

**Minutes of the  
Natural Resource Commission  
Meeting**

**October 13,  
2022**

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Business Meeting  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
502 E 9<sup>th</sup> St, 2nd Fl, Des Moines, IA

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*For Office Use Only*

*Date Minutes Approved By NRC: 11/10/22*

*Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kayla Lyon, Director*

*RECORD COPY*

*File Name: ADM 1-5.G*

*Natural Resource Commission Minutes*

*Sender's initials: KR*

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Chair, Marcus Branstad, on 10/13/22 at 9:30 am. This meeting is open to the public and is being recorded as outlined by Iowa Code (571—1.8).

**Commissioner Attendance**

Present

- Marcus Branstad, Chair [9:30a-11:34a]
- Laura Foell (electronically) [9:30a-11:34a]
- Uriah Hansen [9:30a-11:34a]
- Laura Hommel, Secretary [9:30a-11:34a]
- Tammi Kircher [9:30a-11:34a]
- Tom Prickett, Vice Chair (electronically) [9:30a-11:34a]
- Margo Underwood [9:30a-11:34a]

Absent

None

**Public Participation**

None

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Motion – Commissioner Underwood  
 Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**2. Approve Minutes of 09/07/22 Public Meeting**

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**3. Director’s Remarks**

Director Kayla Lyon provided information on Iowa’s fall color, her participation in the Forestry Field day in NE Iowa and visiting DNR sites in the area, pheasant season beginning October 29<sup>th</sup>, and that the DNR is coordinating the 36<sup>th</sup> Pheasant Hunt

hosted by Bremer County. She also discussed the recent Cedar River Water Trail designation which brings Iowa to over 1000 miles of designated water trails.

**4. Division Administrator’s Remarks**

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator, provided an update on the docks being replaced at Storm Lake Marina and that the Department is continuing to work on a marina management agreement. He also discussed mountain lions in Iowa and siting reports from Iowans.

**5. 2023 NRC Meeting Recommendations**

Month	Meeting Date / Day / Time (Business Meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month – unless noted*)			Meeting Location (County)
January	<b>01/12/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
	<b>OR</b> <b>01/18/23*</b>	<b>OR</b> Wed	<b>7:30a- 9:30a</b> DNR Legislative Meet/Greet <b>10:00a</b> NRC Business Meeting	
February	<b>02/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
March	<b>03/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
April	<b>04/13/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
May	<b>05/11/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
June	<b>06/07/23*</b>	Wed	<b>12:00p</b> Business Meeting, Field Tour	Scott (Lost Grove Lake/WMA)
	<b>06/08/23*</b>	Thu	<b>9:00a</b> Field Tour	Scott (Lost Grove Lake/WMA)
July	<b>07/13/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
August	<b>08/09/23*</b>	Wed	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
			<b>12:00p-5:30p</b> NRC/EPC Joint Mtg (joint mtg pending), Field Tour	Polk/Warren (Lake Ahquabi SP)
September	<b>09/13/23*</b>	Wed	<b>12:00p</b> Business Meeting, Field Tour	Fremont (Riverton WMA, Waubonsi SP)
	<b>09/14/23*</b>	Thu	<b>9:00a</b> Field Tour	Fremont (Riverton WMA, Waubonsi SP)
October	<b>10/12/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
November	<b>11/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
December	<b>12/14/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
January	<b>01/11/24</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
	<b>OR</b> <b>01/17/24*</b>	<b>OR</b> Wed	<b>7:30a- 9:30a</b> DNR Legislative Meet/Greet <b>10:00a</b> NRC Business Meeting	

Motion – Commissioner Foell moved to approve the January 18, 2023, date with the Legislative Meet and Greet in the morning, January 17, 2024, date with the Legislative Meet and Greet, and hold field tours on Thursdays with the business meeting in the morning.  
 Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
 Discussion – Commissioners discussed the January meetings and the meet and greet opportunity. They identified the field tour days as an all in one day event with morning meetings and afternoon tours instead of a two day event. Members attending can arrive the night before as needed.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**6. 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>
Wildlife Diversity Program	\$350.00	Funds to support the conservation of non-game species	Jane and William Overland
Brushy Creek	\$1,588.62	75.29 ton 3/8- rock for hitch rails	Morgan Endecott, Backcountry Horsemen of IA
Lake Darling State Park	\$1,700.00	2018 Hurricane Skimmer 140 Kayak & Trailer	Linda Marie
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$196,551.96	Bequeath from Doris Ann Flater in support of Iowa's natural resources.	Mardean VanDeest, Executor of Doris Ann Flater Estate
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$30.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	Richard Kurtenbach
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$650.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Collins Community CU, c/o Dennis Bumsted
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Dorraine Schuling
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Penny Dankbar
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Thomas and Norma Twohill
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$40.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Thomas and Sue
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$20.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Barbara O'Rourke
Ledges State Park	\$405.00	Value of donated labor for a journeyman and apprentice to replace photocells on 3 security lights in the Ledges campground.	Thompson Electric
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Joe Keller	Ara Keller
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$360.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	Richard Kurtenbach
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$600.00	After learning about philanthropy and giving back through discussion of various organizations they are passionate about and the work these organizations do in their communities, Vermeer's NextGen program youth donated funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	Tricia K. Vermeer, Executive Director, Vermeer Charitable Foundation
Bellevue State Park	\$650.00	Three framed paintings of park areas throughout the seasons for use in the lodge.	Sue Sawvel

Motion – Commissioner Hansen  
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood  
 Discussion – Pete Hildreth, DA, provide information regarding the donation from Doris Anne Flater Estate and the Vermeer Charitable Foundation.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**7. Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards,” – Notice of Intended Action**

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards.”

**Basic Intent of Current Rules:**

Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program: To allocate wildlife habitat stamp revenues to local entities. These funds must be used specifically for the acquisition of whole or partial interests in land from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas.

Chapter 27, Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program: To offer grants to Iowa’s cities and counties to assist with planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation.

Chapter 29, Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program: To provide state cost sharing to communities, counties, organizations and associations for the restoration or construction of recreational complexes or facilities.

Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs: To offer cost-share funds to water trails infrastructure projects, such as water accesses, parking areas, restrooms, and paddlecraft campsites. Eligible applicants include any local divisions of Iowa government.

Chapter 33, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program-County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs: To administer the private cost-sharing funds within the open spaces account, the county conservation account, and the city park and open spaces account of the resource enhancement and protection fund.

Chapter 35, Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards: To allocate fish habitat revenue to county conservation boards. These funds shall be used specifically to acquire from willing sellers whole or partial interest in land for use as or for protection offish habitats and to develop and enhance fishable waters and habitat areas.

**Proposed Rule Change:** Several grant programs do not explicitly address conflicts within the pre-selected scoring committee. The proposed rule adds language that requires designation of at least two alternates. The alternates will be available to serve in the place of a primary committee member whenever the primary committee member is directly participating in a grant cycle.

Additionally, a few grant programs have antiquated submission rules, requiring that paper copies be mailed to a particular address. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) began using an electronic grant submission portal in 2020. This new method is easy and cost-effective. The proposed rules require that applications be submitted via a form or a method specified on the Department’s website. This will enable the Department and grant applicants to utilize new systems as technology improves over time.

Finally, many grant programs have fixed deadlines set forth in rule (i.e., March 15). This prevents flexibility on grant deadlines even when extraordinary events may justify accommodations. The proposed amendments mirror existing language in 571--Chapter 30 that allows a submission deadline to be published on the Department’s website with a least 90 days’ notice. Notably, Chapter 30’s publication-based framework has been successfully utilized for 14 years. The proposed rule would allow the Department to change a deadline when circumstances warrant, while still ensuring plenty of public notice.

Attached: Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards,” – NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]  
Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), 455A.19(1)“b” and “d,” and 462A.3.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 452A.79A, 455A.19, 456A.29 through 456A.33, 461A.3, 464A.11, and 483.3A.

*Purpose and Summary*

The Commission proposes to amend multiple grant programs to add provisions addressing conflicts of interest, electronic filing, and more adaptable filing deadlines.

Several grant programs do not explicitly address conflicts within the pre-selected scoring committee. The proposed rule adds language that requires designation of at least two alternates. The alternates will be available to serve in the place of a primary committee member whenever the primary committee member is directly participating in a grant cycle.

Additionally, a few grant programs have antiquated submission rules, requiring that paper copies be mailed to a particular address. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) began using an electronic grant submission portal in 2020. This new method is easy and cost-effective. The proposed rules require that applications be submitted via a form or a method specified on the Department’s website. This will enable the Department and grant applicants to utilize new systems as technology improves over time.

Finally, many grant programs have fixed deadlines set forth in rule (i.e., March 15). This prevents flexibility on grant deadlines even when extraordinary events may justify accommodations, such as the derecho and Covid-19, both of which were experienced within the last several years. The proposed amendments mirror existing language in 571--Chapter 30 that allows a submission deadline to be published on the Department’s website with a least 90 days’ notice. Notably, Chapter 30’s publication-based framework has been successfully utilized for 14 years. The proposed rule would allow the Department to change a deadline when circumstances warrant, while still ensuring plenty of public notice.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

*Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571—Chapter 11.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 22, 2022.

Comments should be directed to:

Michelle Wilson  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Wallace State Office Building 502 E 9th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Email: michelle.wilson@dnr.iowa.gov

*Public Hearing*

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held by conference call. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Michelle Wilson at michelle.wilson@dnr.iowa.gov. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Ms. Wilson prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

DATE: November 22, 2022 Conference call

TIME: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action proposed:

WILDLIFE HABITAT

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 23.6(2) as follows:

Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding ~~during January and July of each year at least twice a year.~~ The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be ~~received in acceptable form by~~ submitted to the department as described on the website Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by the close of business on the last business day of May for consideration at the summer review and the last business day of November for the winter review. Changes to grant applications must be submitted to the department no later than 4 p.m. the day prior to the committee review date. Upon timely notice to eligible recipients, additional selection periods may be scheduled if necessary to expedite the distribution of these funds. In emergencies, local entities can obtain a waiver so that acquisition projects may be approved for retroactive payments, provided that funds are available and the project meets all other criteria.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 23.7(1) as follows:

A review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, composed of one person appointed by the director to represent the department and designated by the director as chairperson and four persons appointed by the director to represent county conservation boards shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director to represent the county conservation boards in the event of a conflict of interest.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of a county conservation board that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

LANDS AND WATERS CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 27.5(2) as follows:

The following information applies to local projects only. Grant applications and amendment requests which increase the existing grant amount shall be reviewed and selected for funding on an annual basis as provided in subrule 27.2(2). The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. ~~Annual reviews shall be held in April on the day announced on the department's website. Applications must be received in acceptable form by the Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034, by the close of business on the work day closest to the fifteenth day of March.~~

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 27.6(1) as follows:

A five-member review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, shall be composed of three staff members of the department as appointed by the director of the department, one member appointed by the director with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, and one member appointed by the director of the department with input from the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director with input from both associations and the league of cities. The committee shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding at the local level. A review and selection committee for state projects shall be composed of four staff members of the department as appointed by the director.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.



ITEM 8. Rescind rule 571—30.8(452A) and adopt the following new rule in lieu thereof:

571—30.8(452A) Application procedures. Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding at least once a year. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.79A.

ITEM 9. Rescind and reserve rule 571—30.14(77GA,SF2381).

#### Division II: Low-head dams

ITEM 10. Amend rule 571—30.51(455A,461A,462A), definition of "*Scoring Committee*," as follows: "Scoring committee" means the water trails scoring committee, which consists of the coordinator, two ~~other~~ department staff members appointed by the director, and two representatives and two alternates of the water recreation community selected by the director.

ITEM 11. Amend rule 571—30.57(455A,461A,462A) as follows:

571—30.57(455A,461A,462A) Proposal evaluation. Proposals will be evaluated by the scoring committee. The scoring committee shall evaluate both water trails development program proposals and low-head dam public hazard program proposals.

30.57(1) Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

#### REAP

ITEM 12. Amend subrule 33.5(2) as follows:

Applications for all grant programs shall be made on forms provided by the department. ~~An original and five copies shall be submitted by deadlines as specified in subrule 33.5(4) of this chapter or as otherwise published by the department.~~

ITEM 13. Amend subrule 33.5(4) as follows:

Application deadlines are the same for county, city, and private open space grant programs. Applications will be reviewed and projects selected for funding at least once a year one time each year in September. Applications must be received in acceptable form by the department at least daby the close of business on the fifteenth day of August. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. Upon a 60-day notice to potential applicants, the department may schedule additional review and selection periods to expedite the distribution of grant funds.

ITEM 14. Amend subrule 33.30(3) as follows:

The makeup of this committee is as follows: two representatives of the department appointed by the director; two county conservation board directors appointed by the director of the department with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards; one member selected every three years by a majority vote of the director's appointees. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. The members shall select a chairperson at the first meeting during each calendar year. Terms of appointment to the committee shall be on a three-year staggered term basis.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

ITEM 15. Amend subrule 33.40(4) as follows:

The director shall appoint a five-member review and selection committee to evaluate project applications. This committee shall include one member representing each of the three size classes of cities (e.g., one from a city of less than 2,000, one from a city of 2,000 to 25,000, and one from a city of over 25,000). The director shall request a list of candidates from the league of Iowa cities and Iowa parks and recreation association. The remaining two members of the committee shall be a representative of the department and an at-large member. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director from the candidates list provided by the league of Iowa Cities and Iowa parks and recreation association. The committee shall elect its own chairperson from its members.

Members shall serve three-year staggered terms.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

ITEM 16. Amend subrule 33.50(4) as follows:

The director shall appoint a committee to review and score projects. The committee shall include the following: three persons representing the private sector and two alternates selected from a pool of potential names as submitted to the director by the various private eligible groups; administrator of the conservation and recreation division of the department, or the administrator’s designee; and the bureau chiefs of the department’s ~~forestry~~ wildlife bureau and parks, forests, and preserves bureau or their designees. The committee shall elect its own chairperson from its members. ~~The director shall request a list of candidates for the private sector members from groups eligible to participate in this program.~~ The committee will report to the director the order in which proposed projects were ranked using criteria as specified in 33.50(5).

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

FISH HABITAT

ITEM 17. Amend subrule 35.5(2) as follows:

Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding at least once a year during January of each year. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days’ notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. ~~The district designee shall receive an original application and six copies in acceptable form by the close of business on the last business day of November of the previous year for consideration. The district shall forward a copy of all applications to the department’s designee by December 15 of the previous year.~~ Upon timely notice to eligible recipients, additional selection periods may be scheduled if necessary to expedite the distribution of funds. In emergencies, a county may request a waiver so that an acquisition project may be approved for retroactive payments if funds are available and the project meets all other criteria.

