

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

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

Video Conference: meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva

502 E 9th St, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

DNR 2N Conf Room

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov or 502 East 9th St, Des Moines IA 50319 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *5. Donations *6. Contract with Iowa State University-Bird and Bat Habitat Promotion *7. Contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. *12. Contract with MIP V Onion Parent LLC-Lake Macbride Waste Management *13. Contract with Armodus, LLC-Forest Stand Improvement, Loess Hills State Forest *15.8 Rock Creek State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation-Jasper County *15.9 Elk Rock State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation-Marion County *17. Public Land Management Projects (17.1-17.3)	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
*6.	Contract with Iowa State University-Bird and Bat Habitat Promotion	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*7.	Contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	Contract with the Department of the Army-Rathbun Lake Walker Branch Wetland Restoration	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Chapter 23-Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Todd Bishop
10.	Chapter 35-Fish Habitat and Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant Recommendations	Decision	Joe Larscheid
11.	Friends of Viking Lake State Park-Viking Lake State Park Campground	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*12.	Contract with MIP V Onion Parent LLC-Lake Macbride Waste Management	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*13.	Contract with Armodus, LLC-Forest Stand Improvement, Loess Hills State Forest	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
14.	Small Construction Project-Big Creek State Park Wayfinding Signage	Information	Travis Baker
15.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
15.1	Waterloo Creek WMA, Stream Bank Restoration-Allamakee County	Decision	Travis Baker
15.2	Waubonsie State Park, Storm Sewer-Fremont County	Decision	Travis Baker
15.3	Palisades-Kepler State Park, Pavement Maintenance-Linn County	Decision	Travis Baker
15.4	Lake Manawa State Park, Boat Ramp Extensions-Pottawattamie County	Decision	Travis Baker
15.5	Lake Manawa State Park, Beach Concession Remodel-Pottawattamie County	Decision	Travis Baker
15.6	Fort Atkinson State Preserve-Exterior Masonry and Structural Repairs-Winneshiek County	Decision	Travis Baker

15.7	Spirit Lake-Anglers Bay Shoreline Stabilization Project-Dickinson County	Decision	Travis Baker
*15.8	Rock Creek State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation-Jasper County	Decision	Travis Baker
*15.9	Elk Rock State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation-Marion County	Decision	Travis Baker
16.	Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
16.1	Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Butler County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
16.2	Kirke Woods Wildlife Management Area, Madison County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
*17.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
17.1	Management Agreement, Pine Valley Nature Area-Jackson County Conservation Board	Decision	Travis Baker
17.2	Management Agreement, Millgrove Access Wildlife Area-Poweshiek County Conservation Board	Decision	Travis Baker
17.3	Management Agreement, Crescent Park-City of Lake View-Sac County	Decision	Travis Baker
18.	Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Water Trails Development Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Travis Baker
19.	Iowa State University-Ambient Lake Monitoring	Decision	Travis Baker
20.	LT Leon Associates, Inc.-Lenon Mill Dam	Decision	Travis Baker
21.	General Discussion		
<p>Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, March 14, 2024, Wallace Building • Thursday, April 11, 2024, Wallace Building 			

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

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

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

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

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, English-language proficiency, disability, or age in the administration of its programs or activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DNR will not

tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 10, 2024

**Video Teleconference
and
Wallace State Office Building**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

DRAFT

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Kayla Lyon, Director

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Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Marcus Branstad at 10:00am on January 10, 2024, via a combination of in-person and video/teleconference attendees. General Counsel, Tamara McIntosh, stated for the record that the requirements of Iowa Code section 21.8 were met for the NRC meeting to take place virtually due to the brevity of the agenda.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Laura Foell (virtual 10:00-10:23am)
- Tammi Kircher (virtual)
- Tom Prickett (virtual)
- KR Buck (virtual)
- Marcus Branstad (virtual)
- Laura Kudej (virtual)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Uriah Hansen

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the following agenda items:

- Donations
- Contract with Buffalo Creek Land Management, LLC
- Contract with Nick Jones Earthmoving

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

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

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the December 14, 2023 NRC minutes as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon provided an overview of the Governor’s Condition of the State address, as well as the Governor’s proposed budget.
- Director Lyon shared about the successful 1st day hikes at Iowa’s State Parks, reporting that nearly 1,800 people participated in the guided hikes.
- Director Lyon finalized her remarks by providing details regarding the REAP Congress event scheduled for January 13, 2024 at the Iowa State Capitol.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth started his remarks by providing an outdoor recreation update, including hunting updates and ice safety tips.
- Mr. Hildreth provided details regarding the upcoming hunter listening sessions that will take place February 20 through February 22.

