DALLAS URBAN ZONE 48

A. **Polk County Conservation (PCC) Public Areas:** Brian Herrstrom 967-4889

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Jester Park				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2	0	6	32
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	10
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	2
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2	2	3	17
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (0 allotted)	0	0	0	1
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (0 allotted)	0	0	0	1
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1	0	1	2
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (0 allotted)	0	0	1	7
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck (0 allotted)	0	0	0	3
Polk County Conservation (PCC) Harvest Total	5	2	11	75

B. **City of Clive Public Areas:** Jeff Theilen 238-0648 / Joel Pasco 210-7581

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	1	0	2	2
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	0	0	0	2
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	0	2	4
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive Harvest Total	1	0	2	4

City of Des Moines Public Areas: Michael Gaul 248-6329				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Cases Lake: Hartford Ave	1	0	1	5
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	0	0	0	0
Ewing Park	0	0	0	1
Laurel Hill Woods	0	0	0	2
MacRae Park	0	0	3	3
Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0
Ashworth Park	0	0	8	6
Incentive Buck (6 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	0	12	17
City of Des Moines Private Property				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
SW / Airport Area (South of Waterworks Park, West of Fleur to limits)	2	0	0	5
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	0	1	3	27
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	3	2	7	17
MacRae Park Area	0	0	0	5
Prospect / Beaverdale Park Area	0	0	0	7
East Area (East and Northeast area of city)	1	0	3	10
Incentive Buck (11 allotted)				
Sub-total	6	3	13	71
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	7	3	25
		88		

D. Des Moines Water Works: Jessica Barnett				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
2201 George Flagg Parkway, 50321	0	0	0	0
Des Moines Water Works	Harvest Total	0	0	0

E. City of Johnston Public Areas: Jim Sanders 727-7760				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Area A: Army Corps of Engineers (See USACE totals)				
Area C: Sycamore Trail (See PCC totals)				
Area E: City of Johnston - 156 Acres Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1			5
Sub-total	1	0	0	5
City of Johnston Private Property				
Private Property	1			5
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				
Sub-total	1	0	0	5
City of Johnston	Harvest Total	2	0	0
		2	0	10

F. City of Pleasant Hill: Rick Courcier 208-8214 / Heath Ellis 208-5212				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Polk County Property (See Polk County Totals)				
City Property	0	0	0	0
Private Property Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	7
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total	0	0	0
		0	0	7

G. City of Urbandale Public Areas: Holly Pickett 515-278-3910				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
City Parks Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	1	4
Sub-total	0	0	1	4
City of Urbandale Private Property				
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35) Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	2	0	1	16
Other Private Property Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	1	15
Sub-total	2	0	2	31
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total	2	0	3
		2	0	35

H. City of West Des Moines Public Areas: David Sadler 222-3456				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
South Woods	0	0	0	11
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	0	0	0	11
City of West Des Moines Private Property				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1	0	0	6
Sub-total	1	0	0	6
City of West Des Moines	Harvest Total	1	0	0
				17

I. USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Coty Thompson, Ext. 6514				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Saylorville	0	0	1	22
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
Polk City Refuge				
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
USACE	Harvest Total	0	0	1
				22

J. Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Walnut Woods State Park	0	0	6	7
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
Walnut Woods State Park	Harvest Total	0	0	6
				7

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 265
Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 18
Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 5
Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 48

Antler-less tags available zone 48: 1000 Sold: 570
 Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48 40 Sold: 39

K. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 48				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	19	5	50	264
ELSI	Harvest Total			
	19	5	50	264

ELSI harvest totals for zone 48 are displayed to show reporting discrepancies by hunters to both administrating agencies and IDNR.

POLK-DALLAS RURAL ZONE 61

L. Camp Dodge: Shannan Garretson 252-4648				
	Buck**	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Archery / Shotgun / Muzzle loader	17	0	3	29
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)				
Camp Dodge	Total Harvest			
	17	0	3	29

M. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 61				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	0	0	3	4
ELSI	Total Harvest			
	0	0	3	4

Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 39

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 17

Antler-less tags available zone 61: 75 Sold: 25

Antler-less Deer Harvested	Total	357
* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61		
Incentive Bucks	Total	18
Bucks: Camp Dodge** and ELSI zone 61	Total	17
**Normal seasons (shotgun/bow) and any-sex tags allowed		
Total Deer Harvested		392



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION**

NRC FIELD TOUR/PRESENTATIONS AGENDA
NRC Field Tour/Presentations Date: Thursday, July 11, 2019
NRC Field Tour/Presentations starting location: DNR Boone Research Station, 1436 255th St, Boone, IA
NRC Field Tour/Presentations convenes at 8:15 am