ITEM 18. Amend subrule 35.6(1) as follows:

Each district shall have a review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee. Each committee shall be composed of at least five county directors or their designees, with at least two designated alternates. Each district’s committee shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding. For advisory purposes only, a department biologist or designee shall be present during review and selection of grant applications and amendment requests.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**8. REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations from the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The City Parks and Open Space account receives 15% of the REAP funds, after initial distributions are made as outlined in Chapter 33, for competitive grants to help cities establish natural areas, encouraging outdoor recreation and resource management. Three categories have been established to assure grants are distributed to all sizes of cities. Projects considered include development of parks, multi-purpose trails (emphasis on connecting existing trails), park shelters, lake or river shoreline restoration, fishing access, and habitat restoration.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – City Park and Open Spaces

**Grant Funding Available:**

Category	City Population	Funding Available
Small Cities	less than 2,000	\$259,865
Medium Cities	between 2,000 and 25,000	\$623,673
Large Cities	larger than 25,000	\$848,888

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a selection committee consisting of four non-DNR appointees and one DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.40, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include the relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs based on comprehensive plans (i.e. SCORP, County Resource Enhancement Plan, or local, state and federal plans), quality of site for land acquisition projects, environmental benefits, public benefit, and local support.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding the projects listed in the Project Allocation. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

<b>ALLOCATION SUMMARY</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT RECOMMENDED</b>	<b># OF PROJECTS SCORED</b>	<b>PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>
SMALL CITIES TOTALS	\$548,611	\$256,865	9	5
MEDIUM CITIES TOTALS	\$1,510,000	\$623,673	16	8
LARGE CITIES TOTALS	\$1,693,890	\$4848,888	8	5
<b>DISTRIBUTION TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,752,501</b>	<b>\$1,732,426</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>

**PROJECT ALLOCATIONS**

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - SMALL CITIES - Population under 2,000**

<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>City Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
90	City of Lake Park	Tatanka Ska Trace - Phase IV(b)	Tatanka Ska Trace is a multi-phase project to convert the former railroad into a recreational trail that spans 37 miles across Dickinson and Osceola Counties. Phase IV(b) involves construction of a 10-foot wide concrete trail starting in the town of Montgomery and travels west 2.5 miles where it ends at 170th Avenue and joins Phase IV(c) that will be completed this year. This project is the final segment that will connect Lake Park to the entire Dickinson County Trails system.	\$75,000	\$75,000
89.4	City of Wellsburg	Wellsburg City Park Phase I	This application will complete phase I of a multi-phased, City Park enhancement project in Wellsburg, Iowa. Phase I includes the construction of a shelter, concrete pad, and two ADA-accessible picnic tables, as well as native trees and pollinators to create a city park arboretum. The park improvements will enhance the City's main park to encourage children, families, visitors, and all community members to spend more time outdoors.	\$50,000	\$50,000
85.8	City of Donnellson	Westview Park Trail - Phase I	A new 10-foot wide limestone multi-use trail will be constructed within the 28-acre Westview Park at the western edge of Donnellson. As the first in a 2-phase effort to create a trail loop around the park, this segment will extend 0.4 miles through the northwest quadrant of the park, branching off an existing paved trail which connects to a nearby neighborhood. Phase I also involves a new trailhead with parking, interpretive signage and native plantings.	\$50,000	\$50,000

85	City of Bouton	RRVT to HTT Connector Project - City of Bouton Phase	This project consists of the construction of a multi-use recreational paved trail section that is part of the overall 9-mile Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector project. This City of Bouton Phase of the project includes a paved trail approximately 250 ft. long and the development of a Trailhead parking lot. This trail section and trailhead parking lot are located all within the City of Bouton. The trail will be 10 ft. wide concrete or asphalt and 6" thick.	\$50,000	\$50,000
83.2	City of West Point	8th Street-South Park Connector Trail	At the south end of West Point, a 450-foot long, 10-foot wide trail will be built to replace an existing 4-foot wide sidewalk. It will connect 8th Street to a 0.6-mile trail extending eastward from the City's South Park to Lee County Conservation's Pollmiller Park. Thus, it will provide safe, multimodal access to two public multi-use recreational facilities. In addition, an adjacent 0.25-acre plot in South Park will be seeded for native prairie plantings.	\$50,000	\$31,865
80.6	City of Marcus	Marcus Trail Plan-Phase I	Construction of a 1.4 mile, multi-use recreational trail to safely connect residential neighborhoods that are currently lacking sidewalks to amenities such as the elementary and high school campus, Little League athletic fields, high school football and baseball field, swimming pool, and the golf course area. This project will provide safe infrastructure for alternative transportation such as biking and walking, which will help alleviate congestion and pollution from unnecessary vehicle trips.	\$75,000	-0-
80.4	City of Springville	Emmons Park Trail	Quarter-mile PCC Trail that will complete the Emmons Park trail network. The Trail will meander through a forest and around a water quality feature. Project will also include plantings and other amenities.	\$75,000	-0-
70.8	City of Roland	Jacobson Bear Creek Park Trail	Provide the community with a trail through a natural area to enjoy the outdoors while still having access to different activities. Provide individuals no matter their limitations easy access to a community gathering area.	\$73,611	-0-
60.4	City of Sabula	Maude Brooks Park Renovation	The Maude Brooks Park was donated by the family of the late Maude Brooks. It housed a rustic fence, 2 small shelters with benches and a fountain which was beautiful at night because of its colored lights. Over time, the park lost its glory and the fountain was removed. We would like to restore the park back to its grand state, by replacing the fountain, adding new walkways and benches and ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps.	\$50,000	-0-
<b>SMALL CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$548,611</b>	<b>\$256,865</b>

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - MEDIUM CITIES - Population between 2,000 and 25,000**

Ranked by Score	City Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
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99.2	City of Coralville	Coralville Forest Restoration Project - Dovetail and Colony Open Space Areas	The Coralville Forest Restoration Project seeks to address non-native invasive species in forests in the Dovetail Recreation Area and Colony Open Space Area and to manage stands in a way that encourages native tree populations. Phase I is this request and it will focus on removal of understory growth by manually removing and treating invasive species such as honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, , multiflora rose, burning bush, white mulberry, and barberry on 62 acres of public lands.	\$100,000	\$100,000
97.6	City of New Hampton	New Hampton Multi-Use Path, Phase 3 of 3	This application will complete the last phase of the New Hampton Multi-Use Path. The project includes one mile of paved trail, native seeding, and plantings to be located between South Linn Ave and the Chickasaw Wellness Center and New Hampton school complex. The new trail will connect existing multi-use paths on the eastern and western sides of the community, resulting in a 5.5-mile cross-city multi-use path for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized activities.	\$75,000	\$75,000
96.6	City of Mitchellville	Red Rock Prairie Trail Paving from Prairie City to Mitchellville	The proposed project will extend Red Rock Prairie Trail by seven paved miles on the railbed from the edge of Prairie City near Commerce Drive to the edge of Mitchellville at NE 116th Street. This stretch of the trail is located on the former Iowa Interstate Railroad which Jasper County Conservation has already secured.	\$75,000	\$75,000
94.4	City of Prairie City	Red Rock Prairie Trail Paving from Prairie City to Mitchellville	The proposed project will extend Red Rock Prairie Trail by seven paved miles on a former railbed from the edge of Prairie City near Commerce Drive to the edge of Mitchellville at NE 116th Street. This stretch of the trail is located on the former Iowa Interstate Railroad which Jasper County Conservation has already secured.	\$75,000	\$75,000
93.2	City of Clarion	Clarion Greenway Connection	The Clarion Greenway Connection will provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation and an alternative way for residents and visitors to travel between Lake Cornelia and Clarion. The project will be a city-owned paved trail and will restore native prairie and reduce agricultural runoff into White Fox Creek. Full funding from REAP for this project is vital for the acquisition of 7.29 acres and is crucial to the development of a trail corridor for Clarion.	\$75,000	\$75,000
91.4	City of Epworth	Tower Park Improvements	Improvements to the park include expanding a concrete patio from the existing enclosed pavilion, adding lighting, terracing a hillside for amphitheater seating, and a native plant bed. The terracing will involve segmented block retaining walls, railings, steps, and areas for seating. The proposed project includes installing a 4' wide band of permeable pavers along the base of the retaining wall to provide stormwater detention for the additional impervious area.	\$75,000	\$75,000

91.2	City of Grimes	Grimes Greenway Phase 2	This is an acquisition of approximately 13.3 acres of naturalized area located in the Far Southwest Planning Area (FSP), identified in the Grimes Parks Master Plan. The FSP identifies the preservation of a linear greenway, internally recognized as the Grimes Greenway. The preservation of the naturalized area will provide for a trail/open space corridor, which activates the future adjoining residential developments, while also ensuring the local waterways and other natural features are protected	\$125,000	\$125,000
91.2	City of Bondurant	Park Side to Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex/Lake Petocka Trail Connection	The City is proposing to construct an approximate 1100ft-long by 10ft-wide paved trail connection linking the Park Side and Featherstone neighborhoods to the Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex/Lake Petocka park areas. This trail project will have two distinct project areas, one will be the project area described as part of this current REAP application, while the other project area is associated with the already-awarded LWCF grant fund project.	\$100,000	\$23,673
83.8	City of Fort Madison	Connecting Fort Madison! Phase IV - 48th Street Connector Trail	The fourth in a multi-phase trail construction effort on the west side of Fort Madison, this project involves a new 0.4-mile segment of 10-foot wide trail along 48th Street between Avenue L and River Valley Road. It will close a strategic gap between two recently built trail segments, resulting in a continuous trail system that provides access to Ivanhoe Park, the Baxter Sports Complex, Fort Madison Middle School, and the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center.	\$125,000	-0-
83	City of Conrad	Conrad South Main Trail Extension	The proposed project will extend Comet Trail to the South on Main Street, providing access to residential neighborhoods and the golf course. In addition to the trail extension, the project proposes the development of a trailhead on the north side of Wolf Creek. The trailhead would be constructed of natural elements and create a natural space for resting, relaxing, picnicking, and environmental education. The construction of the trailhead area will also act as a community-building event.	\$75,000	-0-
82.6	City of Tipton	Tipton High School to City Portion of the Sissel-Behrle Memorial Trail	Phase 1 extends 1900ft from Tipton High School to the City Park/Aquatic Center. The paved 10ft-wide trail will connect numerous amenities while making a safe walking/bicycle route along a busy Hwy 130, and provide an alternative way for public access to School athletic events. Sissel-Behrle Memorial Trail is named in memory of two young Tipton men who died in military service and our catalyst trail.	\$75,000	-0-
81.6	City of Huxley	Reestablishing the Heart of the Prairie Where the Sidewalk Ends	The Jefferson Line Connector Trail will connect local/regional trail users from the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail through Huxley to the north city limits. It will be adjacent to services including grocery/convenience and restaurants, and provide important connectivity to recreation, public library and schools. This 600' section establishes a prairie and closes a gap in connectivity complementing private	\$135,000	-0-

			investment on other trail sections and connects our new and long term neighborhoods.		
79	City of Oelwein	Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail - Segment 2	This trail segment is an integral part of the Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail System connecting the two sides of town. Trail segment 2 will be a mixture of off-road construction consisting of eight-foot-wide Concrete trails and on road markings. This extension will create a dedicated continuous trail from the far west side of town to several parks, downtown, sports complex, Oelwein Family Aquatic Center and the entire school system located on the east side of town.	\$100,000	-0-
74.8	City of Altoona	Altoona's South Spring Creek Lake Shoreline Protection	The City of Altoona would like to initiate the development of the Spring Creek land, and this project would kickstart the first phase of this area. The purpose of the project is to stabilize and protect the shoreline on the south lake at Spring Creek, from wind and wave action. This project will reduce siltation amongst the edges of the lake, extending the longevity of the water source by preventing erosion to the shoreline.	\$125,000	-0-
68.2	City of Onawa	Central Park	The project is a multi-use community area consisting of a 4-phase effort including 1) initial preparation 2) Utilities 3) focal point/amenities 4) Landscaping/adult & juvenile apparatus. We are seeking funding to assist with the completion of phase 2 and 3 in the amount of \$75,000.00.	\$75,000	-0-
64.6	City of Denison	City of Denison Safe Trail Project	The City of Denison is applying for REAP funds to build a new trail called The Weiss Family Trail that will connect the northern subdivision of Denison with Denison High School and Denison Middle School. This trail's purpose is to help give kids a safe walking route for going to and from school.	\$100,000	-0-
<b>MEDIUM CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,510,000</b>	<b>\$623,673</b>

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - LARGE CITIES - Population larger than 25,000**

Ranked by Score	City Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
112.5	City of Ames	McDorman Property Acquisition for New Community Park	The project includes the acquisition of 48-acres of land on the west edge of Ames for a new community park. The McDorman property features a portion of Clear Creek, 12-acre prairie CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), 32 acres of upland, and a 4-acre building site with the homestead and deteriorating buildings. The family has envisioned permanent conservation of the land for many years and have decided now is the time to sell it to the City of Ames.	\$200,000	\$200,000
107	City of Iowa City	Hickory Hill Park Ecological Restoration Phase III	Hickory Hill Park is a 185-acre City park established in 1967. This project will be phase III of ecological restoration and build from previous restoration accomplished through REAP funding, capital projects, and many years of volunteer efforts. The project will consist of improvements to woodland and savanna habitat on	\$200,000	\$200,000

			53.5 acres and improvement of three stream crossings for better recreation, emergency, and maintenance access.		
104.4	City of Waterloo	Greenbelt Lake Improvements Phase 2 of 2	Phase Two of the Greenbelt Lake Improvements project includes a kayak launch, 20ft x 28ft shelter, interpretive signage around the perimeter of the lake and pollinator planting, information kiosk, dolomite park identification sign, and park entrance sidewalk from the parking lot to the existing paved path.	\$193,890	\$193,890
103.2	City of Marion	Land Acquisition of Lucore Road Property	Purchase of five acres of the 17 total acres for future parkland. The surrounding area will be consumed with urban sprawl in less than a decade. This would be the only public ground in the area with the next closest being 1.5 miles away and the next over 2 miles. The future parkland will be passive and implement native conservation practices while bringing outdoor recreation to the neighborhood.	\$150,000	\$150,000
101.2	City of Sioux City	Land Acquisition - Big Sioux River Campground Development Project	The City of Sioux City will use grant funds to purchase 16.14 acres of land, adjacent to the Big Sioux River on a flood plain at the base of the First Bluffs of the Loess Hills, for development as a 51-campsite RV Campground. The campground will be developed in partnership with the Sioux City Railroad Museum, with land ownership remaining with the City of Sioux City.	\$300,000	\$104,998
98.8	City of Urbandale	Walker Johnston Park Creek Access, Outdoor Classroom and Reforestation Project	Proposed is a creek access point, outdoor classroom, and reforestation along North Walnut Creek in Walker Johnston Regional Park. These features would increase access to outdoor recreation and education opportunities and restore a wooded area that is losing trees due to age, disease and weather. The project includes features such as limestone stair creek access, interpretive signage, an outdoor classroom/learning space and accessible trail, and restoration of the wooded greenbelt.	\$150,000	-0-
94.2	City of Davenport	Credit Island Lagoon Restoration	This project will restore a walking path through the wooded area around the lagoon at Credit Island Nature Preserve and Park. It will also restore habitat for the Pink Turtlehead, which is an endangered species per the State of Iowa. The final phase of the project will establish native pollinator mix areas in the existing Disc Golf Course.	\$300,000	-0-
92.75	City of West Des Moines	Athene Pedestrian Bridge	The grant application is for the Athene Pedestrian Bridge located in the City of West Des Moines. The Athene Pedestrian Bridge is part of the city's Five Waters Project, an initiative focused on protecting and enhancing the Raccoon River Greenway Corridor and other waterways in West Des Moines while providing residents and visitors with new and exciting ways to experience and explore the outdoors. The new bridge will link Raccoon River Park to Walnut Woods State Park.	\$200,000	-0-
				<b>\$1,693,890</b>	<b>\$848,888</b>