CONTRACT WITH MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. (LAKE KEOMAH SPILLWAY INVESTIGATION)

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with MSA Professional Services, Inc., to assess the condition of the Lake Keomah spillway.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK, PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a pavement maintenance project at Wildcat Den State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-OKOBOJI VIEW WETLAND COMPLEX, WETLAND RECONSTRUCTION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a wetland reconstruction project on the Okoboji View Wetland Complex.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-DNR FAIRGROUNDS BUILDING, ARCHERY BUILDING AND COURTYARD IMPROVEMENTS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to complete improvements to the DNR’s state fair main building, archery building, and courtyard. Mr. Baker responded to questions regarding the bid amount, project funding source, and condition of the existing archery building. Tammie Krausman provided additional details regarding the project scope. Director Kayla Lyon explained the funding comes from a special 2023 appropriation included in the DNR’s infrastructure budget.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. Laura Kudej-nay. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LEDGES STATE PARK, BOAT RAMP LOOP ROAD

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for improvements to the Boat Ramp Loop road at Ledges State Park.

Public Comments--None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION-WHITE HORSE ACCESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, SAC COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Sac County adjacent White Horse Access Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Laura Foell-absent, Uriah Hansen-absent, Tom Prickett-aye, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Chair Branstad opened the discussion to review the Commissioners’ feedback regarding the Sauk Rail trail correspondence submitted by a member of the public. DNR staff responded to several questions regarding the project timeline, the disadvantages to resurfacing the trail with concrete versus crushed limestone, and long term maintenance for both surface options, including potential costs. Commissioner Buck requested an estimate for the placement of muskrat deterrent material for the length of the trail in question. Commissioners discussed additional ways to better explain the proposed new trail surface to the public.
- Commissioners shared their outdoor winter experiences to date. Commissioner Prickett highlighted the turkey study presentation he heard from DNR wildlife biologist Dan Kaminski. Commissioner Buck reminded DNR staff of his request for photos of the Springbrook buildings.

ADJOURN

The Chairperson adjourned the Natural Resource Commission meeting at 11:00 am on January 10, 2024.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

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

Donations

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
McIntosh State Park	\$37.75	Plaque and mounting epoxy for McIntosh State Park in honor of Roger Murray.	Belinda Murray
Parks and Forestry	\$500.00	Donation to support the Parks and Forestry Fund.	John Morgan
Wildlife Diversity	\$500.00	Donation to support the Motus project.	KR Buck
Wildlife Diversity	\$700.00	Donation in memory of Dennis K. Hildreth for the conservation of non-game species, especially birds.	Connie Hildreth
Wildlife	\$5,000.00	Donation to support the 2024 Swan Refuge improvement projects.	Anonymous
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$40.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Arlyn C. Arnold.	Wayne Bergman
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$120.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Arlyn C. Arnold.	Jess Wernimont
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$200.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Arlyn C. Arnold.	Matthew Schuling
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$250.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Arlyn C. Arnold.	Michael Henderson
Wildlife Diversity Fund	\$25.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund in honor of the Wildlife Diversity Program staff.	Ric Zarwell
Wildlife Diversity Fund	\$15.00	Donation to support the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Michael Henning
Wildlife Diversity Fund	\$100.00	Donation to support the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Rosemary Partridge
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$100.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	David Oaks

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***Item 6. Contract with Iowa State University (Forestry Extension)**

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

Contract Terms

Amount: \$31,972.00

Dates: February 14, 2024, to July 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): 100% State Woodland Health Funds

Contract Purpose: The DNR was awarded a USDA Forest Service federal grant to promote bird and bat habitat be created throughout Iowa. This Contract is funded by state matching funds from state general funds. To do this, educational material about bird and bat habitat and forest/woodland management plans which support this habitat need to be created. This project contributes to Iowa DNR's mission to conserve and enhance our natural resources and ensure a legacy for future generations.