NRC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
NRC Business Meeting Date: Thursday, July 11, 2019
NRC Business Meeting Location: DNR Boone Research Station, 1436 255th St, Boone, IA
NRC Business Meeting convenes at 1:00 pm

- Public Participation begins at approximately 1:30 pm

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (<i>*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item</i>) *7. Contract Amendment-2 with Forum Communications Company *8. Public Land Management Project: Chapter 18 Lease Renewal — Betty Gingerich – Clayton County	Decision	Commission
2.	Approve Minutes of 06/13/19 NRC Public Meeting	Decision	Commission
3.	Director’s Remarks	Information	Director
4.	Division Administrator’s Remarks	Information	Dale Garner
5.	Petition for Iowa City Urban Deer Management Zone – Special Harvest Request	Decision	IA City, City Mgr
6.	Donations	Decision	Dale Garner
*7.	Contract Amendment-2 with Forum Communications Company	Decision	Joe Larscheid
*8.	Public Land Management Project: Chapter 18 Lease Renewal — Betty Gingerich – Clayton County	Decision	Travis Baker
9.	Public Land Acquisition Projects		
9.1	Copeland Bend Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
9.2	Lansing Wildlife Management Area, Allamakee County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
10.	Construction – Small Projects	Information	Travis Baker
11.	Contract Amendment #1 with Quail Construction, LLC	Decision	Travis Baker
12.	General Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Briefing Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DNR Organizational Chart ○ Roles: DNR, Natural Resource Commission ○ Communication / External Contact Form 		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates:

- Thu, 08/08/19, 9:30am, Business Meeting: IA DNR, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines, IA
- Wed, 09/11/19, 11:00 am, Field Tour: Cerro Gordo County (tbd)
- Thu, 09/12/19, 8:30 am, Business Meeting: Cerro Gordo County (tbd)
- Thu, 10/10/19, 9:30am, Business Meeting: IA DNR, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines, IA

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, and advise of specific needs.

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

Decision Item

5. Request for Iowa City Urban Deer Management Zone – Special Harvest Request

The Department, on behalf of the Commission, has received a request from Iowa City to hold a special deer harvest.

Requestor: Iowa City, City Manager

Proposed Request Summary: Allow the City of Iowa City to hold a special deer harvest using sharpshooters.

Date to Present to NRC: 07/11/19

Attached: Petitioner's Petition/Documentation



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

June 21, 2019

Natural Resource Commission
Henry Wallace Building
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

In re: July 11, 2019 Business Meeting
Urban Deer Management Zone—Special Harvest/Request to Sharp Shoot Deer

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the placing this request by the City of Iowa City on the agenda of your July 11, 2019 business meeting. In addition to Captain Bill Campbell of the Iowa City Police Department and Assistant City Attorney Sue Dulek who appeared in front of you twice in 2018, Mayor Jim Throgmorton, City Council members Bruce Teague and Susan Mims, and I plan on attending the July 11 meeting. We look forward to speaking with you about deer management in our community.

Long-Term Deer Management Plan

In 2018 the NRC urged the City to adopt a long-term deer management plan. I am enclosing with this letter as Exhibit A the resolution passed by the City Council on June 18 adopting the Iowa City Long-Term Deer Management Plan for the Years 2019 to 2024. In short, the plan calls for sharp shooting on two occasions this upcoming winter along with bow hunting the following four winters if necessary to maintain the density levels. The plan also includes a variety of non-lethal activities that the City is committed to doing and to considering.

Previous NRC Action/Historical Background

I do want to include for the record, and for the benefit of the new NRC member, a brief summary of previous NRC Action. The City began its deer management just over twenty (20) years ago with discussions in 1996 with the DNR. As recommended by the DNR, the City formed a committee in 1997 to determine the best methods for the City to manage the deer population consisting of representatives of a variety of groups. After spending 5 months deciding whether to reduce the number of deer and how to do so, the committee recommended to City Council reduction by sharp shooting and trap and kill, but not bow hunting. The NRC approved the request to sharp shoot, and the City entered into a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sharp shoot, but in February 1999, a lawsuit was filed against the USDA alleging a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Court entered a temporary restraining order which terminated the sharpshooting that spring and ended the City's relationship with the USDA.

Beginning the following winter of 1999-2000 and continuing annually through 2009-2010 (with the exception of the winter of 2002-2003), the City contracted with White Buffalo, Inc. to sharp

shoot. In each of those winters the City applied for authorization from the NRC to shoot, and in each year, the NRC granted the application.