Motion – Commissioner Kircher  
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood  
 Discussion – Michelle Wilson, CRD Executive Officer, provided information regarding the current process for conflicts of interest regarding project reviews and that the procedures outlined in Iowa Administrative Code were followed.  
 Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**9. REAP County Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations of the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP County grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The county conservation account receives 20% of the REAP funds. After initial distributions outlined in Chapter 33, 40% of the remaining funds are available for competitive grants to counties for increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, land protection, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. This money is available to counties, only if they are dedicating at least 22¢ per \$1,000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county for county conservation purposes.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – County Conservation Account

**Grant Funding Available:** \$893,000

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of three non-DNR appointees and two DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.30, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include quality of site and project, public need, urgency of project, multiple use potential, and economic benefit.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding for one project listed in the table. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

REAP County Projects					
Ranked by Score	County Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
136.0	Marshall	Mann Wetlands Acquisition	MCCB is requesting \$916,891 to acquire the Mann Wetlands, 216.31 acres located in Marshall County between the towns of Albion and Marshalltown. Mann Wetlands is 216.31 acres of wetland, grassland, oxbow, river, and forest habitats, with a portion of the land row cropped. 99% of the property lies in the FEMA 100-year floodplain of the Iowa River, and half of the property lies within the 5-year floodplain.	\$916,891	\$893,000
135.2	Lucas	Chariton River Greenbelt Addition	This acquisition will add 365-acres to the Chariton River Greenbelt which will provide a contiguous corridor of river protection totaling 35,397 acres, making it the second largest contiguous greenbelt in Iowa.	\$812,000	-0-
128.5	Des Moines	Shanstrom Addition to Hickory Bend	This project is for the acquisition of 19.44 acres of bottomland hardwood at Hickory Bend Conservation Area along Flint Creek, a site that includes documented presence of Indiana Bats.	\$76,596	-0-
124.0	Dickinson	Little Sioux Savanna Addition	This project is for the acquisition of 161 acres adjacent to the County owned Little Sioux Savanna, preserving a rare oak savanna and protecting almost one-half mile of the Little Sioux River. The addition will allow for	\$590,000	-0-

			ecosystem protection, habitat conservation, cropland restoration to pollinator habitat and recreational opportunities.		
120.2	Pottawattamie	Mt. Crescent Ski Area Addition to Hitchcock Nature Center	This request is for \$600,000 to purchase 106 acres containing remnant Loess Hills prairie, bur oak woodland, and downhill skiing to add to Hitchcock Nature Center. Private and federal dollars (totaling \$2.9 million) will acquire the infrastructure and equipment affiliated with the Ski Area. REAP funds will only be used for land acquisition.	\$600,000	-0-
110.4	Plymouth	Newberg Addition to Hillview Recreation Area	This project is for the purchase of 305 acres adjacent to Hillview Recreation Area, composed of native grasses, Bur Oak timber & converted agricultural land.	\$150,000	-0-
105.4	Polk	Fourmile Creek Park	This project is for the acquisition and restoration of 38.46 acres in the City of Alleman to create a new public conservation area - Fourmile Creek Park. Restoration includes prairie and woodland work, and the creation of public recreational amenities that will allow local residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors in a new public greenspace.	\$500,000	-0-
105.2	Linn	Sieck Acquisition	This acquisition will protect vital cultural and natural resources as well as add to the Cedar River Greenbelt with its important water quality and flood water storage benefits. Acquisition will include 129 acres of floodplain and upland forest including Native American mounds and habitat close to known locations of Central Newt and Blue-spotted Salamander.	\$500,000	-0-
93.4	Buchanan	Lakeside-Prairie Campground and Bison & Prairie Learning Trail	This project develops a new Lakeside-Prairie Campground and Bison & Prairie Learning Trail in Buchanan County's most popular park. The campground and trail connect, and uniquely provide universal use connections to enhanced, extended-stay opportunities for people to engage with natural areas, educational amenities, and healthy outdoor recreation, and connections via a trail system used by all park visitors.	\$362,194	-0-
81.6	Clayton	Osborne Campground	This new construction will return camping amenities to the Clayton County Conservation and Iowa Welcome Center at Osborne Park. It will include twenty full-hookup sites, seven tent sites, a showerhouse, and a sanitary station. A previous campground was removed from the floodplain after several high water events, and the Conservation Board has chosen to relocate and develop the modern campground above the Volga River floodplain at Osborne.	\$140,000	-0-

73.6	Clarke	Clarke County Conservation Education Building	This project is for the development of a space for community events and conservation programming. The conservation education building will include a banquet room, a kitchen, office space, and an open shelter deck. It will be located just south of the campground.	\$250,000	-0-
				<b>\$4,897,681</b>	<b>\$893,000</b>

Motion – Commissioner Underwood  
 Seconded – Commissioner Hanson  
 Discussion – Michelle Wilson, CRD Executive Officer, provided information regarding the current process for conflicts of interest regarding project reviews and that the procedures outlined in Iowa Administrative Code were followed.  
 Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**10. REAP Private Public Cost-share Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations from the Project Review and Selection Committee for the REAP Public/Private Cost-share grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** Open Space funds (28% of REAP funds) are allocated to DNR for state acquisition and development of lands and waters. One-tenth of this 28% is set aside to cost-share land acquisitions with private organizations. The cost-share arrangement entails 75% of the acquisition costs coming from REAP and the other 25% coming from private contributions. This program provides an excellent opportunity to cost share with private entities for the purchase of high-quality natural areas that become public property. The DNR manages the property that is jointly purchased.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund - Private/Public Cost Share

**Grant Funding Available:** \$597,761

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a selection committee consisting of three representatives of private organizations and three DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.50, the selection committee reviewed all applications. Examples of criteria considered include relation to public land, relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs, rare or unique species communities, public benefits, tourism and economic development potential, and multiple use potential.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding the project listed in the table. Any unused funds will revert to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

REAP Public-Private Cost Share Projects				
Grant Applicant	Project Name, County	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
The Nature Conservancy in Iowa	Dennison tract acquisition in Broken Kettle Bird Conservation Area	The Dennison tract consists of high-quality native timber and remnant tallgrass prairie. Protection of this property would, via a combination of publicly and privately-protected lands, help establish a corridor of permanently protected Loess Hills habitat that extends from War Eagle Park in Sioux City through Stone State Park, Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve and The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve near Westfield. This corridor now encompasses over 12,000 acres.	\$240,000	\$240,000
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$240,000</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>

Motion – Commissioner Prickett  
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood

Discussion – Michelle Wilson, CRD Executive Officer, provided information on how funds and property are transferred through this grant program.

Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**11. Contract with Iowa State University (Shovelnose Sturgeon Research)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University of Ames, Iowa.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$135,401

**Dates:** January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025

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

**Contract Purpose:** Shovelnose Sturgeon populations exist in Iowa’s sections of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and in interior rivers, such as the Cedar, Des Moines, and Iowa rivers. Despite their broad distribution in Iowa’s rivers, Shovelnose Sturgeon are listed as a species of greatest conservation need in Iowa’s State Wildlife Action Plan due to threats of habitat degradation and overexploitation, primarily from commercial fishing. The Shovelnose Sturgeon is the only sturgeon species that is still harvested commercially for roe (caviar) in North America and the Upper Mississippi River is one of only a few places in the U.S. where they can be commercially harvested.

Shovelnose Sturgeon have a reproductive strategy that makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing (long lifespan but they do not spawn annually). Harvest rates of Shovelnose Sturgeon vary considerably over time and are sensitive to caviar demand globally. Therefore, effective management of this species requires close monitoring so changes in population status can be detected quickly. The DNR has conducted annual sampling of Shovelnose Sturgeon at a spawning site at Palisades-Kepler State Park in the Cedar River since 2006, resulting in over 20,000 tagged fish and 944 recaptures. Preliminary examination of the data indicates that this river is likely an important source for the Mississippi River sturgeon fishery and this population exhibits some distinct attributes relative to others in the basin. For example, extremely slow growth (less than 1/4 of an inch per year) suggests that the population may be comprised of many old slow growing individuals.

This contract is for a three-year research project at Iowa State University to complete this analysis to:

- 1) Develop incremental growth models using mark-recapture data for Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Cedar River;
- 2) Develop mark-recapture models to estimate annual survival rates of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Cedar River; and
- 3) Compile results and management recommendations in Final Report for DNR.

The backbone of these models are three dynamic-rate functions: recruitment, growth, and mortality. Estimating these demographic parameters for long-lived fish that are difficult to age using traditional methods can be problematic so more advanced and time-consuming methods must be used. The mark-recapture dataset gathered from these sampling efforts by the DNR has provided a unique opportunity to quantify the dynamic rate functions that are imperative to accurately monitor this population and species.

This in-depth analysis of these data is needed to develop population models that can be used to ensure fishing regulations are sufficient to ensure sustainable management of harvested fishes and avoid overexploitation.

**Selection Process Summary:** Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Motion – Commissioner Kircher

Seconded – Commissioner Prickett

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**\*12. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. (Big Mill WMA) – Jackson County**

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

**Contract Terms**

**Income:** \$25,484

**Dates:** 11/01/22 to 03/31/24

**Fund Deposited to:** Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 53,540 board feet in 252 mixed hardwood trees at Big Mill Wildlife Management Area in Jackson County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Big Mill 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:** 8/18/22

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Recommendation:** Kendrick, Inc.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$25,484.00
Brian Steines Logging, Inc.	Bellevue, IA	\$22,610.00

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**\*13. Timber Sale Contract with Ben Bruggeman (YRSF) – Allamakee County**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Ben Bruggeman of Monticello, IA, for Yellow River State Forest.

**Contract Terms**

**Income:** \$99,380.00

**Dates:** 11/01/22 to 03/15/2024

**Fund Deposited to:** Conservation Fund - Forestry

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 193,580 board feet in 864 mixed hardwood trees at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County. This timber harvest will remove trees in a mixed hardwood stand, which will help to create and maintain an uneven-aged stand structure with well-developed mid-story and understory canopy layers which will benefit certain wildlife species. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will help 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 an 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:** 9/20/22

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Recommendation:** Ben Bruggeman

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Ben Bruggeman	Monticello, IA	\$99,380.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$68,250.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$65,000.00

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**14. Contract with Mechanical Comfort, Inc.**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Mechanical Comfort, Inc., of Ames, IA.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$116,475.00

**Dates:** November 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023

**Funding Source(s):** REAP Open Spaces

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR State Forest Nursery has three large coolers for the cold storage of trees and seeds, which are used most of the year. The newest cooler was constructed in the early 1990's. The oldest two coolers are original to the building and were constructed in the mid-1970's. The cooling systems in the oldest coolers are outdated, inefficient, and are often broken down awaiting expensive repairs.

This contract will replace the old equipment in the two oldest coolers. Each cooler is equipped with two cooling systems consisting of a condenser and an evaporator along with all associated electrical, piping, and drain systems. One condenser and one evaporator were recently replaced. This contract will replace the remaining three evaporator units and one condenser unit along with all associated electrical, piping and draining systems. This will include the removal and disposal of the old units and the installation of new units. The contractor will be responsible for the startup, testing, calibration and certification of each cooling system to ensure the coolers are back in service. Since each cooler has two cooling systems, the work can be completed without completely shutting down either cooler.

**Process Summary:** The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a Request for Bids on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria reviewed included ability to complete the work and cost.

**Proposal Due Date:** September 20, 2022

**# of Proposals Received:** 1

**Recommendation:** Mechanical Comfort, Inc.

Bidder	Location	Amount
Mechanical Comfort, Inc.	Ames, IA	\$116,475.00

Motion – Commissioner Underwood  
 Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**\*15. Public Land Management Project: Management Agreements, Lake Manawa State Park Levee – Pottawattamie County – Council Bluffs**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve two management agreements with the City of Council Bluffs for the care and maintenance of two levee areas on the south side of Lake Manawa State Park adjacent to the Missouri River.

Location: Lake Manawa State Park is located on the south side of the City of Council Bluffs.

Site Purpose: The City of Council Bluffs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) are engaged in a large levee project, of which three acres of the levee, in two sections, are located on the south side of Lake Manawa State Park adjacent to the Missouri River. For the two sections (2.6 acre segment and 0.4 acre segment), an agreement for each section transfers the care and maintenance of the sections to the City of Council Bluffs. In collaboration with the USACOE, the care and maintenance of the sections are to meet certification requirements of Federal Emergency Management Agency located in 44CFR65.10, and to reduce the number of relief wells in operation along the levee system. Examples of proposed work includes the installation of a seepage berm along the landward side of the levee, and to abandon or replace multiple drainage structures in the levee segments.

Management Agreement Term: The term of the management agreements with the City of Council Bluffs is in perpetuity, unless mutually terminated.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**16. Public Land Acquisition Projects**

**16.1 Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Jackson County – Doring Corporation**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Jackson County adjacent Green Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Seller: Doring Corporation

Acreage: 160 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$317,300

Appraised Value: \$317,300

Property Description: This property is located seven miles southeast of Bellevue in eastern Jackson County near the confluence of the Maquoketa and Mississippi Rivers. The entire tract is Maquoketa River bottomland encumbered by an Emergency Watersheds Protection Program Floodplain (EWPP) permanent easement. The entire property will be seeded to native grasses following harvest of the existing row crops. There are no building improvements. The Maquoketa River fronts the north end of the property. The tract is bordered along the west by US HWY 52, bisected by a county, gravel road, and bordered along the east by a county, surface-coated road.

Purpose: In addition to providing for important water quality benefits and further elimination of inholdings in the Green Island bottoms complex, this acquisition will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. This tract will also provide critical nesting habitat for waterfowl, one of the primary objectives across the WMA.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$90,000 Conserving the Upper Mississippi Migration Corridor II NAWCA, \$227,300 Wildlife Habitat Stamp.

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

Motion – Commissioner Kircher  
Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, and Kelly Smith, Wildlife Bureau, provided information regarding the existing public land in the area and future plans.

Roll Call Vote:  
Commissioner Foell - Nay  
Commissioner Kircher –Aye  
Commissioner Hansen- Aye  
Commissioner Prickett – Aye  
Commissioner Hommel – Nay  
Commissioner Underwood – Aye  
Commissioner Branstad - Aye

Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**16.2 Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area, Madison County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Madison County at Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 240 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$950,000

Appraised Price: \$1,008,000

Property Description: This L-shaped property is located two miles northwest of Bevington in northeastern Madison County. The steep to near level tract lies within and upslope from the North River floodplain. Over 80 percent of the property lies within the floodplain, and the North River meanders through the tract a distance of approximately one mile. Land use includes 14 acres of food plots in two irregular-shaped fields, and the balance reflecting oak timber, grassland, wetlands, creek tributaries, and the North River. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by a 30-foot wide easement for ingress/egress extending west from a county gravel road.

Purpose: This acquisition resides in close proximity to the Des Moines metro area, contains a diversity of habitat types and will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. A Forest Wildlife Stewardship Plan and prairie reconstruction will be completed as the Wildlife Bureau will oversee management of the property.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Federal Pittman-Robertson

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

Motion – Commissioner Prickett  
Seconded – Commissioner Kircher  
Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, and Kelly Smith, Wildlife Bureau, provided information regarding existing public land in the area, the naming process of a new WMA, and the decision making process when considering public land acquisitions.