ISU Forestry Extension will design, create, edit, and publish five brochures on habitat and forest management; multiple twenty diagram outdoor speakers aid kits; and two documents on Beneficial Management Practices for tree care workers. These materials will be targeted at citizens, tree care workers, and land managers across Iowa to provide informative material to guide management decisions and stress the importance of actively managing forest ecosystems in a sustainable manner that benefits bird and bat habitat. ISU Forestry Extension will host three Field Days targeting private landowners, natural resource practitioners and tree care workers. These outreach events will spread the word about this vital work.

ISU was chosen for this project because of its long-running Forestry Extension program and services which have been an instrumental partnership with the Iowa DNR in educating Iowa's woodland owners and citizens.

Selection Process Summary: Contracts with another governmental entities are authorized under 11 Iowa Administrative Code 118.4.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***7. Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc.**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), of Dexter Michigan.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$35,000

Dates: March 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): State Migratory Bird Stamp

Contract Purpose: DU is dedicated to the increase and production of waterfowl and other migratory bird populations in Canada via restoration and preservation of wetland and grassland habitats. Conserving waterfowl production habitats in Saskatchewan, Canada is critical to reaching and maintaining continental population goals as set forth in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Iowa's State Duck Stamp was established to conserve continental waterfowl populations through habitat conservation projects in Iowa, with authority to provide up to fifteen (15) percent of the revenues to support habitat projects in Canada. This agreement is in recognition that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba represent the largest geographic portion of North America's Prairie Pothole Region, and that they provide critical nesting habitat for the same waterfowl populations that nest and migrate through the State of Iowa. Since the State Duck Stamp was established in 1972, Iowa has contributed more than \$1 million to conservation of waterfowl production habitat in Canada via annual cooperative agreements with DU. DU has submitted a funding proposal, 2023 Proposal to Conserve Critical Waterfowl Habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Saskatchewan.

The DNR's purpose in entering into this Cooperative Agreement is to support waterfowl habitat projects in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada. DNR is dedicated toward the conservation of continental populations of waterfowl and other migratory birds, especially those that nest in the Prairie Pothole Region and migrate through the Mississippi Flyway and State of Iowa. DU's purpose in entering into this Cooperative Agreement is to increase and maintain abundant continental waterfowl populations through restoration and protection of wetland and other critical waterfowl production habitats in the Prairie Pothole Region.

Selection Process Summary: The DNR enters into this Cooperative Agreement based on statutory authority provided in Iowa Code section 484A.4, which sets forth the following:

All revenue generated from the migratory game bird fee shall be used for projects approved by the commission for the purpose of protecting and propagating migratory game birds and for the acquisition, development, restoration, maintenance or preservation of wetland, except for that part which is specified by the commission for use in paying administrative expenses as provide in section 456A.17.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item

8. Contract with the Department of the Army (Rathbun Lake Walker Branch Wetland Restoration)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Department of the Army (Kansas City District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)), of Kansas City, KS.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$1,660,000

Dates: April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration 500,000, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship \$580,000, Rathbun Rural Water Association \$210,000, Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (in-kind) \$370,000

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to implement the Walker Branch wetland restoration on Army Corps of Engineers owned land that is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as outlined in the Continuing Authorities Program Section 1135 Final Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment. DNR will provide a 25% cost share for the project's implementation.

Background: Rathbun Lake, a federal flood control reservoir constructed in the late 1960s (Appanoose, Lucas, and Wayne Counties), is one of Iowa's Significant Publicly-Owned Lakes. About half of the users travel over 90 miles to enjoy fishing, relaxing, wildlife watching, and trail use. This 11,000-acre impoundment has a 354,000-acre watershed that spans six counties.

The problem of turbidity and sedimentation has been well documented in Rathbun Lake. As stated in the USACE's 2007 Section 1135 report, Rathbun is a reservoir with high levels of dissolved solids due to erosion of shoreline and sediment runoff from the watershed. The Rathbun Land and Water Alliance, DNR, local producers, and IDALS, have worked together to install best management practices throughout the watershed reducing nutrient and sediment loading to Rathbun Lake. In addition, past Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration activities (Greenville Wetland Restoration) were conducted upstream of the lake to help prevent some of these issues but at the same time creating beneficial wildlife habitat.