Because the numbers of deer were at a reasonable population level, the City notified the NRC in May 2010 that it was not seeking authorization to sharp shoot the following winter. The City's Deer Task Force was also dissolved that spring. Unfortunately, the deer population in the City has grown since 2010 and has returned to the level of twenty (20) years ago. I am attaching as Exhibit B a copy of the report by White Buffalo, Inc. entitled "Iowa City White-Tailed Deer Population Estimate January 2018."

On two occasions in 2018, the City requested authorization from the NRC to sharp shoot for the next five winters by contracting with White Buffalo, Inc. to decrease and manage the deer herd. The NRC denied both requests.

White Buffalo, Inc.

White Buffalo, Inc. is a nonprofit organization with considerable experienced in deer management in urban and suburban settings by means of professional sharpshooting. Its web site is <https://www.whitebuffaloinc.org/> As I said earlier, the City contracted with White Buffalo, Inc. for 10 years without incident and will do so again this year if the NRC approves this request. I am attaching as Exhibit C the sharpshooting protocol employed by White Buffalo, Inc.

Conclusion

The Mayor, Council members Mims and Teague, City staff, and I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you, answer your questions, and address your concerns. If you find that you need additional information, we will provide that to you either in writing and/or in person. If authorization to proceed with sharp shooting the upcoming winter is approved, I will provide the NRC with a report next spring summarizing the operation.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Geoff Fruin
City Manager

Enc.

Copies w/enc. to:

Jody Matherly, Chief of Police
Bill Campbell, Capt. Iowa City Police Dept.
Susan Dulek, Ass't. City Attorney

Prepared by Susan Dulek, Ass't. City Attorney, 410 E. Washington St., Iowa City, IA (319)356-5030

RESOLUTION NO. 19-167

Resolution approving the Long-Term Deer Management Plan for the Years 2019 to 2024.

Whereas, the Iowa Natural Resources Commission is authorized to approve deer management in urban areas;

Whereas, the Iowa Natural Resources Commission has requested that the City have a long-term deer management plan (i.e., 5-year);

Whereas, the attached deer management plan is a 5-year plan to manage the City's deer population with one year of sharpshooting along with four years of bow hunting if necessary to maintain deer density levels;

Whereas, the attached plan also provides a variety of non-lethal deer related activities; and

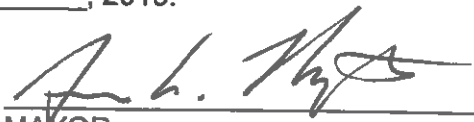
Whereas, the Mayor, and one or two Council members, and City staff plan to present the deer management plan to the Iowa Natural Resources Commission at an upcoming meeting; and

Whereas, during the discussion of the deer management plan with the Iowa Natural Resources Commission, the Mayor should be authorized to make amendments to the plan, with the exception of expanding the bow hunting provision, if needed to get the plan approved.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Iowa City, Iowa, that:

1. The attached Long-Term Deer Management Plan for the Years 2019 to 2024 is approved.
2. The City Manager is authorized to submit the deer management plan to the Iowa Natural Resources Commission for approval.
3. The Mayor is authorized to amend the deer management plan during the Iowa Natural Resources Commission meeting, with the exception of expanding the bow hunting provision.

Passed and approved this 18th day of June, 2019.


MAYOR

ATTEST: 
CITY CLERK

Approved by:

City Attorney's Office

Resolution No. 19-167
Page 2

It was moved by Mims and seconded by Cole the
Resolution be adopted, and upon roll call there were:

AYES:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Cole
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Mims
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Salih
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Taylor
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Teague
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Thomas
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Throgmorton

IOWA CITY LONG-TERM DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE YEARS 2019 TO 2024

(Approved by City Council in Resolution No. 19-167 on June 18, 2019)

I. Sharpshooting in the Winter of 2019-2020

Pursuant to 571 Iowa Admin. Code 105.5, the City will request Natural Resources Commission approval of an urban deer management zone during the winter of 2019-2020. Additionally, the City will request that the special harvest be conducted under the following conditions:

1. The deer management area is defined as all public and private land within the corporate limits as designated by the City Council. Property owners will need to provide the City with permission.
2. The number of deer to be killed will bring the deer to a density of less than 10 deer per square mile.
3. It will be conducted solely by professional wildlife biologists trained as sharpshooters.
4. Bait may be used to attract deer to select sharpshooting locations. All baiting will be discontinued immediately and all remaining bait shall be removed if a CWD (chronic waste disease) positive test result is confirmed. If no CWD positive test result is confirmed, all bait will be removed at the end of the sharp shooting effort.
5. The deer carcasses will be individually identified (i.e., tagged) and transported whole (i.e., not field dressed) to a locker. All deer ages 1 year and older will be frozen and tested for chronic waste disease and held in individual containers until CWD test results are known. The City will enter into a contract with Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources for CWD testing and all costs will be borne by the City. The contract will contain further testing details.
6. After receiving a "not detected" CWD test result, all deer meat will be distributed free of charge at local food banks. If there is a positive CWD test, the carcass will be properly disposed of.
7. All antlers will be sawed off above the pedicle and turned over to the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. The locker will keep the hides.
8. Deer sharp shooting activities may occur on two separate occasions from December 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

II. Bow Hunting in the Winters 2020-2024

Pursuant to 571 Iowa Admin. Code 105.5, the City will request Natural Resources Commission approval of an urban deer management zone during the winters of 2020-2024 to allow for bow hunting after one winter of sharp shooting if necessary to maintain the deer density of 10 deer per square mile.

III. Non-Lethal Deer Related Activities through June 2024

Below are a series of activities Iowa City is committing to provide, consider, develop, and schedule. These activities are based, in part, on successful non-lethal tools used in Mentor, Ohio, Austin, Texas, and Rochester Hills, Michigan. "Provide" means placing the information on the City's website, having hard copies available upon request, and having selected hard copies available at City Hall, the library, and other locations. Note that these activities will begin before sharpshooting.

Deer-proof Fencing

Provide

- Images of deer-proof fences for gardens & other landscaping materials.

Consider

- Amending the City Code to decrease the restrictions on residential fences between 6 and 8 feet in height.

Landscaping & Gardening

Provide

- Information on deer feeding patterns, deer resistant perennials, netting, "scare-based devices (such as wind chimes with the middle striker removed so it only triggered if the deer move them), repellants and decoy plants.
- Information on barriers in the form of vegetation (such as hedges and thorny bushes to discourage deer from entering).

Consider

- Establishing a deer resistant garden as a demonstration project.

Deer-Vehicle Accidents Awareness & Prevention

Provide

- Maps showing deer vehicle accidents so residents know where to be alert to the presence of deer and where and when drivers are more likely to encounter deer.
- Educational information for drivers, such as: if you see one deer, there are likely others; deer often come out of roadside ditches or tall growth/unmowed areas, at dusk and dawn, during October-December (rut and hunting seasons), and during May/June (fawns); and defensive driving techniques (such as use of high beams at night, reducing inside vehicle lighting, and watching for deer "eyeshine" by roadsides).

Consider

- Reducing speed limits in high deer traffic areas.
- Installing seasonal signage in high traffic corridors during rut and hunting season.

- Installing Strieter-Lite reflectors, white flags along roadways, roadway sensors to warn of animals in road ahead, and strobe lights and sounds to warn deer of approaching cars.
- Requiring deer resistant plants in City right of way.
- Designing new streets or re-landscaping streets with deer attraction in mind.
- Installing roadside fencing and adding fencing to overpasses and underpasses.

Additional Educational Activities

Provide

- Links to resources from government, academia, and non-profits on deer management such as ISU Extension, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Humane Society.
- Suggestions for how to behave around deer (such as do not approach a deer with fawn or with a dog on a leash).

Develop

- "Deer" contact person in the neighborhood associations to assist with disseminating information.
- Use of utility bill inserts for various deer related education

Other Actions

Schedule

- Annual deer count

Consider

- Amending City Code to prohibit intentional feeding of deer.
- Expanding natural areas in the community that also serve as safe environments for wildlife

Potential Partnerships

Develop

- Partners to assist in implementing the plan including Iowa City Master Naturalists, Project Green, Iowa City Gardeners Facebook group, Iowa City Deer Friends, local landscaping companies, local fence companies, and University of Iowa.

Public Input

Develop

- Web page to accept complaints and suggestions.

Schedule

- Annual listening session for members of the public to address City staff on deer management including this plan.
- Deer management update on a City Council agenda annually to allow members of the public to address City Council.

Annual Evaluation

Schedule

- Annual review of this plan specifically and evaluation of deer population management generally.



Iowa City
White-Tailed Deer Population Estimate
January 2018

January 30, 2018

Submitted by:

Dr. Anthony J. DeNicola
White Buffalo Inc.