Roll Call Vote:  
 Commissioner Kircher –Aye  
 Commissioner Hansen- Aye  
 Commissioner Prickett – Aye  
 Commissioner Hommel – Nay  
 Commissioner Underwood – Aye  
 Commissioner Foell - Nay  
 Commissioner Branstad - Aye

Decision – Approved (2 nays – Commissioners Foell and Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**16.3 Riverton Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to accept the donation of a tract of land located in Fremont County adjacent Riverton Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Donor: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 83 acres

Property Description: This property is located two miles south of Riverton in south central Fremont County. The near level tract is encumbered by a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement, except for a two-acre building site at the south end of the property. Grassland and trees cover the landscape. Mill Creek borders along the west half of the south boundary of the tract. There is a concrete block house and garage on the property of no value, both of which will be salvaged. Access is provided by a county, gravel road that bisects the property.

Purpose: This donation will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities as part of the larger WMA. Invasive trees will be cleared from the tract to enhance the grassland complex, and the potential exists to enhance the wetlands on the site.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

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

Motion – Commissioner Underwood  
 Seconded – Commissioner Kircher  
 Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, and Kelly Smith, Wildlife Bureau, provided process information regarding funding incidental and survey costs and the donation of property.

Roll Call Vote:  
 Commissioner Hansen- Aye  
 Commissioner Prickett – Aye  
 Commissioner Hommel – Nay  
 Commissioner Underwood – Aye  
 Commissioner Foell - Aye  
 Commissioner Kircher – Aye  
 Commissioner Branstad - Aye

Decision – Approved (1 nay – Commissioner Hommel)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**17. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Water Trails Development Program Grant Recommendations**

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grants Programs.

**Grant Purpose:** The purpose of the Water Trails Development Program Grant is to offer funds to water trails infrastructure projects, such as water accesses, parking areas, restrooms, and paddlecraft campsites. Eligible applicants include any local divisions of Iowa government. Although Code does not require cost-share for Development projects, it is strongly



encouraged. This grant cycle advertised a 20% minimum cost-share from the applicant. As outlined in rule, grants are issued at least annually if funding is available. The last grants were approved in February 2022.

**Funding Source(s):** Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

**Grant Funding Available:** \$500,000

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 30, the grant review and selection committee met on August 31, 2022, to evaluate and score applications and to provide recommendations for the grant awards.

**Number of Applications Received:** 6

**Selection Committee Members:** The review and selection committee consisted of five members:

- Citizen stakeholders (2)
- DNR Staff (3)

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends funding to the top ranked projects. If the highest ranked projects decline the funding, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

DEVELOPMENT GRANT					
Ranked by Score	Grant Applicant	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
1	City of Evansdale	Construction of a new concrete boat ramp, parking lot and access road in the town of Evansdale (suburb of Waterloo) along the Cedar River near River Road. Currently there is no developed access, just a steep, muddy, uneven path down to the river. This access will allow motorboats to launch as well as paddlecraft.	\$337,320	\$262,320	\$262,320
2	Mitchell County Conservation	Partial construction of three water accesses, two of which are universally designed and accessible for aging populations, families with children and those with mobility impairments.	\$1,289,210	\$350,000	\$237,680
3	City of Estherville	Construction of a new access and parking area at Midway Access Area along the West Fork Des Moines River Water Trail in Emmet County. This project includes a concrete launch and gravel parking with five stalls for vehicles (1 handicapped) and three stalls for vehicles with trailers.	\$278,000	\$191,640	
4	City of Fort Dodge	Construction of a new concrete carry-down access and medium sized parking lot at Loomis Park in downtown Fort Dodge.	\$223,000	\$178,400	0
5	Jackson County Conservation	Much needed improvements for Bridgeport Access on the Maquoketa River Water Trail near the city of Maquoketa. It's a heavily used access that currently has a steep, uneven natural path down to the river. This phase of the project constructs a concrete ramp only.	\$72,920	\$53,920	0
6	City of Harlan	Construction of a new river access at Highway 44 in the city of Harlan, along the West Nishnabotna River. This amount funds the final need for the project. Project includes concrete ramp, a turn-around lane, staging area, parking lot, and access road.	\$359,950	\$287,960	0
<b>DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS</b>			<b>2,560,400</b>	<b>\$1,324,240</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

Motion – Commissioner Foell  
 Seconded – Commissioner Kircher

Discussion – Nate Hoogeveen, Water Trails Coordinator, provided information regarding cost share, grant funding distribution, legislative funding received, and Iowa’s water trails ranking.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**18. Contract Amendment-2 with Rachel Contracting, LLC (Otter Creek Lake)**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Rachel Contracting, LLC, of Michael, Minnesota.

**Amendment-2**

**Terms:**

**Amendment Amount:** \$147,988.45

**Amendment Dates:** October 14, 2022 to November 30, 2023

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

**Amendment Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to modify the original wetland water control structure. The wetland water control structure is an earthen embankment located immediately upstream of the lake. The original design consisted of a typical pond design, with a 12” diameter high-density polyethylene principal spillway and an open channel emergency spillway. The principal and emergency spillways will be replaced with an 80’ wide weir and a lower embankment height. This change in design will allow for construction without obtaining a permanent flowage easement from the upstream neighbor while providing significant sediment storage and water quality protection to the lake.

**Original Contract Purpose:** In 2019, Tama County Conservation Board and DNR hired FYRA Engineering, Inc. to evaluate proposed watershed practices and provide a design and planning budget for a restoration project at Otter Creek Lake. This project consists of removing approximately 170,000 cubic yards of deposited sediment and native soil, armoring approximately 7,270 linear feet of shoreline, constructing a wetland water control structure, stabilizing approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream bottom, and placing fish habitat structures in various location in the lake. Sediment is being removed from the lake to improve water quality and improve in-lake habitat.

**Original Selection Process:** The Department used a formal competitive bid process pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 26 and Iowa Administrative Code 561-8.

**Contract History:**

**Original Contract Terms:** Amount \$3,425,371.60; Timeframe: November 10, 2021 to June 30, 2023

**Amendment 1 Terms:** Amount: \$289,045.50; Timeframe: September 23, 2022 to November 30, 2023; Purpose: Cost and time adjustment due to permitting

Motion – Commissioner Underwood  
 Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
 Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, discussed the change order process and funding source.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**19. Construction Projects**

**19.1 Lake Macbride State Park North Shore Parking Lot Extension – Johnson County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Lake Macbride State Park was opened to the public in 1937. It is Iowa’s largest state park, adjacent to Coralville Lake, and located near Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Its 2,180 acres offers a variety of outdoor activities. Amenities include a 900 acre lake, hiking trails, a multi-use trail that connects to the City of Solon, ADA accessible playground, swimming beach, concessions, 7 boat ramps, ADA accessible fishing pier, fishing jetties, a fish cleaning station, a day use lodge, 4 shelters, modern restrooms and showers, and camping (one group campsite, 32 electric, 11 full hook up, and 56 non electric).

This project will expand the parking lot at the North Shore boat ramp to accommodate the increase in demand for access to the lake. Vehicle-plus-trailer parking spaces will increase from 21 spaces to 40 spaces, and three single vehicle parking spaces will be added. The new pavement will be concrete placed over a rock base.

**Engineering Project #:** 22-06-52-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$282,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Federal Coast Guard – Boat Safety

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/29/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 11

**Bidders**

Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC	Cascade, IA	\$198,987.90
Triple B Construction	Wilton, IA	\$221,990.50
BWC, Inc.	Solon, IA	\$230,074.25
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$236,837.00
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$247,777.00
All American Concrete, Inc.	West Liberty, IA	\$248,423.00
Rathje Construction Co.	Marion, IA	\$249,374.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating	Dubuque, IA	\$257,818.50
Bockenstedt Excavating, Inc.	Iowa City, IA	\$264,994.25
Jasper Construction Services	Newton, IA	\$285,391.50
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$294,355.25

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC.

Motion – Commissioner Kircher  
 Seconded – Commissioner Foell  
 Discussion – Michelle Wilson, CRD Executive Officer, provided information about the funding source and the Marine Fuel Tax match.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**19.2 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Beach and Shelter Restrooms – Warren County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Lake Ahquabi State Park was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern facilities, a beach with a CCC beach shelter, a privately-run beach concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps. The lake is currently drained and the campground is closed for renovation.

Lake Ahquabi State Park’s Beach Shelter area was originally built by the CCC in the 1930’s and underwent a renovation and redesign in 1998. The current restroom facilities are undersized especially with the crowds of busy holiday weekends. The existing restroom facilities will be expanded by adding a new four-stall restroom to the existing concession building near the beach area, and the existing four stall restroom in the beach shelter complex will be renovated. The beach and picnic shelters will have minor damage repairs made to the masonry (missing stones) and woodwork (dry rot timbers replaced), and the Beach Shelter complex buildings will be professionally cleaned with the woodwork retained.

**Engineering Project #:** 22-05-91-07

**Cost Estimate:** \$412,000.00

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Federal Land and Waters Conservation Fund

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 05/31/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 1

**Bidders**

Gruss Construction, LLC	Winterset, IA	\$473,199.00
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Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Gruss Construction, LLC.

Motion – Commissioner Hansen  
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood  
 Discussion – Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, and Heath Delzell, Engineering Supervisor, provided information regarding the CCC structure and related construction standards.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**19.3 Geode State Park, Reconstruct Beach/Boat Ramp Parking Lot – Henry County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Geode State Park joined the Iowa park system in 1937. The prime attraction of the 1,640-acre park is Lake Geode, a 174-acre lake built in 1950. Amenities include a beach, boating and canoeing, fishing, wildlife watching, cross country skiing, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, picnic shelter, playground, youth group camping area, restrooms, and showers. The asphalt parking lot servicing the beach area was originally constructed in the 1950’s. Age has led to transverse thermal cracking, longitudinal cracking, oxidation, and a few localized pavement failures. This project will remove the existing pavement and install approximately 11,000 square yards of concrete pavement over a rock base.

**Engineering Project #:** 22-06-29-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$1,753,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** IA DOT Parks and Intuitional Roads Fund (59%), Infrastructure (23%), 18% Marine Fuel Tax

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/29/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Bidders**

Jones Contracting Corp. West Point, IA \$879,776.92

Wicks Construction, Inc. Decorah, IA \$880,055.50

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Jones Contracting Corp.

Motion – Commissioner Kircher  
Seconded – Commissioner Hansen  
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**\*19.4 Beeds Lake State Park – Pit Latrine, Franklin County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Beeds Lake State Park, a CCC era park, is a popular camping area with many amenities including boating, fishing and hiking.

Currently, the park does not have pit latrines in the vicinity of the main boat ramp and fishing pier. This project will install a new precast pit latrine and an accessible parking area will be constructed on the circular drive adjacent to the fishing pier and down the road from the CCC lodge and shelter. This will provide services provide a facility for when the flush toilets are closed for the season and a closer facility for fishing and boating use year-round.

**Engineering Project #:** 22-02-35-03

**Cost Estimate:** \$44,935

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Marine Fuel Tax

**Bid Letting Date:** 08/25/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 04/28/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Bidders**

Doyle Construction LLC Fort Dodge, IA \$58,790.00

OEL Construction Services, Inc. Steamboat Rock, IA \$58,827.50

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

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**\*19.5 Beeds Lake State Park – Replace Dump Station, Franklin County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Beeds Lake State Park, a CCC era park, is a popular camping area with many amenities including boating, fishing and hiking. The park has one existing dump station that services a campground with 93 back-in, parallel and drive thru campsites.

The existing dump station is very old and has a history of plugging over the last 20 years. The new dump station has been designed to current standards and has a pull off road access allowing vehicles to enter and dump on the correct side of the vehicle, out of the main road traffic lane. This project will pave a new 310 square yard pull off, and replace the existing dump station plumbing.

**Engineering Project #:** 22-02-35-02

**Cost Estimate:** \$60,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Infrastructure

**Bid Letting Date:** 08/25/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 04/28/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Bidders**

Larson Contracting Central, LLC	Lake Mills, IA	\$66,200.93
Doyle Construction LLC	Fort Dodge, IA	\$74,950.00
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$100,180.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Larson Contracting Central, LLC.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**\*19.6 Botna Bottoms WMA, Tree Clearing, Levee and WCS Repair – Fremont Co**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Botna Bottoms WMA is 411 acres in size, and consists of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat. This property is approximately 441 Acres and part of the Botna Bottoms Wildlife Management area. Game species of interest include deer, turkey, waterfowl, and pheasant.

The two existing water control structures are rusted out and need to be replaced. This project will replace the existing water control structures with new corrugated metal pipe stop log structures. Also, the dike was damaged in two locations due to overtopping and will be reconstructed, woody vegetation will be removed from the dike system and the dike top will be graded to improve service vehicle access.

**Engineering Project #:** 21-04-36-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$54,000

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife

**Funding Source:** REAP Open Spaces (75%), Federal NAWCA (25%)

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 03/15/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Bidders**

Elite Excavating	Omaha, NE	\$63,414.25
Mount Farm Drainage LLC	Riverton, IA	\$72,455.00
Binder Irrigation Inc	Table Rock, NE	\$104,475.84

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Elite Excavating.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

**20. General Discussion**

- **NRC Discussion of Administrative Law Judge Case:** Commissioner Branstad opened discussion for Commissioner input to determine if there needs to be an NRC review of the ALJ cases. No Commissioner requests for review were made; no action will be taken on the cases.
- **Commissioner Comments:** Commissioners shared general comments and natural resource related experiences. The next NRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Commissioner Kircher  
Second – Commissioner Underwood  
Decision - Approved by Unanimous Vote  
With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Chair Branstad adjourned the meeting on 10/13/22 at 11:34am

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

**Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates**

- Thu, 11/10/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)
- Thu, 12/08/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)

# VISITORS/ATTENDEES - SIGN IN SHEET

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON October 13, 2022

## PLEASE PRINT

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

NAME, CITY, STATE	GROUP REPRESENTING (if applicable)	TOPIC OF INTEREST
Will de Bloss	Senate Rep. Cavers	-

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

**NRC Business Meeting – Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**Meeting Convenes at 9:30am**

**Meeting Location:** Iowa DNR, 502 E 9<sup>th</sup> St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rm, Des Moines, IA

**To attend virtually, join via**

Video Link: <https://meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva>

or

Telephone: call 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

**Public Participation begins at approximately 10:00 am**

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda ( <i>*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item</i> ) *12. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. (Big Mill WMA) – Jackson County *13. Timber Sale Contract with Ben Bruggeman for Yellow River State Forest *15. Public Land Management Project: Management Agreement, Lake Manawa State Park Levee – Pottawattamie County – Council Bluffs *19.4 Beeds Lake State Park – Pit Latrine, Franklin County *19.5 Beeds Lake State Park – Replace Dump Station, Franklin County *19.6 Botna Bottoms WMA, Tree Clearing, Levee and WCS Repair – Fremont Co	Decision	Commission
2.	Approve Minutes of 09/07/22 NRC Public Meeting	Decision	Commission
3.	Director’s Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator’s Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
5.	2023 NRC Meeting Recommendations	Decision	Commission
6.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
7.	Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program; Chapter 27, Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program; Chapter 29, Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program; Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs; Chapter 33, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs; and Chapter 35, Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Michelle Wilson
8.	REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants (FY23)	Decision	Michelle Wilson
9.	REAP County Grants (FY23)	Decision	Michelle Wilson
10.	REAP Private Public Cost-share Grants (FY23)	Decision	Michelle Wilson
11.	Contract with Iowa State University (Shovelnose Sturgeon Research)	Decision	Joe Larscheid
*12.	Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. (Big Mill WMA) – Jackson County	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*13.	Timber Sale Contract with Ben Bruggeman for Yellow River State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
14.	Contract with Mechanical Comfort, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*15.	Public Land Management Project: Management Agreements, Lake Manawa State Park Levee – Pottawattamie County – Council Bluffs	Decision	Travis Baker

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.