The landscape in Iowa has been significantly altered from the mid-19th century to present day. Much of the native prairie and wetland acres have been converted to agricultural uses. More than 95% of the wetlands were lost by 1990. The loss of wetlands has impacted hydrology, ecology, water quality and wildlife habitat. In 2016 the IDNR, local partners and the ACOE undertook an 1135 feasibility study on the creation of a two impoundment wetland restoration project totaling 125 acres. The creation of this new wetland will create beneficial wildlife habitat and at the same time increase water quality, decrease sediment, decrease phosphorus, aid in invasive species suppression, and increase vital food sources for wildlife.

Budget:

Federal Contribution (75%): \$4,979,000.00

IDNR non-federal match (25%): \$1,660,000.00

Total Cost: \$6,639,000.00

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the Department of the Army is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division

February 14, 2024

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

9. Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to 571 IAC Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grants.

Grant Purpose: In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. All revenue derived from the sale of habitat stamps are used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, leasing of land, obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas. Beginning in 2019, in accordance with Iowa Code 483A.3, a portion of the revenues resulting from the increase in wildlife stamp fees are restricted from use on land acquisition projects. Grant applicants must provide at least 25% cost share for all projects. By Iowa Code, grant applications are reviewed twice a year.

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Grant Funding Available: \$547,500 (\$182,500 restricted)

Summary of Selection Process: As directed by criteria under 571 IAC Chapter 23, the grant review and selection committee met 1/19/2024 to evaluate and score applications and provide recommendations for the grant awards.

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

- County Conservation Boards (4)
- DNR Staff (1)

Number of Applications Received: 6 (2 additions to existing/new Wildlife Areas and 4 habitat development projects)

Recommendations: The committee recommends offering full funding to the two Wildlife Area applicants (Fayette County and Howard County). The committee further recommends offering full funding to the four habitat development projects (Benton, Jefferson, Bremer, and Polk Counties). Any unused funds will carry forward for use in future projects.

Ranked by Score	Percent Match	Grant Applicant (County)	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
50.2	83%	Fayette	The Mihall Tract is a 77.13-acre parcel abutting the Kauten Fen (managed by the Fayette County Conservation Board). The Mihall Tract offers the opportunity to establish a diverse high-quality property for a multitude of game and non-game species. Existing habitat includes a 14.5-acre fen, wet grassland, small timber tract, and agricultural fields. These fields will be strategically developed in 2024 into upland prairie, pollinator food plots and shelter belt arrangements.	\$132,500.00	\$132,500.00
49.2	46%	Howard	The proposed project is to acquire and protect 41.97 acres of riparian woodlands along the Upper Iowa River for game and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation in Howard County. The Eatonville Wildlife Area property was chosen for its varied range of game species across the property, distinct natural characteristics, and manageable size and cost.	\$115,100.00	\$115,100.00
48.4	26%	Benton	A family donated a 40-acre property to Benton County Conservation (BCCB) that features a Paha, which is a unique landform found in Iowa. The property has a 1-acre pond surrounded by hills of timber, perfect for wildlife habitat. This area was affected by the 2011 and 2020 derechos and needs major timber stand improvements and	\$43,079.00	\$43,079.00

			general habitat work. Once restored, this will be an excellent area for the public to hunt, fish, and enjoy.		
47.4	37%	Jefferson	Jefferson County Conservation is continuing to return Round Prairie Park to an environmentally purposeful outdoor recreation area. Therefore, the three main objectives of this project are: improve the quality of wildlife habitat, increase overall species and habitat diversity, and increase the hunting and educational opportunities by improving access to this local natural area.	\$22,959.00	\$22,959.00
46.6	27%	Bremer	The Bremer County Conservation Board is proposing to construct a 1.4-acre wetland at the Ringneck Wildlife Area, a 40-acre property with existing upland and forest habitat. This project will enhance the habitat on site by providing wetland resources for wildlife.	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
45.6	37%	Polk	The Polk County Conservation Board requests support to restore a 25-acre parcel of land known as the Miller Property within the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. This restoration will feature wetland excavation and prairie planting to restore some of Chichaqua's lost natural habitat; providing additional resources for wildlife and areas for public recreation.	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
Total				\$359,638.00	\$359,638.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item

10. Chapter 35 – Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to Chapter 35, Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grants.

Grant Purpose: All revenue derived from fish habitat fees, paid for as part of fishing licenses, is deposited in the state fish and game protection fund to be used for fish habitat development. At least fifty percent of all revenue from the sale of fish habitat fees is distributed equally among the six county conservation board districts. Each district is allowed to hold a two-year apportionment before money is redistributed equally among all districts. Applicants must provide at least 10% cost share for their project. This program is managed by the counties and is open to all county conservation boards for habitat development and acquisition purposes. The DNR serves in an advisory role and oversees funding administration.