INTRODUCTION

Deer overabundance and the associated conflicts are pervasive throughout much of the US. Alternative management techniques (i.e., controlled hunting, sharpshooting, trap and relocation, fertility control research) have been explored from Georgia to Texas to Minnesota and back through Maine and nearly all the states contained therein. Throughout this large geographic region, deer are creating both social and ecological conflicts in suburban, corporate, and park environments. Many federal, state and local agencies are struggling to address this ever-increasing problem.

Critical to any management decision and research assessment is an understanding of the abundance and distribution of deer, yet it is often difficult to obtain accurate estimates. There are a variety of estimation methods available to decision makers, and each method has its advantages and disadvantages. The techniques typically used to estimate the abundance of white-tailed deer include: spotlight surveys, aerial infrared-scanning or snow counts, mark-recapture/resight, and population reconstruction (Downing 1980). Mark-resight with infrared triggered camera-traps has successfully been used to estimate population size for free-ranging deer with a portion of the population tagged (Curtis et al. 2009). Jacobson et al. (1997) established that individual antler patterns could be used as a unique mark to identify the approximate number of individual antlered males using the survey area. This unique mark and photo ratios could then be used to successfully estimate population size, assuming all sex and age classes are equally susceptible to the camera-trap (Jacobson et al. 1997). Curtis et al. (2009) documented that using IRCs with the Jacobson method provided a reliable method for estimating the abundance of suburban white-tailed deer herds.

STUDY AREA

Iowa City contains a matrix of suburban/commercial development, agricultural fields, parks and open grasslands. As a result of no legal hunting opportunities and fertile soils, the deer population had increased to a level incompatible with some land uses and human activities in the late 1990s. Although deer physical condition was not an issue, there was concern regarding deer/vehicle collisions and damage to garden and landscape plantings. In 2000, a sharpshooting program was initiated that resulted in a significant deer population reduction, and associated deer-vehicle collisions, over a nearly 10 year period. The population reduction program was implemented through 2009 when it was concluded as deer-human conflicts were no longer of concern. This population estimate was requested given the deer population had not been actively managed for 8+ years and appeared to be increasing.



METHODS

Camera Survey

The camera survey was conducted in a ~3-mile² population estimation area (Figure 1). We divided the sampling area into 15 sections by overlaying a grid of approximately 130-acre blocks. We adjusted the grid for the best fit to deer habitat in each block. We deployed one camera per 130-acre block. The infrared-triggered digital cameras (Moultrie D-80 White Flash camera, Moultrie Feeders, Alabaster, AL, USA) were deployed over bait piles of shelled corn on properties with a high probability of deer activity. Camera sites were baited daily for several days prior to, and during camera deployment, starting on 5 December 2017 until the cameras were removed on 16 December 2017. Each camera was elevated approximately 2 ft off the ground, oriented north to control exposure issues, and placed approximately 12 ft from the center of bait. The cameras were set to run continuously for 24 hours per day, with a preset delay of 5 minutes between pictures. Every other day during the survey the memory cards in the cameras were changed to confirm the cameras were functioning properly. On 16 December, the photo survey was completed, and cameras were removed.

Figure 1. Population estimation area and camera locations.



After the cameras were removed from the field, all of the pictures containing deer were sorted by site. Each picture was closely studied, and we recorded the total number of deer, the number of antlered males, the number of non-branched antlered males that could not be uniquely identified, the number of adult females, and the number of fawns. The number of unique males observed at each site was determined using unique antler patterns.



Population Estimate: Jacobson's BDR Method

With the camera data we used the Jacobson buck:doe ratio (BDR) population estimator. As outlined in Jacobson (1997), "individual branch-antlered males were identified from photographs using antler configuration (# of points, relative length of points, angle of projection of points, and relative location of points on the antler beam), antler mass, pelage characteristics and body traits. We then assigned an identifying number to each antlered male. Branch-antlered males were any antlered males with greater than or equal to 1 branched antler. Photographs were excluded from analysis when identification of an animal was uncertain."

Spike-antlered males can be difficult to distinguish individually; therefore, spike:branch-antlered ratios were determined and the estimated total antlered male population was calculated using this ratio:

$$P_s = N_{sa}/N_{ba},$$

where

P_s = ratio of spike:branch-antlered bucks (antlered males),

N_{sa} = total number of spike-antlered deer occurrences in photographs,

N_{ba} = total number of branch-antlered deer occurrences in photographs,

and

$$E_b = (B \times P_s) + B,$$

where

E_b = estimated total buck (antlered male) population,

B = number of individually identified branch-antlered bucks (antlered males)."