16.	Public Land Acquisition Projects		
16.1	Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Jackson County – Doring Corporation	Decision	Travis Baker
16.2	Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area, Madison County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
16.3	Riverton Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Water Trails Development Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Travis Baker
18.	Contract Amendment-2 with Rachel Contracting, LLC (Otter Creek Lake)	Decision	Travis Baker
19.	Construction – Large Projects		
19.1	Lake Macbride State Park North Shore Parking Lot Extension – Johnson County	Decision	Travis Baker
19.2	Lake Ahquabi State Park, Beach and Shelter Restrooms – Warren County	Decision	Travis Baker
19.3	Geode State Park, Reconstruct Beach/Boat Ramp Parking Lot – Henry County	Decision	Travis Baker
*19.4	Beeds Lake State Park – Pit Latrine, Franklin County	Decision	Travis Baker
*19.5	Beeds Lake State Park – Replace Dump Station, Franklin County	Decision	Travis Baker
*19.6	Botna Bottoms WMA, Tree Clearing, Levee and WCS Repair – Fremont Co	Decision	Travis Baker
20.	General Discussion		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRC Discussion of Administrative Law Judge Case</li> </ul>		
Post Meeting Topical Information Session: Fish Survey Data Presentation			
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thu, 11/10/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)</li> <li>Thu, 12/08/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)</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.

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

**Decision Item**

**5. 2023 NRC Meeting Recommendations**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting Date / Day / Time</b> (Business Meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month – unless noted*)			<b>Meeting Location (County)</b>
January	<b>01/12/23</b> <b>OR</b> <b>01/18/23*</b>	Thu <b>OR</b> Wed	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting  <b>7:30a- 9:30a</b> DNR Legislative Meet/Greet <b>10:00a</b> NRC Business Meeting	Polk
February	<b>02/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
March	<b>03/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
April	<b>04/13/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
May	<b>05/11/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
June	<b>06/07/23*</b>	Wed	<b>12:00p</b> Business Meeting, Field Tour	Scott (Lost Grove Lake/WMA)
	<b>06/08/23*</b>	Thu	<b>9:00a</b> Field Tour	Scott (Lost Grove Lake/WMA)
July	<b>07/13/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
August	<b>08/09/23*</b>	Wed	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
			<b>12:00p-5:30p</b> NRC/EPC Joint Mtg (joint mtg pending), Field Tour	Polk/Warren (Lake Ahquabi SP)
September	<b>09/13/23*</b>	Wed	<b>12:00p</b> Business Meeting, Field Tour	Fremont (Riverton WMA, Waubonsi SP)
	<b>09/14/23*</b>	Thu	<b>9:00a</b> Field Tour	Fremont (Riverton WMA, Waubonsi SP)
October	<b>10/12/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
November	<b>11/09/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
December	<b>12/14/23</b>	Thu	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting	Polk
January	<b>01/11/24</b> <b>OR</b> <b>01/17/24*</b>	Thu <b>OR</b> Wed	<b>9:30a</b> Business Meeting  <b>7:30a- 9:30a</b> DNR Legislative Meet/Greet <b>10:00a</b> NRC Business Meeting	Polk

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: 10/13/22

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

**Decision Item**

**6. 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>
Wildlife Diversity Program	\$350.00	Funds to support the conservation of non-game species	Jane and William Overland
Brushy Creek	\$1,588.62	75.29 ton 3/8- rock for hitch rails	Morgan Endecott, Backcountry Horsemen of IA
Lake Darling State Park	\$1,700.00	2018 Hurricane Skimmer 140 Kayak & Trailer	Linda Marie
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$196,551.96	Bequeath from Doris Ann Flater in support of Iowa's natural resources.	Mardean VanDeest, Executor of Doris Ann Flater Estate
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$30.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	Richard Kurtenbach
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$650.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Collins Community CU, c/o Dennis Bumsted
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Dorraine Schuling
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Penny Dankbar
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Thomas and Norma Twohill
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$40.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Thomas and Sue
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$20.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Robert Bumsted.	Barbara O'Rourke
Ledges State Park	\$405.00	Value of donated labor for a journeyman and apprentice to replace photocells on 3 security lights in the Ledges campground.	Thompson Electric
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Joe Keller	Ara Keller
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$360.00	Funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	Richard Kurtenbach
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$600.00	After learning about philanthropy and giving back through discussion of various organizations they are passionate about and the work these organizations do in their communities, Vermeer's NextGen program youth donated funds to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	Tricia K. Vermeer, Executive Director, Vermeer Charitable Foundation
Bellevue State Park	\$650.00	Three framed paintings of park areas throughout the seasons for use in the lodge.	Sue Sawvel

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: 10/13/22

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

**Decision Item**

**7. Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards,”– Notice of Intended Action**

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The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 23, “Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program”, Chapter 27, “Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program,” Chapter 29, “Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program,” Chapter 30, “Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs,” Chapter 33, “Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs,” and Chapter 35, “Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards.”

**Basic Intent of Current Rules:**

Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program: To allocate wildlife habitat stamp revenues to local entities. These funds must be used specifically for the acquisition of whole or partial interests in land from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas.

Chapter 27, Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program: To offer grants to Iowa’s cities and counties to assist with planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation.

Chapter 29, Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program: To provide state cost sharing to communities, counties, organizations and associations for the restoration or construction of recreational complexes or facilities.

Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs: To offer cost-share funds to water trails infrastructure projects, such as water accesses, parking areas, restrooms, and paddlecraft campsites. Eligible applicants include any local divisions of Iowa government.

Chapter 33, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program-County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs: To administer the private cost-sharing funds within the open spaces account, the county conservation account, and the city park and open spaces account of the resource enhancement and protection fund.

Chapter 35, Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards: To allocate fish habitat revenue to county conservation boards. These funds shall be used specifically to acquire from willing sellers whole or partial interest in land for use as or for protection offish habitats and to develop and enhance fishable waters and habitat areas.

**Proposed Rule Change:** Several grant programs do not explicitly address conflicts within the pre-selected scoring committee. The proposed rule adds language that requires designation of at least two alternates. The alternates will be available to serve in the place of a primary committee member whenever the primary committee member is directly participating in a grant cycle.

Additionally, a few grant programs have antiquated submission rules, requiring that paper copies be mailed to a particular address. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) began using an electronic grant submission portal in 2020. This new method is easy and cost-effective. The proposed rules require that applications be submitted via a form or a method specified on the Department’s website. This will enable the Department and grant applicants to utilize new systems as technology improves over time.

Finally, many grant programs have fixed deadlines set forth in rule (i.e., March 15). This prevents flexibility on grant deadlines even when extraordinary events may justify accommodations. The proposed amendments mirror existing language in 571--Chapter 30 that allows a submission deadline to be published on the Department's website with a least 90 days' notice. Notably, Chapter 30's publication-based framework has been successfully utilized for 14 years. The proposed rule would allow the Department to change a deadline when circumstances warrant, while still ensuring plenty of public notice.

Michelle Wilson, CRD Executive Officer  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

Attached: Chapter 23, "Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program", Chapter 27, "Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program," Chapter 29, "Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program," Chapter 30, "Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs," Chapter 33, "Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs," and Chapter 35, "Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards," – NOIA

#### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

##### Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 23, "Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program", Chapter 27, "Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program," Chapter 29, "Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program," Chapter 30, "Waters Cost-share and Grant Programs," Chapter 33, "Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City and Private Open Spaces Grant Programs," and Chapter 35, "Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards," Iowa Administrative Code.

##### *Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), 455A.19(1)"b" and "d," and 462A.3.

##### *State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 452A.79A, 455A.19, 456A.29 through 456A.33, 461A.3, 464A.11, and 483.3A.

##### *Purpose and Summary*

The Commission proposes to amend multiple grant programs to add provisions addressing conflicts of interest, electronic filing, and more adaptable filing deadlines.

Several grant programs do not explicitly address conflicts within the pre-selected scoring committee. The proposed rule adds language that requires designation of at least two alternates. The alternates will be available to serve in the place of a primary committee member whenever the primary committee member is directly participating in a grant cycle.

Additionally, a few grant programs have antiquated submission rules, requiring that paper copies be mailed to a particular address. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) began using an electronic grant submission portal in 2020. This new method is easy and cost-effective. The proposed rules require that applications be submitted via a form or a method specified on the Department's website. This will enable the Department and grant applicants to utilize new systems as technology improves over time.

Finally, many grant programs have fixed deadlines set forth in rule (i.e., March 15). This prevents flexibility on grant deadlines even when extraordinary events may justify accommodations, such as the derecho and Covid-19, both of which were experienced within the last several years. The proposed amendments mirror existing language in 571--Chapter 30 that allows a submission deadline to be published on the Department's website with a least 90 days' notice. Notably, Chapter 30's publication-based framework has been successfully utilized for 14 years. The proposed rule would allow the Department to change a deadline when circumstances warrant, while still ensuring plenty of public notice.

#### *Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

#### *Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

#### *Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571—Chapter 11.

#### *Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 22, 2022. Comments should be directed to:

Michelle Wilson  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Wallace State Office Building 502 E 9th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Email: michelle.wilson@dnr.iowa.gov

#### *Public Hearing*

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held by conference call. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Michelle Wilson at michelle.wilson@dnr.iowa.gov. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Ms. Wilson prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

DATE: November 22, 2022      Conference call

TIME: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

#### *Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action proposed:

#### WILDLIFE HABITAT

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 23.6(2) as follows:

Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding ~~during January and July of each year at least twice a year. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be received in acceptable form by submitted to the department as described on the website Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by the close of business on the last business day of May for consideration at the summer review and the last business day of November for the winter review.~~ Changes to grant applications must be submitted to the department no later than 4 p.m. the day prior to the committee review date. Upon timely notice to eligible recipients, additional selection periods may be scheduled if necessary to expedite the distribution of these funds. In emergencies, local entities can obtain a waiver so that acquisition projects may

be approved for retroactive payments, provided that funds are available and the project meets all other criteria.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 23.7(1) as follows:

A review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, composed of one person appointed by the director to represent the department and designated by the director as chairperson and four persons appointed by the director to represent county conservation boards shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director to represent the county conservation boards in the event of a conflict of interest.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of a county conservation board that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

#### LANDS AND WATERS CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 27.5(2) as follows:

The following information applies to local projects only. Grant applications and amendment requests which increase the existing grant amount shall be reviewed and selected for funding on an annual basis as provided in subrule 27.2(2). The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. Annual reviews shall be held in April on the day announced on the department's website. Applications must be received in acceptable form by the Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034, by the close of business on the work day closest to the fifteenth day of March.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 27.6(1) as follows:

A five-member review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee, shall be composed of three staff members of the department as appointed by the director of the department, one member appointed by the director with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, and one member appointed by the director of the department with input from the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director with input from both associations and the league of cities. The committee shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding at the local level. A review and selection committee for state projects shall be composed of four staff members of the department as appointed by the director.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

#### WATER RECREATION ACCESS COST-SHARE PROGRAM & LOW-HEAD DAMS

##### Division I – WRAC

ITEM 8. Rescind rule 571—30.8(452A) and adopt the following new rule in lieu thereof: 571—30.8(452A) Application procedures. Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding at least once a year. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.79A.

ITEM 9. Rescind and reserve rule 571—30.14(77GA,SF2381).

##### Division II: Low-head dams

ITEM 10. Amend rule 571—30.51(455A,461A,462A), definition of “*Scoring Committee*,” as follows: “*Scoring committee*” means the water trails scoring committee, which consists of the coordinator, two other department

staff members appointed by the director, and two representatives and two alternates of the water recreation community selected by the director.

ITEM 11. Amend rule 571—30.57(455A,461A,462A) as follows:

571—30.57(455A,461A,462A) Proposal evaluation. Proposals will be evaluated by the scoring committee. The scoring committee shall evaluate both water trails development program proposals and low-head dam public hazard program proposals.

30.57(1) Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

REAP

ITEM 12. Amend subrule 33.5(2) as follows:

Applications for all grant programs shall be made on forms provided by the department. ~~An original and five copies shall be submitted by deadlines as specified in subrule 33.5(4) of this chapter or as otherwise published by the department.~~

ITEM 13. Amend subrule 33.5(4) as follows:

Application deadlines are the same for county, city, and private open space grant programs. Applications will be reviewed and projects selected for funding at least once a year one time each year in September. Applications must be received in acceptable form by the department at least daby the close of business on the fifteenth day of August. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. Upon a 60-day notice to potential applicants, the department may schedule additional review and selection periods to expedite the distribution of grant funds.

ITEM 14. Amend subrule 33.30(3) as follows:

The makeup of this committee is as follows: two representatives of the department appointed by the director; two county conservation board directors appointed by the director of the department with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards; one member selected every three years by a majority vote of the director's appointees. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director with input from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. The members shall select a chairperson at the first meeting during each calendar year. Terms of appointment to the committee shall be on a three-year staggered term basis.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

ITEM 15. Amend subrule 33.40(4) as follows:

The director shall appoint a five-member review and selection committee to evaluate project applications. This committee shall include one member representing each of the three size classes of cities (e.g., one from a city of less than 2,000, one from a city of 2,000 to 25,000, and one from a city of over 25,000). The director shall request a list of candidates from the league of Iowa cities and Iowa parks and recreation association. The remaining two members of the committee shall be a representative of the department and an at-large member. Additionally, there shall be at least two alternates designated by the director from the candidates list provided by the league of Iowa Cities and Iowa parks and recreation association. The committee shall elect its own chairperson from its members.

Members shall serve three-year staggered terms.

a. Conflict of interest. An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

ITEM 16. Amend subrule 33.50(4) as follows:

The director shall appoint a committee to review and score projects. The committee shall include the following: three persons representing the private sector and two alternates selected from a pool of potential names



as submitted to the director by the various private eligible groups; administrator of the conservation and recreation division of the department, or the administrator's designee; and the bureau chiefs of the department's ~~forestry/wildlife~~ bureau and parks, forests, and preserves bureau or their designees. The committee shall elect its own chairperson from its members. ~~The director shall request a list of candidates for the private sector members from groups eligible to participate in this program.~~ The committee will report to the director the order in which proposed projects were ranked using criteria as specified in 33.50(5).

*a. Conflict of interest.* An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

#### FISH HABITAT

ITEM 17. Amend subrule 35.5(2) as follows:

Applications for funds shall be reviewed and selected for funding at least once a year during January of each year. The department shall publish on its website the date and time for submitting a funding proposal, providing at least 90 days' notice. Applications must be submitted to the department as described on the website. ~~The district designee shall receive an original application and six copies in acceptable form by the close of business on the last business day of November of the previous year for consideration. The district shall forward a copy of all applications to the department's designee by December 15 of the previous year.~~ Upon timely notice to eligible recipients, additional selection periods may be scheduled if necessary to expedite the distribution of funds. In emergencies, a county may request a waiver so that an acquisition project may be approved for retroactive payments if funds are available and the project meets all other criteria.

ITEM 18. Amend subrule 35.6(1) as follows:

Each district shall have a review and selection committee, hereinafter referred to as the committee. Each committee shall be composed of at least five county directors or their designees, with at least two designated alternates. Each district's committee shall determine which grant applications and amendment requests shall be selected for funding. For advisory purposes only, a department biologist or designee shall be present during review and selection of grant applications and amendment requests.

*a. Conflict of interest.* An individual who is a member, volunteer, or employee of an entity that has submitted a project shall not serve on the scoring committee during that award cycle. Instead, one of the alternates shall review and score in their place.