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

Grant Funding Available: Grants are reviewed by the Counties annually. Funding available for this grant cycle is \$120,712 for each of the six county districts plus any carry over from the previous year for eligible project proposals. Recommended funding is based on state dollars requested.

Summary of Selection Process: The Fish Habitat Grant Review Committees met in December 2023 and January 2024 to rank and score the county conservation board projects in their district.

Selection Committee Members: The review and selection committee for each district consisted of at least five County Conservation Board Directors and one DNR Fisheries Biologist advisor.

Recommendations: The district committees recommend funding the projects as follows:

District I	\$122,226.00	
Marshall	\$42,000.00	Acquisition of Arti & Red’s Pond.
Jasper	\$42,066.00	Riprap and submerged rock outcroppings at Mariposa Lake.
Jasper	\$38,160.00	Uhlenhopp Arboretum pond renovation.

District II	\$250,292.00	
Cerro Gordo	\$19,067.00	Renovation of Lime Creek Pond.
Howard	\$162,594.00	Upper Iowa River corridor acquisition.
Winneshiek	\$50,000.00	Streambank stabilization and habitat placement at Casey Springs, Sindelar Wildlife Access.
Winneshiek	\$17,100.00	New outlet and habitat placement at Walden Pond.

District III	\$165,002.00	
Dickinson	\$58,500.00	Shoreline armoring, Westport Park Pit.
Ida	\$20,686.01	Shoreline armoring and habitat placement, Crawford Creek Recreation Area Lake.
Monona	\$20,515.50	Shoreline armoring, Gray’s Landing quarry.

Woodbury	\$65,300.49	Fishing Jetty and shoreline armoring, Midway Park North Pond (partial funding).
District IV	\$121,153.00	
Cass	\$45,450.00	Sediment pond construction and renovation of the Outdoor Classroom Pond.
Harrison	\$17,820.00	Brittle Naiad Control, Willow Lake Recreation Area.
Ringgold	\$4,280.29	Vegetation management, Liberty Lake.
District V	\$123,732.00	
Lee	\$67,500.00	Sediment pond construction at Wilson Lake (Phase 2).
District VI	\$132,240.00	
Linn	\$29,400.00	Dredging for Pinicon Ridge Park (Phase 4).
Dubuque	\$17,000.00	Streambank stabilization and habitat improvement, Catfish Creek.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 February 14, 2023

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

11. Contract with Friends of Viking Lake State Park

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Friends of Viking Lake State Park of Red Oak, IA

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$107,595

Dates: February 15, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Funding Source(s): Iowa DNR Parks Infrastructure 80%, Friends of Viking Lake State Park 20%

Purpose: Viking Lake State Park and the Friends of Viking Lake State Park are partnering to purchase and install new playground equipment to replace the existing playground equipment in the Viking Lake State Park Campground. The existing playground equipment reached the end of its lifespan and did not provide accessible play opportunities to the public. Playground equipment at Viking Lake State Park is a feature that camp users' children utilize. The proposed project will include updated playground equipment that meets accessibility standards, a sidewalk and parking area. Friends of Viking Lake State Park has been formed for the sole purpose of promoting and enhancing Viking Lake State Park and the Iowa State Parks system. The equipment identified in this contract will be purchased and installed using the professional services of a Department of Administrative Services Master Agreement contracted vendor.

Sherry L. Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief

Conservation Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***12 Contract Amendment- A01 with MIP V Onion Parent LLC dba Johnson County Refuse**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with MIP V Onion Parent LLC dba Johnson County Refuse.

Amendment- 22CRDPBRPUET-0040 A01

Amendment Amount: \$8,696.00/year

Amendment Dates: April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): General Fund

Amendment Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to extend the end date of the contract for another two years for the performance of the tasks in the original contract. The original contract provides services for year-round collection, hauling, and disposal of garbage from Lake Macbride State Park.

Original Contract Purpose:

Throughout the year, and even more so during peak season, trash removal service is essential for general park users, renters of our day-use facilities, and campers. This service is vital for continuing to provide the quality and standards that park users have come to expect from Iowa State Parks while also allowing park staff to maintain their facilities and grounds.