The estimated adult female population was calculated using the estimated antlered male population and the antlered male:adult female ratio (calculated from the photographs):

$$P_d = N_d/N_b,$$

where

P_d = ratio of does (adult female) : bucks (antlered male),

N_d = total number of antlerless adult deer occurrences in photographs,

N_b = total number of antlered adult deer occurrences in photographs,

and

$$E_d = E_b \times P_d,$$

where

E_d = estimated total doe (adult female) population.

Fawn abundance was calculated in the same manner:

$$P_f = N_f/N_d,$$

where

P_f = ratio fawns: does (adult female),

N_f = total number of fawn occurrences in photographs,



and

$$E_f = E_d \times P_r$$

where

E_f = estimated total fawn population.

Total population size was estimated by summing each segment of the population. The sex ratio was determined using the ratio of antlered males to adult females in photo observations, where sex ratio = N_m/N_f . The recruitment rate was determined using the ratio of fawns to adult does in photo observations, where recruitment rate = N_f/N_d .

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

Photo summary

We obtained a total of 7,874 usable pictures from the 15 baited camera sites from 5-16 December 2017, which included 10,324 photographic observations of individual deer (Table 1). The total number of branched antlered male images that were identifiable in the pictures was 4,010, the total number of spike antlered male images was 317, the total number of females was 3,050, and the total number of fawns was 2,947 (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Summary of photos observations in Iowa City, IA December 2017.

	Photo Observations				
	# Observations of Deer	# Branched Antlered Males	# Spike Antlered Males*	# Females	# Fawns
Total	10,324	4,010	317	3,050	2,947

*Animal cannot be identified as unique based on antler pattern.

Density Estimate and Recruitment Rate

We estimated the total population in the survey area at 172 (Table 2), and given the area was ~3 mi², the minimum estimated density was 57.5 deer/mile². We estimated the total adult female population at 51 and the total fawn population at 49. This results in a fawn recruitment rate of 1.0.



TABLE 2. Estimated population in sample area using Jacobson BDR method based on photo observation data in Table 1).¹

	A: # Individual Branched Antlered Males ²	B: # Spike Antlered Males ^{1,3}	C: Total Antlered Males	D: Estimated # Adult Females ⁴	E: Estimated # Fawns ⁵	F: Minimum Estimated Total Population
Total	67	5	72	51	49	172

1. If a number is less than 1, we round up to 1, given there is likely a deer in the area. Rounding calculated in separate spreadsheet and numbers may vary slightly due to when rounding is applied.
2. The number of branched antlered males is based on photo capture of these males in camera survey and identification based on unique antler pattern.
3. # Spike Antlered Males (B) = (# Spike Antlered Male Photo Observations (Table 1))/# Branched Antlered Male Photo Observations (Table 1)) * # of Branched Antlered Males (A)
4. # Adult Females (D) = ((# Adult Female Photo Observations (Table 1))/# Antlered Male Photo Observations (Table 1)) * Total Antlered Males (A)
5. # Fawns (E) = (# Fawn Photo Observations (Table 1))/# Adult Female Photo Observations (Table 1)) * Total Adult Females (D)

Camera Survey Bias Adjustments and Sex/Age Class Ratio Ranges

There are potential sex and seasonal biases in attracting deer to bait relative to their occurrence in the population (Koerth and Kroll 2000, McCoy et al. 2011, Chitwood et al. 2017). The type of bias varies for any number of reasons, including food availability, breeding season, fawning period, and ratio of males to females. Given the unlikely ratio of antlered males:adult females:fawns in photos (~1.4:1:1), we believe the population estimate is an absolute minimum. In other words, females and fawns may be underrepresented as antlered males can dominate baited locations (especially after the breeding season while males still have their antlers) limiting the number of photos of females and fawns comparatively.

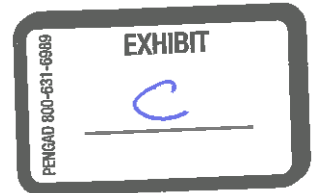
Typical suburban deer populations have been documented to be 20% antlered males (DeNicola et al. 2008). We believe the percentage of males in Iowa City is higher than the DeNicola et al. (2008) study, but likely not as high as the 42% observed in photos. We have documented approximately 30% antlered males in local populations at other project locations with male mortality rates that may be similar to those in Iowa City (e.g., our research site in Cincinnati, OH had 31.4% antlered males and San Jose, CA had 30% antlered males). **If we adjust the ratio of antlered males to 30% this would increase the population estimate to 80 deer/mile², or 240 deer in the area surveyed.**

The Iowa DNR counted 69 deer in 2008 in the same area of Iowa City. They used helicopter counts over snow. Therefore, there are likely 3 times as many deer now in the survey area as there were ~10 years ago. This reflects a density similar to what was present when we initiated the sharpshooting program in 2000.