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

**Decision Item**

**8. REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations from the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP City Parks and Open Space Grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The City Parks and Open Space account receives 15% of the REAP funds, after initial distributions are made as outlined in Chapter 33, for competitive grants to help cities establish natural areas, encouraging outdoor recreation and resource management. Three categories have been established to assure grants are distributed to all sizes of cities. Projects considered include development of parks, multi-purpose trails (emphasis on connecting existing trails), park shelters, lake or river shoreline restoration, fishing access, and habitat restoration.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – City Park and Open Spaces

**Grant Funding Available:**

Category	City Population	Funding Available
Small Cities	less than 2,000	\$259,865
Medium Cities	between 2,000 and 25,000	\$623,673
Large Cities	larger than 25,000	\$848,888

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a selection committee consisting of four non-DNR appointees and one DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.40, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include the relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs based on comprehensive plans (i.e. SCORP, County Resource Enhancement Plan, or local, state and federal plans), quality of site for land acquisition projects, environmental benefits, public benefit, and local support.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding the projects listed in the Project Allocation. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

ALLOCATION SUMMARY				
CATEGORY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED	# OF PROJECTS SCORED	PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING
SMALL CITIES TOTALS	\$548,611	\$256,865	9	5
MEDIUM CITIES TOTALS	\$1,510,000	\$623,673	16	8
LARGE CITIES TOTALS	\$1,693,890	\$4848,888	8	5
<b>DISTRIBUTION TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,752,501</b>	<b>\$1,732,426</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>

**PROJECT ALLOCATIONS**

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - SMALL CITIES - Population under 2,000**

<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>City Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
90	City of Lake Park	Tatanka Ska Trace - Phase IV(b)	Tatanka Ska Trace is a multi-phase project to convert the former railroad into a recreational trail that spans 37 miles across Dickinson and Osceola Counties. Phase IV(b) involves construction of a 10-foot wide concrete trail starting in the town of Montgomery and travels west 2.5 miles where it ends at 170th Avenue and joins Phase IV(c) that will be completed this year. This project is the final segment that will connect Lake Park to the entire Dickinson County Trails system.	\$75,000	\$75,000
89.4	City of Wellsburg	Wellsburg City Park Phase I	This application will complete phase I of a multi-phased, City Park enhancement project in Wellsburg, Iowa. Phase I includes the construction of a shelter, concrete pad, and two ADA-accessible picnic tables, as well as native trees and pollinators to create a city park arboretum. The park improvements will enhance the City's main park to encourage children, families, visitors, and all community members to spend more time outdoors.	\$50,000	\$50,000
85.8	City of Donnellson	Westview Park Trail - Phase I	A new 10-foot wide limestone multi-use trail will be constructed within the 28-acre Westview Park at the western edge of Donnellson. As the first in a 2-phase effort to create a trail loop around the park, this segment will extend 0.4 miles through the northwest quadrant of the park, branching off an existing paved trail which connects to a nearby neighborhood. Phase I also involves a new trailhead with parking, interpretive signage and native plantings.	\$50,000	\$50,000
85	City of Bouton	RRVT to HTT Connector Project - City of Bouton Phase	This project consists of the construction of a multi-use recreational paved trail section that is part of the overall 9-mile Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector project. This City of Bouton Phase of the project includes a paved trail approximately 250 ft. long and the development of a Trailhead parking lot. This trail section and trailhead parking lot are located all within the City of Bouton. The trail will be 10 ft. wide concrete or asphalt and 6" thick.	\$50,000	\$50,000
83.2	City of West Point	8th Street-South Park Connector Trail	At the south end of West Point, a 450-foot long, 10-foot wide trail will be built to replace an existing 4-foot wide sidewalk. It will connect 8th Street to a 0.6-mile trail extending eastward from the City's South Park to Lee County Conservation's Pollmiller Park. Thus, it will provide safe, multimodal access to two public multi-use recreational facilities. In addition, an adjacent 0.25-acre plot in South Park will be seeded for native prairie plantings.	\$50,000	\$31,865
80.6	City of Marcus	Marcus Trail Plan-Phase I	Construction of a 1.4 mile, multi-use recreational trail to safely connect residential neighborhoods that are currently lacking sidewalks to amenities such as the elementary and high school campus, Little League	\$75,000	-0-

			athletic fields, high school football and baseball field, swimming pool, and the golf course area. This project will provide safe infrastructure for alternative transportation such as biking and walking, which will help alleviate congestion and pollution from unnecessary vehicle trips.		
80.4	City of Springville	Emmons Park Trail	Quarter-mile PCC Trail that will complete the Emmons Park trail network. The Trail will meander through a forest and around a water quality feature. Project will also include plantings and other amenities.	\$75,000	-0-
70.8	City of Roland	Jacobson Bear Creek Park Trail	Provide the community with a trail through a natural area to enjoy the outdoors while still having access to different activities. Provide individuals no matter their limitations easy access to a community gathering area.	\$73,611	-0-
60.4	City of Sabula	Maude Brooks Park Renovation	The Maude Brooks Park was donated by the family of the late Maude Brooks. It housed a rustic fence, 2 small shelters with benches and a fountain which was beautiful at night because of its colored lights. Over time, the park lost its glory and the fountain was removed. We would like to restore the park back to its grand state, by replacing the fountain, adding new walkways and benches and ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps.	\$50,000	-0-
<b>SMALL CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$548,611</b>	<b>\$256,865</b>

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - MEDIUM CITIES - Population between 2,000 and 25,000**

Ranked by Score	City Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
99.2	City of Coralville	Coralville Forest Restoration Project - Dovetail and Colony Open Space Areas	The Coralville Forest Restoration Project seeks to address non-native invasive species in forests in the Dovetail Recreation Area and Colony Open Space Area and to manage stands in a way that encourages native tree populations. Phase I is this request and it will focus on removal of understory growth by manually removing and treating invasive species such as honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, , multiflora rose, burning bush, white mulberry, and barberry on 62 acres of public lands.	\$100,000	\$100,000
97.6	City of New Hampton	New Hampton Multi-Use Path, Phase 3 of 3	This application will complete the last phase of the New Hampton Multi-Use Path. The project includes one mile of paved trail, native seeding, and plantings to be located between South Linn Ave and the Chickasaw Wellness Center and New Hampton school complex. The new trail will connect existing multi-use paths on the eastern and western sides of the community, resulting in a 5.5-mile cross-city multi-use path for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized activities.	\$75,000	\$75,000
94.4	City of Prairie City	Red Rock Prairie Trail Paving from Prairie City to Mitchellville	The proposed project will extend Red Rock Prairie Trail by seven paved miles on a former railbed from the edge of Prairie City near Commerce Drive to the edge of Mitchellville at NE 116th Street. This stretch of the trail is located on the former Iowa Interstate	\$75,000	\$75,000

			Railroad which Jasper County Conservation has already secured.		
96.6	City of Mitchellville	Red Rock Prairie Trail Paving from Prairie City to Mitchellville	The proposed project will extend Red Rock Prairie Trail by seven paved miles on the railbed from the edge of Prairie City near Commerce Drive to the edge of Mitchellville at NE 116th Street. This stretch of the trail is located on the former Iowa Interstate Railroad which Jasper County Conservation has already secured.	\$75,000	\$75,000
93.2	City of Clarion	Clarion Greenway Connection	The Clarion Greenway Connection will provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation and an alternative way for residents and visitors to travel between Lake Cornelia and Clarion. The project will be a city-owned paved trail and will restore native prairie and reduce agricultural runoff into White Fox Creek. Full funding from REAP for this project is vital for the acquisition of 7.29 acres and is crucial to the development of a trail corridor for Clarion.	\$75,000	\$75,000
91.4	City of Epworth	Tower Park Improvements	Improvements to the park include expanding a concrete patio from the existing enclosed pavilion, adding lighting, terracing a hillside for amphitheater seating, and a native plant bed. The terracing will involve segmented block retaining walls, railings, steps, and areas for seating. The proposed project includes installing a 4' wide band of permeable pavers along the base of the retaining wall to provide stormwater detention for the additional impervious area.	\$75,000	\$75,000
91.2	City of Grimes	Grimes Greenway Phase 2	This is an acquisition of approximately 13.3 acres of naturalized area located in the Far Southwest Planning Area (FSP), identified in the Grimes Parks Master Plan. The FSP identifies the preservation of a linear greenway, internally recognized as the Grimes Greenway. The preservation of the naturalized area will provide for a trail/open space corridor, which activates the future adjoining residential developments, while also ensuring the local waterways and other natural features are protected	\$125,000	\$125,000
91.2	City of Bondurant	Park Side to Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex/Lake Petocka Trail Connection	The City is proposing to construct an approximate 1100ft-long by 10ft-wide paved trail connection linking the Park Side and Featherstone neighborhoods to the Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex/Lake Petocka park areas. This trail project will have two distinct project areas, one will be the project area described as part of this current REAP application, while the other project area is associated with the already-awarded LWCF grant fund project.	\$100,000	\$23,673
83.8	City of Fort Madison	Connecting Fort Madison! Phase IV - 48th Street Connector Trail	The fourth in a multi-phase trail construction effort on the west side of Fort Madison, this project involves a new 0.4-mile segment of 10-foot wide trail along 48th Street between Avenue L and River Valley Road. It will close a strategic gap between two recently built trail segments, resulting in a continuous trail system that provides access to Ivanhoe Park, the Baxter Sports Complex, Fort Madison Middle School, and the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center.	\$125,000	-0-

83	City of Conrad	Conrad South Main Trail Extension	The proposed project will extend Comet Trail to the South on Main Street, providing access to residential neighborhoods and the golf course. In addition to the trail extension, the project proposes the development of a trailhead on the north side of Wolf Creek. The trailhead would be constructed of natural elements and create a natural space for resting, relaxing, picnicking, and environmental education. The construction of the trailhead area will also act as a community-building event.	\$75,000	-0-
82.6	City of Tipton	Tipton High School to City Portion of the Sissel-Behrle Memorial Trail	Phase 1 extends 1900ft from Tipton High School to the City Park/Aquatic Center. The paved 10ft-wide trail will connect numerous amenities while making a safe walking/bicycle route along a busy Hwy 130, and provide an alternative way for public access to School athletic events. Sissel-Behrle Memorial Trail is named in memory of two young Tipton men who died in military service and our catalyst trail.	\$75,000	-0-
81.6	City of Huxley	Reestablishing the Heart of the Prairie Where the Sidewalk Ends	The Jefferson Line Connector Trail will connect local/regional trail users from the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail through Huxley to the north city limits. It will be adjacent to services including grocery/convenience and restaurants, and provide important connectivity to recreation, public library and schools. This 600' section establishes a prairie and closes a gap in connectivity complementing private investment on other trail sections and connects our new and long term neighborhoods.	\$135,000	-0-
79	City of Oelwein	Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail - Segment 2	This trail segment is an integral part of the Oelwein Municipal Urban Trail System connecting the two sides of town. Trail segment 2 will be a mixture of off-road construction consisting of eight-foot-wide Concrete trails and on road markings. This extension will create a dedicated continuous trail from the far west side of town to several parks, downtown, sports complex, Oelwein Family Aquatic Center and the entire school system located on the east side of town.	\$100,000	-0-
74.8	City of Altoona	Altoona's South Spring Creek Lake Shoreline Protection	The City of Altoona would like to initiate the development of the Spring Creek land, and this project would kickstart the first phase of this area. The purpose of the project is to stabilize and protect the shoreline on the south lake at Spring Creek, from wind and wave action. This project will reduce siltation amongst the edges of the lake, extending the longevity of the water source by preventing erosion to the shoreline.	\$125,000	-0-
68.2	City of Onawa	Central Park	The project is a multi-use community area consisting of a 4-phase effort including 1) initial preparation 2) Utilities 3) focal point/amenities 4) Landscaping/adult & juvenile apparatus. We are seeking funding to assist with the completion of phase 2 and 3 in the amount of \$75,000.00.	\$75,000	-0-
64.6	City of Denison	City of Denison Safe Trail Project	The City of Denison is applying for REAP funds to build a new trail called The Weiss Family Trail that will connect the northern subdivision of Denison with Denison High School and Denison Middle School. This	\$100,000	-0-

			trail's purpose is to help give kids a safe walking route for going to and from school.		
<b>MEDIUM CITIES TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,510,000</b>	<b>\$623,673</b>

**REAP City Parks Open Spaces - LARGE CITIES - Population larger than 25,000**

<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>City Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
112.5	City of Ames	McDorman Property Acquisition for New Community Park	The project includes the acquisition of 48-acres of land on the west edge of Ames for a new community park. The McDorman property features a portion of Clear Creek, 12-acre prairie CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), 32 acres of upland, and a 4-acre building site with the homestead and deteriorating buildings. The family has envisioned permanent conservation of the land for many years and have decided now is the time to sell it to the City of Ames.	\$200,000	\$200,000
107	City of Iowa City	Hickory Hill Park Ecological Restoration Phase III	Hickory Hill Park is a 185-acre City park established in 1967. This project will be phase III of ecological restoration and build from previous restoration accomplished through REAP funding, capital projects, and many years of volunteer efforts. The project will consist of improvements to woodland and savanna habitat on 53.5 acres and improvement of three stream crossings for better recreation, emergency, and maintenance access.	\$200,000	\$200,000
104.4	City of Waterloo	Greenbelt Lake Improvements Phase 2 of 2	Phase Two of the Greenbelt Lake Improvements project includes a kayak launch, 20ft x 28ft shelter, interpretive signage around the perimeter of the lake and pollinator planting, information kiosk, dolomite park identification sign, and park entrance sidewalk from the parking lot to the existing paved path.	\$193,890	\$193,890
103.2	City of Marion	Land Acquisition of Lucore Road Property	Purchase of five acres of the 17 total acres for future parkland. The surrounding area will be consumed with urban sprawl in less than a decade. This would be the only public ground in the area with the next closest being 1.5 miles away and the next over 2 miles. The future parkland will be passive and implement native conservation practices while bringing outdoor recreation to the neighborhood.	\$150,000	\$150,000
101.2	City of Sioux City	Land Acquisition - Big Sioux River Campground Development Project	The City of Sioux City will use grant funds to purchase 16.14 acres of land, adjacent to the Big Sioux River on a flood plain at the base of the First Bluffs of the Loess Hills, for development as a 51-campsite RV Campground. The campground will be developed in partnership with the Sioux City Railroad Museum, with land ownership remaining with the City of Sioux City.	\$300,000	\$104,998
98.8	City of Urbandale	Walker Johnston Park Creek Access, Outdoor Classroom and Reforestation Project	Proposed is a creek access point, outdoor classroom, and reforestation along North Walnut Creek in Walker Johnston Regional Park. These features would increase access to outdoor recreation and education opportunities and restore a wooded area that is losing trees due to age, disease and weather. The project includes features such as limestone stair creek access, interpretive signage, an outdoor classroom/learning space and accessible trail, and restoration of the wooded greenbelt.	\$150,000	-0-

94.2	City of Davenport	Credit Island Lagoon Restoration	This project will restore a walking path through the wooded area around the lagoon at Credit Island Nature Preserve and Park. It will also restore habitat for the Pink Turtlehead, which is an endangered species per the State of Iowa. The final phase of the project will establish native pollinator mix areas in the existing Disc Golf Course.	\$300,000	-0-
92.75	City of West Des Moines	Athene Pedestrian Bridge	The grant application is for the Athene Pedestrian Bridge located in the City of West Des Moines. The Athene Pedestrian Bridge is part of the city's Five Waters Project, an initiative focused on protecting and enhancing the Raccoon River Greenway Corridor and other waterways in West Des Moines while providing residents and visitors with new and exciting ways to experience and explore the outdoors. The new bridge will link Raccoon River Park to Walnut Woods State Park.	\$200,000	-0-
				<b>\$1,693,890</b>	<b>\$848,888</b>