Original Selection Process: In 2022, the criteria reviewed for this work included adhering to the tasks as laid out in the Request for Quote (RFQ) Solicitation, completion and timely submission of the RFQ Cost Proposal, as well as demonstrating responsiveness and responsibility as a bidder.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$17,512.00; Timeframe: May 6, 2022, to March 31, 2024; Purpose: Trash Removal

Amendment 1 Terms: Amount: \$8,696.00/year; Timeframe: April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2026; Purpose: To extend the contract for two more years with commensurate compensation.

Sherry L. Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***13. Contract with Armodus, LLC**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Armodus, LLC of Mondamin, Iowa

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$47,408

Dates: March 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Conservation Receipts

Contract Purpose:

Loess Hills State Forest is a working forest of nearly 6,000 acres managed by the Iowa DNR. Staff conduct forest management practices to ensure desirable regeneration of tree species. In order to promote growth of desirable seedlings, undesirable tree species must be removed.

In this service contract, the contractor will complete 296.3 acres of forest stand improvement as specified in the Request for Quote by removing the undesirable tree species from the identified stands which will allow the natural regeneration of desirable tree species in these areas.

Contract Tasks Include:

- Mondamin Unit - Post Harvest Treatment 38.1 acres
- Pisgah Unit - Hrabik Post Harvest Treatment 27.7 acres
- Pisgah Unit - Christensen Post Harvest Treatment 36.6 acres
- Little Sioux Unit - Hinkel Post Harvest Treatment 51.6 acres
- Preparation Canyon Unit - Jepsen Pre Harvest Forest Stand Improvement 142.3 acres

The successful bidder has provided satisfactory services to Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau, Iowa DNR Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau and Iowa DNR Engineering Services Bureau in the past. Armodus, LLC has completed forest stand improvement work as well as prairie restoration work for Loess Hills State Forest in the past.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request for quotes (RFQ) on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria reviewed for this work included the total cost for the overall project. The lowest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Proposal Due Date: January 26, 2024

of Proposals Received: 3

Recommendation: Armodus, LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Rank	Cost
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, Iowa	1	\$47,408.00
Iowa Timber Solutions	Stuart, Iowa	2	\$148,150.00
NRP	St. Paul, MN	3	\$851,956.63

Sherry Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Information Item

14. Construction - Small Projects

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

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
1/18/24	24-05-77-04	Big Creek State Park	Polk	This project consists of installing wayfinding signs throughout the park	\$45,000	\$27,500.00 \$40,123.20 \$42,142.00 \$71,125.00 \$143,200.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: 2/14/2024

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

15. Construction Items

15.1 Waterloo Creek WMA, Stream Bank Restoration – Allamakee County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Waterloo Creek WMA is located about ½ mile southeast of Dorchester and encompasses 1,980 acres of forest and upland habitat. Game species of interest include deer, turkey, squirrel, grouse, and dove. Additionally, this WMA provides access to a trout stream.

Waterloo Creek is experiencing streambank erosion during large precipitation events. This project will reestablish flood plain benches to reduce water velocity during heavy flows and will construct rock vanes to redirect the stream away from the bank. In addition, four rock clusters will be placed in the stream to improve trout habitat.