LITERATURE CITED

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- Curtis, P. D., B. Bazartseren, P. M. Mattison, and J. R. Boulanger. 2009. Estimating deer abundance in suburban areas with infrared-triggered cameras. *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* 3(1):116-128.
- DeNicola, A. J., D. Etter, and T. Almendinger. 2008. Demographics of non-hunted white-tailed deer populations in suburban areas. *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* 2:102-109.
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- Jacobson, H. A., J. C. Kroll, R. W. Browning, B. H. Koerth, and M. H. Conway. 1997. Infrared-triggered cameras for censusing white-tailed deer. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 25:547-556.
- Koerth, B. H., and J. C. Kroll. 2000. Bait type and timing for deer counts using cameras triggered by infrared monitors. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 28:630-635.
- McCoy, J. C., S. S. Ditchkoff, and T. D. Steury. 2011. Bias associated with baited camera sites for assessing population characteristics of deer. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75:472-477



SHARPSHOOTING PROTOCOL

Subsequent to a decision by the landowner/s and the state wildlife management agency to implement a controlled deer reduction using White Buffalo Inc., the following procedures are used:

- 1) Prior to initiating any field activities the target area/s and surrounding properties are thoroughly surveyed using digital aerial images followed by field confirmation. By knowing the location of every occupied structure and areas of human use we are better able to work safely, discretely, and efficiently;
- 2) Bait sites are selected with the involvement of the landowner/s and the cooperating state agency. Each site is selected based on safety concerns and deer activity;
- 3) We conduct field operations during hours of lowest human activity. In addition, during the removal operation we search intensively for people and non-target animals to avoid mishaps;
- 4) Deer of all ages and sexes are harvested, however, adult does are prioritized. Deer are shot from a vehicle with a rifle during the night with the aid of spotlights. Some deer are shot over bait from a tree stand with a rifle during the day or at night. Night-vision equipment and suppressed firearms (only in states where they are legal to possess) are used to expedite field procedures and to ensure discrete operations;
- 5) During suburban deer reductions there will be continuous open communication between community members, municipality officials, and White Buffalo Inc. to keep people well informed regarding field activities to avoid conflicts;
- 6) When in doubt, never shoot;
- 7) All deer carcasses are transported and dressed with the highest degree of discretion;
- 8) When desired, we are willing to be responsible for the disposal of all by-products and transport of deer carcasses to a USDA inspected facility for processing and subsequent donation to the needy.

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

Decision Item

6. Donations

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Bellevue Fisheries	\$65.00	Aerator to keep fish alive in a regular cooler or live well such as for use during kids' programs.	Matt McFadden, Mac's Bait Shack
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery	\$50.00	Funds to support the hatchery.	Karina Palmquist
Lake Macbride State Park	\$4,000.00	Funds to improve North Shore Trail	Kevin Shima, Solon Area Community Foundation
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory John J. Hlavacek.	Jeff and Mary Ellen Anderson

Dale Garner, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 11, 2019

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent*)

***7. Contract Amendment-2 with Forum Communications Company**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Forum Communications Company, of Detroit Lakes, MN.

Amendment-2 Terms:

Amendment Amount: not to exceed \$35,000.00

Amendment Dates: 08/20/19-08/20/20

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Amendment Purpose: One year extension to print and distribute the 2020 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet.

Original Contract Purpose: Print 225,000 copies of the annual Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet and distribute it to approximately 700 locations (i.e. license sales vendors, natural resource agencies, and DNR locations). The DNR will provide the copy and artwork as well as the mailing list and quantities needed per address. The contractor will prepare a pre-press copy for DNR review and approval, print and package saddle stitch booklets, and ship the quantities designated to the identified locations.

Original Selection Process: In 2017, the DNR published a Request for Proposal and reviewed bids for services requested. Forum Communications Company was awarded the bid due to their ability to meet the printing and distribution requirements as well as being cost effective.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$31,142.62; Timeframe: 08/21/17-08/20/18; Purpose: print and ship Iowa Fishing Regulations

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount \$32,759.07; Timeframe: 08/20/18-08/20/19; Purpose: one year extension

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 11, 2019

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***8. Public Land Management Project: Chapter 18 Lease Renewal — Betty Gingerich – Clayton County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 127-R with Betty Gingerich.

Location: An area approximately 8' x 24' adjacent to Lot 12 in Block 18, Section 22, Township 95N, Range 3W of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site contains an 8' x 24' portion of a garage for storage.