Michelle Wilson, REAP Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022



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

**Decision Item**

**9. REAP County Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations of the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP County grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The county conservation account receives 20% of the REAP funds. After initial distributions outlined in Chapter 33, 40% of the remaining funds are available for competitive grants to counties for increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, land protection, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. This money is available to counties, only if they are dedicating at least 22¢ per \$1,000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county for county conservation purposes.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – County Conservation Account

**Grant Funding Available:** \$893,000

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of three non-DNR appointees and two DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.30, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include quality of site and project, public need, urgency of project, multiple use potential, and economic benefit.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding for four projects listed in the table. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

<b>REAP County Projects</b>					
<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>County Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
136.0	Marshall	Mann Wetlands Acquisition	MCCB is requesting \$916,891 to acquire the Mann Wetlands, 216.31 acres located in Marshall County between the towns of Albion and Marshalltown. Mann Wetlands is 216.31 acres of wetland, grassland, oxbow, river, and forest habitats, with a portion of the land row cropped. 99% of the property lies in the FEMA 100-year floodplain of the Iowa River, and half of the property lies within the 5-year floodplain.	\$916,891	\$893,000
135.2	Lucas	Chariton River Greenbelt Addition	This acquisition will add 365-acres to the Chariton River Greenbelt which will provide a contiguous corridor of river protection totaling 35,397 acres, making it the second largest contiguous greenbelt in Iowa.	\$812,000	-0-
128.5	Des Moines	Shanstrom Addition to	This project is for the acquisition of 19.44 acres of bottomland hardwood at	\$76,596	-0-

		Hickory Bend	Hickory Bend Conservation Area along Flint Creek, a site that includes documented presence of Indiana Bats.		
124.0	Dickinson	Little Sioux Savanna Addition	This project is for the acquisition of 161 acres adjacent to the County owned Little Sioux Savanna, preserving a rare oak savanna and protecting almost one-half mile of the Little Sioux River. The addition will allow for ecosystem protection, habitat conservation, cropland restoration to pollinator habitat and recreational opportunities.	\$590,000	-0-
120.2	Pottawattamie	Mt. Crescent Ski Area Addition to Hitchcock Nature Center	This request is for \$600,000 to purchase 106 acres containing remnant Loess Hills prairie, bur oak woodland, and downhill skiing to add to Hitchcock Nature Center. Private and federal dollars (totaling \$2.9 million) will acquire the infrastructure and equipment affiliated with the Ski Area. REAP funds will only be used for land acquisition.	\$600,000	-0-
110.4	Plymouth	Newberg Addition to Hillview Recreation Area	This project is for the purchase of 305 acres adjacent to Hillview Recreation Area, composed of native grasses, Bur Oak timber & converted agricultural land.	\$150,000	-0-
105.4	Polk	Fourmile Creek Park	This project is for the acquisition and restoration of 38.46 acres in the City of Alleman to create a new public conservation area - Fourmile Creek Park. Restoration includes prairie and woodland work, and the creation of public recreational amenities that will allow local residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors in a new public greenspace.	\$500,000	-0-
105.2	Linn	Sieck Acquisition	This acquisition will protect vital cultural and natural resources as well as add to the Cedar River Greenbelt with its important water quality and flood water storage benefits. Acquisition will include 129 acres of floodplain and upland forest including Native American mounds and habitat close to known locations of Central Newt and Blue-spotted Salamander.	\$500,000	-0-
93.4	Buchanan	Lakeside-Prairie Campground and Bison & Prairie Learning Trail	This project develops a new Lakeside-Prairie Campground and Bison & Prairie Learning Trail in Buchanan County's most popular park. The campground and trail connect, and uniquely provide universal use connections to enhanced,	\$362,194	-0-

			extended-stay opportunities for people to engage with natural areas, educational amenities, and healthy outdoor recreation, and connections via a trail system used by all park visitors.		
81.6	Clayton	Osborne Campground	This new construction will return camping amenities to the Clayton County Conservation and Iowa Welcome Center at Osborne Park. It will include twenty full-hookup sites, seven tent sites, a showerhouse, and a sanitary station. A previous campground was removed from the floodplain after several high water events, and the Conservation Board has chosen to relocate and develop the modern campground above the Volga River floodplain at Osborne.	\$140,000	-0-
73.6	Clarke	Clarke County Conservation Education Building	This project is for the development of a space for community events and conservation programming. The conservation education building will include a banquet room, a kitchen, office space, and an open shelter deck. It will be located just south of the campground.	\$250,000	-0-
				<b>\$4,897,681</b>	<b>\$893,000</b>

Michelle Wilson, REAP Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**10. REAP Private Public Cost-share Grants (FY23)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations from the Project Review and Selection Committee for the REAP Public/Private Cost-share grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** Open Space funds (28% of REAP funds) are allocated to DNR for state acquisition and development of lands and waters. One-tenth of this 28% is set aside to cost-share land acquisitions with private organizations. The cost-share arrangement entails 75% of the acquisition costs coming from REAP and the other 25% coming from private contributions. This program provides an excellent opportunity to cost share with private entities for the purchase of high-quality natural areas that become public property. The DNR manages the property that is jointly purchased.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund - Private/Public Cost Share

**Grant Funding Available:** \$597,761

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, applications are reviewed by a selection committee consisting of three representatives of private organizations and three DNR staff to ensure consistency with program policy and purposes.

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.50, the selection committee reviewed all applications. Examples of criteria considered include relation to public land, relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs, rare or unique species communities, public benefits, tourism and economic development potential, and multiple use potential.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding the project listed in the table. Any unused funds will revert to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

<b>REAP Public-Private Cost Share Projects</b>				
<b>Grant Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name, County</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
The Nature Conservancy in Iowa	Dennison tract acquisition in Broken Kettle Bird Conservation Area	The Dennison tract consists of high-quality native timber and remnant tallgrass prairie. Protection of this property would, via a combination of publicly and privately-protected lands, help establish a corridor of permanently protected Loess Hills habitat that extends from War Eagle Park in Sioux City through Stone State Park, Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve and The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve near Westfield. This corridor now encompasses over 12,000 acres.	\$240,000	\$240,000
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$240,000</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>

Michelle Wilson, REAP Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**11. Contract with Iowa State University (Shovelnose Sturgeon Research)**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University of Ames, Iowa.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$135,401

**Dates:** January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025

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

**Contract Purpose:** Shovelnose Sturgeon populations exist in Iowa's sections of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and in interior rivers, such as the Cedar, Des Moines, and Iowa rivers. Despite their broad distribution in Iowa's rivers, Shovelnose Sturgeon are listed as a species of greatest conservation need in Iowa's State Wildlife Action Plan due to threats of habitat degradation and overexploitation, primarily from commercial fishing. The Shovelnose Sturgeon is the only sturgeon species that is still harvested commercially for roe (caviar) in North America and the Upper Mississippi River is one of only a few places in the U.S. where they can be commercially harvested.

Shovelnose Sturgeon have a reproductive strategy that makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing (long lifespan but they do not spawn annually). Harvest rates of Shovelnose Sturgeon vary considerably over time and are sensitive to caviar demand globally. Therefore, effective management of this species requires close monitoring so changes in population status can be detected quickly. The DNR has conducted annual sampling of Shovelnose Sturgeon at a spawning site at Palisades-Kepler State Park in the Cedar River since 2006, resulting in over 20,000 tagged fish and 944 recaptures. Preliminary examination of the data indicates that this river is likely an important source for the Mississippi River sturgeon fishery and this population exhibits some distinct attributes relative to others in the basin. For example, extremely slow growth (less than 1/4 of an inch per year) suggests that the population may be comprised of many old slow growing individuals.

This contract is for a three-year research project at Iowa State University to complete this analysis to:

- 1) Develop incremental growth models using mark-recapture data for Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Cedar River;
- 2) Develop mark-recapture models to estimate annual survival rates of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Cedar River; and
- 3) Compile results and management recommendations in Final Report for DNR.

The backbone of these models are three dynamic-rate functions: recruitment, growth, and mortality. Estimating these demographic parameters for long-lived fish that are difficult to age using traditional methods can be problematic so more advanced and time-consuming methods must be used. The mark-recapture dataset gathered from these sampling efforts by the DNR has provided a unique opportunity to quantify the dynamic rate functions that are imperative to accurately monitor this population and species.

This in-depth analysis of these data is needed to develop population models that can be used to ensure fishing regulations are sufficient to ensure sustainable management of harvested fishes and avoid overexploitation.

**Selection Process Summary:** Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

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

**\*12. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. (Big Mill WMA) – Jackson County**

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

**Contract Terms**

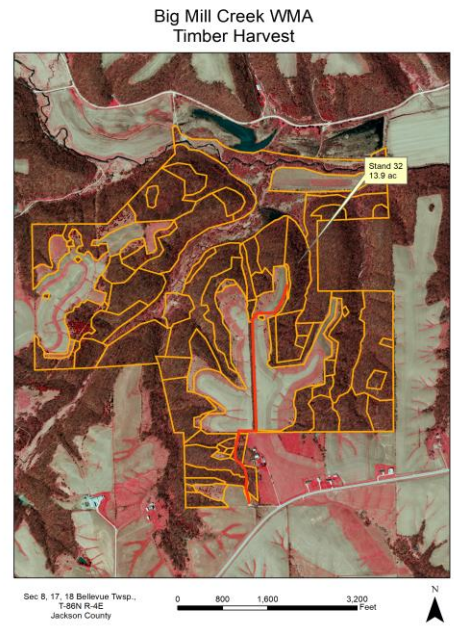
**Income:** \$25,484

**Dates:** 11/01/22 to 03/31/24

**Fund Deposited to:** Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 53,540 board feet in 252 mixed hardwood trees at Big Mill Wildlife Management Area in Jackson County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Big Mill 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:** 8/18/22

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Recommendation:** Kendrick, Inc.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$25,484.00
Brian Steines Logging, Inc.	Bellevue, IA	\$22,610.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

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

**\*13. Timber Sale Contract with Ben Bruggeman (YRSF) – Allamakee County**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Ben Bruggeman of Monticello, IA, for Yellow River State Forest.

**Contract Terms**

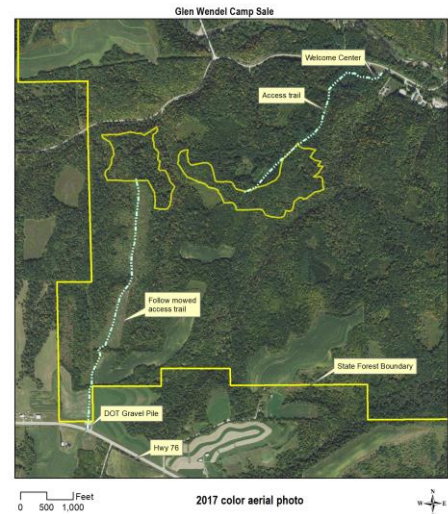
**Income:** \$99,380.00

**Dates:** 11/01/22 to 03/15/2024

**Fund Deposited to:** Conservation Fund - Forestry

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 193,580 board feet in 864 mixed hardwood trees at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County. This timber harvest will remove trees in a mixed hardwood stand, which will help to create and maintain an uneven-aged stand structure with well-developed mid-story and understory canopy layers which will benefit certain wildlife species. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will help 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 an 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:** 9/20/22

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Recommendation:** Ben Bruggeman

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Ben Bruggeman	Monticello, IA	\$99,380.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$68,250.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$65,000.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**14. Contract with Mechanical Comfort, Inc.**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract with Mechanical Comfort, Inc., of Ames, IA.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$116,475.00

**Dates:** November 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023

**Funding Source(s):** REAP Open Spaces

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR State Forest Nursery has three large coolers for the cold storage of trees and seeds, which are used most of the year. The newest cooler was constructed in the early 1990's. The oldest two coolers are original to the building and were constructed in the mid-1970's. The cooling systems in the oldest coolers are outdated, inefficient, and are often broken down awaiting expensive repairs.

This contract will replace the old equipment in the two oldest coolers. Each cooler is equipped with two cooling systems consisting of a condenser and an evaporator along with all associated electrical, piping, and drain systems. One condenser and one evaporator were recently replaced. This contract will replace the remaining three evaporator units and one condenser unit along with all associated electrical, piping and draining systems. This will include the removal and disposal of the old units and the installation of new units. The contractor will be responsible for the startup, testing, calibration and certification of each cooling system to ensure the coolers are back in service. Since each cooler has two cooling systems, the work can be completed without completely shutting down either cooler.

**Process Summary:** The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a Request for Bids on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria reviewed included ability to complete the work and cost.

**Proposal Due Date:** September 20, 2022

**# of Proposals Received:** 1

**Recommendation:** Mechanical Comfort, Inc.

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mechanical Comfort, Inc.	Ames, IA	\$116,475.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022



Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

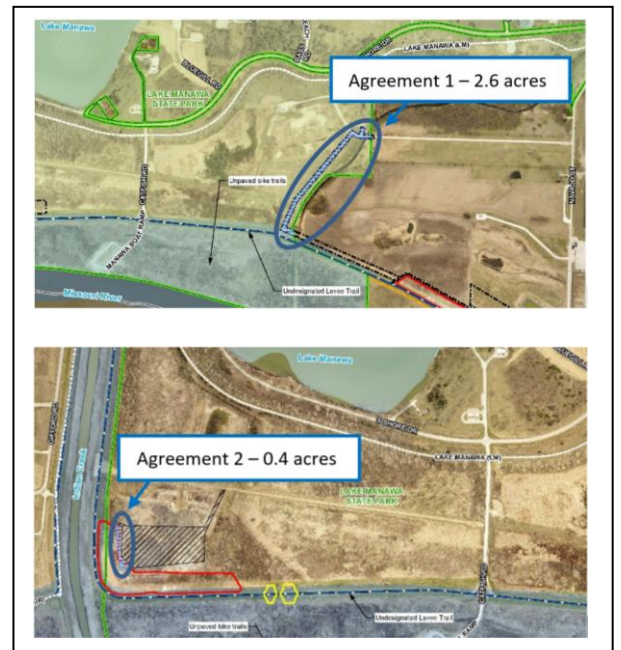
Decision Item (\* indicates proposed consent item)

**\*15. Public Land Management Project: Management Agreements, Lake Manawa State Park Levee – Pottawattamie County – Council Bluffs**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve two management agreements with the City of Council Bluffs for the care and maintenance of two levee areas on the south side of Lake Manawa State Park adjacent to the Missouri River.

**Location:** Lake Manawa State Park is located on the south side of the City of Council Bluffs.

**Site Purpose:** The City of Council Bluffs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) are engaged in a large levee project, of which three acres of the levee, in two sections, are located on the south side of Lake Manawa State Park adjacent to the Missouri River. For the two sections (2.6 acre segment and 0.4 acre segment), an agreement for each section transfers the care and maintenance of the sections to the City of Council Bluffs. In collaboration with the USACOE, the care and maintenance of the sections are to meet certification requirements of Federal Emergency Management Agency located in 44CFR65.10, and to reduce the number of relief wells in operation along the levee system. Examples of proposed work includes the installation of a seepage berm along the landward side of the levee, and to abandon or replace multiple drainage structures in the levee segments.