Engineering Project #: 23-03-03-02

Cost Estimate: \$170,000.00

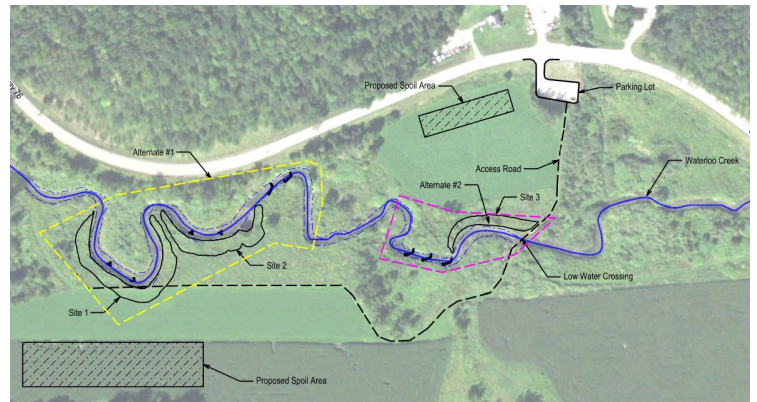
Operating Bureau: Fisheries

Funding Source: 82% REAP Land Management, 18% Federal USFWS Grant

Bid Letting Date: 1/18/2024

Construction Completion Date: 8/30/2024

Number of Bids Received: 7



Bidders

Shift Companies	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$107,329.52
Bacon Concrete, LLC	Postville, IA	\$113,840.50
Lahr Custom Excavating, LLC	Ryan, IA	\$123,606.00
Riehm Construction CO.	Waukon, IA	\$134,449.80
JB Holland Construction, Inc.	Decorah, IA	\$135,354.55
Matt Construction, Inc.	Sumner, IA	\$166,113.59
Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc.	Otsego, MN	\$172,957.60

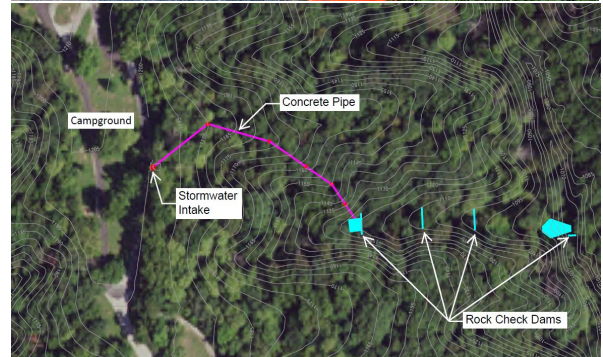
Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Shift Companies.

15.2 Waubonsie State Park, Storm Sewer – Fremont County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Waubonsie State Park is located south of Sydney, and is approximately 2,000 acres in size. Existing facilities include two standard campgrounds with modern showers and restrooms, an equestrian campground, and many hiking opportunities. A seven-acre lake, Lake Virginia, is located in the park.

The campground was constructed on the top of a ridge with very steep sides. An eroding head cut caused by stormwater runoff is threatening to undermine the road. This project will collect and convey the stormwater runoff down to the bottom of the gully via a concrete pipe. A series of rock check dams will slow the water, promote infiltration, and eliminate erosion.



Engineering Project #: 23-04-36-02

Cost Estimate: \$300,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% Parks and Institutional Road Fund

Bid Letting Date: 1/18/2024

Construction Completion Date: 08/30/2024

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Hendrickson Transportation, LLC	Hamburg, IA	\$181,439.99
Western Iowa Utilities, Inc.	Council Bluffs, IA	\$190,555.49
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, IA	\$230,690.00
Carley Construction, LLC	Council Bluffs, IA	\$252,175.00
Leick Construction, Inc.	Glenwood, IA	\$267,274.97
Mount Farm Drainage, LLC	Riverton, IA	\$268,260.00
Vicker Drilling, LLC	Creston, IA	\$280,508.00
Mark Hughs Construction	Glenwood, IA	\$296,931.04

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

15.3 Palisades-Kepler State Park, Pavement Maintenance - Linn County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Palisades-Kepler State Park consists of 840 acres located in Linn County. The park is located along Cedar River and has 44 campsites, four family cabins, a 1930’s CCC lodge, modern shower and restroom facilities, and a trailer dump station.

This project consists of cleaning existing culverts, reshaping ditches, placing rock on shoulders, placing revetment and erosion stone, patching, 2" overlay, cleaning and filling cracks and fog sealing approximately 2.9 miles of asphalt pavement of varying widths and patching approximately 0.6 miles of concrete pavement.



Engineering Project #: 23-06-57-01
Cost Estimate: \$615,000
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: Park and Intuitional Roads Fund
Bid Letting Date: 1/18/2024
Construction Completion Date: 08/30/2024
Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

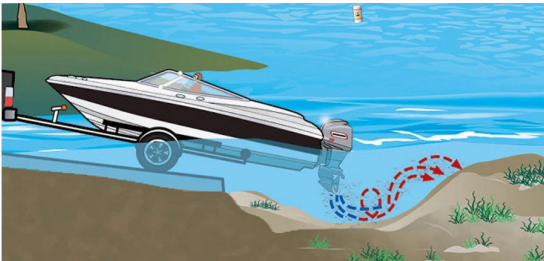
Top Grade Excavating, Inc.	Farley, IA	\$366,785.00
L.L. Pelling Company, Inc.	North Liberty, IA	\$503,299.80
Hansen Asphalt, Inc.	Iowa City, IA	\$552,049.51

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

15.4 Lake Manawa State Park, Boat Ramp Extensions - Pottawattamie County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Manawa State Park is located in Council Bluffs and was dedicated in 1932. The park encompasses more than 1,500 acres including a 753-acre oxbow lake. Amenities include a paved nature trail, campground, boat ramps, a beach, concessionaire, picnic shelters, and a playground.