Lease History: The location has been under lease since 2013.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$300 with a condition 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.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 11, 2019

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

Decision Item

9. Public Land Acquisition Projects

9.1. Copeland Bend Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Fremont County near Copeland Bend Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 100 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$95,500

Appraised Value: \$99,700

Property Description: This property is located 12 miles west of Sidney in western Fremont County. The level tract is entirely enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and consists of a mix of sedge meadow, herbaceous plants, and open water wetlands. The Missouri River is located just one mile west of the tract. There are no building improvements. A 30-foot wide access easement provides ingress/egress extending east from a county road.

Purpose: This tract is a part of a larger complex of wildlife habitat along the Missouri River that includes several hundred acres of permanent WRP lands both up and downstream. The property will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$54,500 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$41,000 Missouri River Valley Wetland Federal NAWCA

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

9.2. Lansing Wildlife Management Area, Allamakee County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent Lansing Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 197 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$730,000

Appraised Value: \$739,275

Property Description: This property is located 3 miles north of Lansing in northwestern Allamakee County. The moderately rolling to steep tract is characterized by narrow ridgetop field totaling 31 acres in grassland, and the remainder acreage covered by heavily forested bluffs and ravines. There are no building improvements. Access is provided through adjacent DNR owned and managed lands.

Purpose: This acquisition will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities, managed as a grassland and high quality hardwood forest community. Wildlife species in the vicinity include Bald eagle, Northern long-eared bat, Currealan warbler, and Timber rattlesnake.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Federal Pittman-Robertson

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

July 11, 2019

**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
5/30/19	20-01-67-02 Wildlife	Upper Decatur Bend WMA	Monona	Minor grading, surface leveling and installation of Class "A" granular material with proper slopes for drainage.	\$32,500	\$28,510.00 \$28,626.00 \$43,201.50
5/30/19	20-01-21-01 Wildlife	Hawk Valley & Barringer Slough WMAs	Clay	Minor grading, surface leveling and installation of Class "A" granular material with proper slopes for drainage.	\$29,000	\$22,774.00 \$24,544.00 \$26,662.00 \$27,370.80 \$29,570.00 \$35,155.00
6/3/2019	19-06-92-03 Parks	Lake Darling State Park	Washington	Remove pavement over void and backfill with 1.5" roadstone.	\$10,000	\$6,195.21
6/13/19	19-01-30-06 Parks	Pikes Point State Park	Dickinson	Removal of all existing roof surfacing and damaged sheeting, replacement of ¾" thick roof sheeting, and installation of new asphalt shingle roofing and associated flashings.	\$14,000	\$4,950.84 \$12,816.88 \$17,251.20 \$211,500.00
5/30/19	19CRDLEBEW RIG-0001	Hawkeye WMA	Johnson	Re-frame and finish trim around new door opening. Install new 14'2" x 14' steel sectional overhead door with heavy duty opener and remote system	\$7,250	\$7,240.00

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 11, 2019

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

Decision Item

11. Contract Amendment #1 with Quail Construction, LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract amendment with Quail Construction, LLC of Spencer, Iowa.

Construction Project: Boat Storage Building and Shop, Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery - Dickinson County
Engineering Project #: 18-01-30-01

Amendment #1 Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$175,374.00

Funding Source(s): 50% Marine Fuel Tax, 50% Federal Coast Guard

Amendment Purpose: The existing foundation soils tested poorly for compaction and bearing capacity. In order to prevent future building settlement, the weak soils will be removed (to a depth of 6 feet) and replaced with rock fill, as recommended by a geotechnical engineer. This work will not affect the original contracted completion date.

Original Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to construct a 40' x 142' eight bay storage building to fit the larger Law Enforcement Bureau patrol boats, buoys, buoy chains and anchors, maintenance supplies and tools, and general boating supplies, as well as a work area to maintain equipment. These patrol boats will mainly serve the Spirit Lake area. Additionally, a 40' x 62' workshop will be attached to the boat storage pole building for use by DNR Fisheries staff. It will include two heated shop bays, one restroom, a mechanical room, and a storage room.

Original Cost Estimate: \$716,230.00

Operating Bureau: Law Enforcement & Fisheries

Funding Source: 50% Marine Fuel Tax, 50% Federal Coast Guard

Plans Issue Date: 08/29/2018

Bid Letting Date: 09/20/2018

Original Completion Date: 08/30/2019

Original Selection Process Summary: In 2018, the DNR used a formal competitive bid process; NRC approved: 10/11/2018. Quail Construction, LLC, was awarded the contract as the low bidder.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$716,140.00; Purpose: construct a boat storage facility and workshop

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 11, 2019