**Management Agreement Term:** The term of the management agreements with the City of Council Bluffs is in perpetuity, unless mutually terminated.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**16. Public Land Acquisition Projects**

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**16.1 Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Jackson County – Doring Corporation**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Jackson County adjacent Green Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Seller:** Doring Corporation

**Acreage:** 160 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$317,000

**Appraised Value:** \$317,000

**Property Description:** This property is located seven miles southeast of Bellevue in eastern Jackson County near the confluence of the Maquoketa and Mississippi Rivers. The entire tract is Maquoketa River bottomland encumbered by an Emergency Watersheds Protection Program Floodplain (EWPP) permanent easement. The entire property will be seeded to native grasses following harvest of the existing row crops. There are no building improvements. The Maquoketa River fronts the north end of the property. The tract is bordered along the west by US HWY 52, bisected by a county, gravel road, and bordered along the east by a county, surface-coated road.

**Purpose:** In addition to providing for important water quality benefits and further elimination of inholdings in the Green Island bottoms complex, this acquisition will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. This tract will also provide critical nesting habitat for waterfowl, one of the primary objectives across the WMA.

**DNR Property Manager:** Wildlife Bureau

**Funding Source(s):** \$90,000 Conserving the Upper Mississippi Migration Corridor II NAWCA, \$227,300 Wildlife Habitat Stamp.

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

**16.2 Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area, Madison County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Madison County at Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Seller:** Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

**Acreage:** 240 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$950,000

**Appraised Price:** \$1,008,000

**Property Description:** This L-shaped property is located two miles northwest of Bevington in northeastern Madison County. The steep to near level tract lies within and upslope from the North River floodplain. Over 80 percent of the property lies within the floodplain, and the North River meanders through the tract a distance of approximately one mile. Land use includes 14 acres of food plots in two irregular-shaped fields, and the balance reflecting oak timber, grassland, wetlands, creek tributaries, and the North River. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by a 30-foot wide easement for ingress/egress extending west from a county gravel road.

**Purpose:** This acquisition resides in close proximity to the Des Moines metro area, contains a diversity of habitat types and will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. A Forest Wildlife Stewardship Plan and prairie reconstruction will be completed as the Wildlife Bureau will oversee management of the property.

**DNR Property Manager:** Wildlife Bureau

**Funding Source(s):** Federal Pittman-Robertson

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

### **16.3 Riverton Wildlife Management Area, Fremont County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to accept the donation of a tract of land located in Fremont County adjacent Riverton Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Donor:** Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

**Acreage:** 83 acres

**Property Description:** This property is located two miles south of Riverton in south central Fremont County. The near level tract is encumbered by a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement, except for a two-acre building site at the south end of the property. Grassland and trees cover the landscape. Mill Creek borders along the west half of the south boundary of the tract. There is a concrete block house and garage on the property of no value, both of which will be salvaged. Access is provided by a county, gravel road that bisects the property.

**Purpose:** This donation will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities as part of the larger WMA. Invasive trees will be cleared from the tract to enhance the grassland complex, and the potential exists to enhance the wetlands on the site.

**DNR Property Manager:** Wildlife Bureau

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**17. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Water Trails Development Program Grant Recommendations**

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to Chapter 30, Waters Cost-share and Grants Programs.

**Grant Purpose:** The purpose of the Water Trails Development Program Grant is to offer funds to water trails infrastructure projects, such as water accesses, parking areas, restrooms, and paddlecraft campsites. Eligible applicants include any local divisions of Iowa government. Although Code does not require cost-share for Development projects, it is strongly encouraged. This grant cycle advertised a 20% minimum cost-share from the applicant. As outlined in rule, grants are issued at least annually if funding is available. The last grants were approved in February 2022.

**Funding Source(s):** Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

**Grant Funding Available:** \$500,000

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 30, the grant review and selection committee met on August 31, 2022, to evaluate and score applications and to provide recommendations for the grant awards.

**Number of Applications Received:** 6

**Selection Committee Members:** The review and selection committee consisted of five members:

- Citizen stakeholders (2)
- DNR Staff (3)

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends funding to the top ranked projects. If the highest ranked projects decline the funding, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

<b>DEVELOPMENT GRANT</b>					
<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>Grant Applicant</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
1	City of Evansdale	Construction of a new concrete boat ramp, parking lot and access road in the town of Evansdale (suburb of Waterloo) along the Cedar River near River Road. Currently there is no developed access, just a steep, muddy, uneven path down to the river. This access will allow motorboats to launch as well as paddlecraft.	\$337,320	\$262,320	\$262,320
2	Mitchell County Conservation	Partial construction of three water accesses, two of which are universally designed and accessible for aging populations, families with children and those with mobility impairments.	\$1,289,210	\$350,000	\$237,680
3	City of Estherville	Construction of a new access and parking area at Midway Access Area along the West Fork Des Moines River Water Trail in Emmet County. This project includes a concrete launch and gravel parking with five stalls for vehicles (1 handicapped) and three stalls for vehicles with trailers.	\$278,000	\$191,640	
4	City of Fort Dodge	Construction of a new concrete carry-down access and medium sized parking lot at Loomis Park in downtown Fort Dodge.	\$223,000	\$178,400	0

5	Jackson County Conservation	Much needed improvements for Bridgeport Access on the Maquoketa River Water Trail near the city of Maquoketa. It's a heavily used access that currently has a steep, uneven natural path down to the river. This phase of the project constructs a concrete ramp only.	\$72,920	\$53,920	0
6	City of Harlan	Construction of a new river access at Highway 44 in the city of Harlan, along the West Nishnabotna River. This amount funds the final need for the project. Project includes concrete ramp, a turn-around lane, staging area, parking lot, and access road.	\$359,950	\$287,960	0
<b>DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS</b>			<b>2,560,400</b>	<b>\$1,324,240</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

**Decision Item**

**18. Contract Amendment-2 with Rachel Contracting, LLC (Otter Creek Lake)**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Rachel Contracting, LLC, of Michael, Minnesota.

**Amendment-2**

**Terms:**

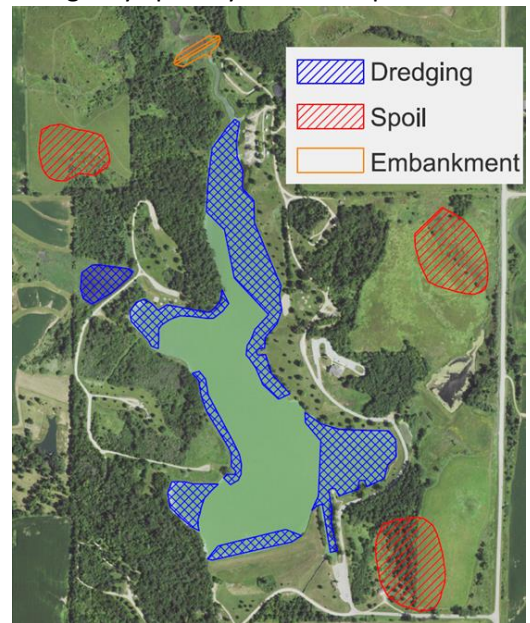
**Amendment Amount:** \$147,988.45

**Amendment Dates:** October 14, 2022 to November 30, 2023

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

**Amendment Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to modify the original wetland water control structure. The wetland water control structure is an earthen embankment located immediately upstream of the lake. The original design consisted of a typical pond design, with a 12" diameter high-density polyethylene principal spillway and an open channel emergency spillway. The principal and emergency spillways will be replaced with an 80' wide weir and a lower embankment height. This change in design will allow for construction without obtaining a permanent flowage easement from the upstream neighbor while providing significant sediment storage and water quality protection to the lake.

**Original Contract Purpose:** In 2019, Tama County Conservation Board and DNR hired FYRA Engineering, Inc. to evaluate proposed watershed practices and provide a design and planning budget for a restoration project at Otter Creek Lake. This project consists of removing approximately 170,000 cubic yards of deposited sediment and native soil, armoring approximately 7,270 linear feet of shoreline, constructing a wetland water control structure, stabilizing approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream bottom, and placing fish habitat structures in various location in the lake. Sediment is being removed from the lake to improve water quality and improve in-lake habitat.



**Original Selection Process:** The Department used a formal competitive bid process pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 26 and Iowa Administrative Code 561-8.

**Contract History:**

**Original Contract Terms:** Amount \$3,425,371.60; Timeframe: November 10, 2021 to June 30, 2021

**Amendment 1 Terms:** Amount: \$289,045.50; Timeframe: September 23, 2022 to November 30, 2023;

Purpose: Cost and time adjustment due to permitting

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

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

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

**19. Construction Projects**

**19.1 Lake Macbride State Park North Shore Parking Lot Extension – Johnson County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Lake Macbride State Park was opened to the public in 1937. It is Iowa’s largest state park, adjacent to Coralville Lake, and located near Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Its 2,180 acres offers a variety of outdoor activities. Amenities include a 900 acre lake, hiking trails, a multi-use trail that connects to the City of Solon, ADA accessible playground, swimming beach, concessions, 7 boat ramps, ADA accessible fishing pier, fishing jetties, a fish cleaning station, a day use lodge, 4 shelters, modern restrooms and showers, and camping (one group campsite, 32 electric, 11 full hook up, and 56 non electric).

This project will expand the parking lot at the North Shore boat ramp to accommodate the increase in demand for access to the lake. Vehicle-plus-trailer parking spaces will increase from 21 spaces to 40 spaces, and three single vehicle parking spaces will be added. The new pavement will be concrete placed over a rock base.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-06-52-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$282,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Federal Coast Guard – Boat Safety

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/29/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 11

**Bidders**

Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC	Cascade, IA	\$198,987.90
Triple B Construction	Wilton, IA	\$221,990.50
BWC, Inc.	Solon, IA	\$230,074.25
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$236,837.00
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$247,777.00
All American Concrete, Inc.	West Liberty, IA	\$248,423.00
Rathje Construction Co.	Marion, IA	\$249,374.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating	Dubuque, IA	\$257,818.50
Bockenstedt Excavating, Inc.	Iowa City, IA	\$264,994.25
Jasper Construction Services	Newton, IA	\$285,391.50
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$294,355.25

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC.

**19.2 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Beach and Shelter Restrooms – Warren County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Lake Ahquabi State Park was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern facilities, a beach with a CCC beach shelter, a privately-run beach concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps. The lake is currently drained and the campground is closed for renovation.

Lake Ahquabi State Park’s Beach Shelter area was originally built by the CCC in the 1930’s and underwent a renovation and redesign in 1998. The current restroom facilities are undersized especially with the crowds of busy holiday weekends. The existing restroom facilities will be expanded by adding a new four-stall restroom to the existing concession building near the beach area, and the existing four stall restroom in the beach shelter complex will be renovated. The beach and picnic shelters will have minor damage repairs made to the masonry (missing stones) and woodwork (dry rot timbers replaced), and the Beach Shelter complex buildings will be professionally cleaned with the woodwork restained.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-05-91-07

**Cost Estimate:** \$412,000.00

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Federal Land and Waters Conservation Fund

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 05/31/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 1

**Bidders**

Gruss Construction, LLC

Winterset, IA

\$473,199.00

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



**19.3 Geode State Park, Reconstruct Beach/Boat Ramp Parking Lot – Henry County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Geode State Park joined the Iowa park system in 1937. The prime attraction of the 1,640-acre park is Lake Geode, a 174-acre lake built in 1950. Amenities include a beach, boating and canoeing, fishing, wildlife watching, cross country skiing, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, picnic shelter, playground, youth group camping area, restrooms, and showers.

The asphalt parking lot servicing the beach area was originally constructed in the 1950's. Age has led to transverse thermal cracking, longitudinal cracking, oxidation, and a few localized pavement failures. This project will remove the existing pavement and install approximately 11,000 square yards of concrete pavement over a rock base.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-06-29-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$1,753,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** IA DOT Parks and Intuitional Roads Fund (59%), Infrastructure (23%), 18% Marine Fuel Tax

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/29/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Bidders**

Jones Contracting Corp.	West Point, IA	\$879,776.92
Wicks Construction, Inc.	Decorah, IA	\$880,055.50

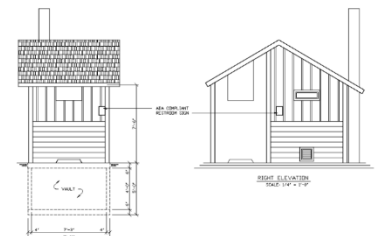
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Jones Contracting Corp.

**\*19.4 Beeds Lake State Park – Pit Latrine, Franklin County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Beeds Lake State Park, a CCC era park, is a popular camping area with many amenities including boating, fishing and hiking.

Currently, the park does not have pit latrines in the vicinity of the main boat ramp and fishing pier. This project will install a new precast pit latrine and an accessible parking area will be constructed on the circular drive adjacent to the fishing pier and down the road from the CCC lodge and shelter. This will provide services provide a facility for when the flush toilets are closed for the season and a closer facility for fishing and boating use year-round.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-02-35-03

**Cost Estimate:** \$44,935

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** Marine Fuel Tax  
**Bid Letting Date:** 08/25/2022  
**Construction Completion Date:** 04/28/2023  
**Number of Bids Received:** 2

**Bidders**

Doyle Construction LLC	Fort Dodge, IA	\$58,790.00
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$58,827.50

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

**\*19.5 Beeds Lake State Park – Replace Dump Station, Franklin County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Beeds Lake State Park, a CCC era park, is a popular camping area with many amenities including boating, fishing and hiking. The park has one existing dump station that services a campground with 93 back-in, parallel and drive thru campsites.

The existing dump station is very old and has a history of plugging over the last 20 years. The new dump station has been designed to current standards and has a pull off road access allowing vehicles to enter and dump on the correct side of the vehicle, out of the main road traffic lane. This project will pave a new 310 square yard pull off, and replace the existing dump station plumbing.



**Engineering Project #:** 22-02-35-02  
**Cost Estimate:** \$60,000  
**Operating Bureau:** Parks  
**Funding Source:** Infrastructure  
**Bid Letting Date:** 08/25/2022  
**Construction Completion Date:** 04/28/2023  
**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Bidders**

Larson Contracting Central, LLC	Lake Mills, IA	\$66,200.93
Doyle Construction LLC	Fort Dodge, IA	\$74,950.00
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$100,180.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Larson Contracting Central, LLC.

**\*19.6 Botna Bottoms WMA, Tree Clearing, Levee and WCS Repair – Fremont Co**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Botna Bottoms WMA is 411 acres in size, and consists of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat. This property is approximately 441 Acres and part of the Botna Bottoms Wildlife Management area. Game species of interest include deer, turkey, waterfowl, and pheasant.

The two existing water control structures are rusted out and need to be replaced. This project will replace the existing water control structures with new corrugated metal pipe stop log structures. Also, the dike was damaged in two locations due to overtopping and will be reconstructed, woody vegetation will be removed from the dike system and the dike top will be graded to improve service vehicle access.

**Engineering Project #:** 21-04-36-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$54,000

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife

**Funding Source:** REAP Open Spaces (75%), Federal NAWCA (25%)

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/22/2022

**Construction Completion Date:** 03/15/2023

**Number of Bids Received:** 3

**Bidders**

Elite Excavating	Omaha, NE	\$63,414.25
Mount Farm Drainage LLC	Riverton, IA	\$72,455.00
Binder Irrigation Inc	Table Rock, NE	\$104,475.84

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Elite Excavating.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: 10/13/2022