The north and south boat ramps were originally constructed in 1980s and need to be repaired due to prop wash erosion at the ends of the ramps. This project consists of extending the ramps with articulating concrete block mattresses. This repair will curtail the prop wash erosion well into the future.



Engineering Project #: 24-04-78-01
Cost Estimate: \$92,000.00
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% Marine Fuel Tax
Bid Letting Date: 01/25/2024
Construction Completion Date: 05/15/2024
Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

Western Iowa Utilities, Inc.	Council Bluffs, IA	\$59,010.00
Vicker Drilling, LLC	Creston, IA	\$67,100.00

Armodus, LLC
JF Brennan Company, Inc.

Mondamin, IA
LaCrosse, WI

\$113,370.00
\$148,400.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Western Iowa Utilities, Inc.

15.5 Lake Manawa State Park, Beach Concession Remodel – Pottawattamie County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Manawa State Park is located in Council Bluffs and was dedicated in 1932. The park encompasses more than 1,500 acres including a 753-acre oxbow lake. Amenities include a paved nature trail, campground, boat ramps, a beach, concessionaire, picnic shelters, and a playground.



The Lake Manawa State Park beach concession building was constructed in the mid-1980s and needs a refresh. The restrooms will receive all new toilet partitions, new lavatories and countertops, new restroom accessories, changing tables, and new interior lighting. The exterior of the concession building will get a new coiling door over the existing window wall and new gutters, soffits, and fascia around the entire building. The contractor will replace light heads on the existing light poles.



Engineering Project #: 23-04-78-01

Cost Estimate: \$140,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 01/25/2024

Construction Completion Date: 05/17/2024

Number of Bids Received: 1

Bidders

Mark Hughes Construction

Glenwood, IA

\$122,762.00

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

15.6 Fort Atkinson State Preserve - Exterior Masonry and Structural Repairs – Winneshiek County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Ft Atkinson State Preserve is a historic fort built in the 1840s in the town of Fort Atkinson. Occupied for only a short time for its original intent, it now serves as a historic landmark and interpretive location. A museum is open by appointment, and a downloadable audio tour is available.

This project will address ongoing water intrusion, deteriorating wood and masonry, and shore up structural deficiencies allowed within the budget.



Engineering Project #: 24-03-96-01

Cost Estimate: \$805,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 64% Federal Saving America’s Treasures Grant, 33% Special Appropriation, 3% Partner Contribution

Bid Letting Date: 01/18/2024

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2024

Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

TNT Tuckpointing & Building Restoration	Stockton, IA	\$752,766.00
Matt Construction Inc	Sumner, IA	\$806,112.86
Innovative Masonry Restoration LLC	Prior Lake, MN	\$995,000.00
Hydro-Tech Inc	Lehi, UT	\$1,182,047.00

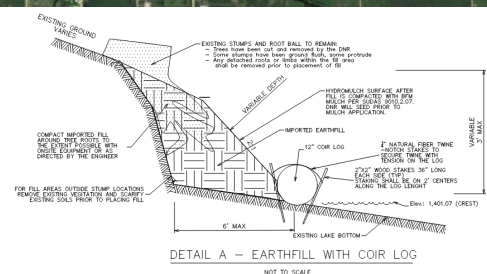
Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to TNT Tuckpointing & Building Restoration LLC.

15.7 Spirit Lake – Anglers Bay Shoreline Stabilization Project – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Anglers Bay is located on the northeast side of Spirit Lake and has been part of a very concentrated effort by the DNR and multiple local partners to protect one of the most diverse natural shorelines in the state of Iowa.

Wave action is currently eroding the shoreline along Anglers Bay. This project will eliminate erosion through two separate methodologies. The first is the addition of native fieldstone as hard armoring along some of the larger cut areas. The second uses 100% decomposable erosion control logs that help to stop or slow the active erosion long enough for shoreline plants to start to regrow both in and around the logs. This plant regrowth stabilizes the soil with root growth as was native to parts of this area for centuries.



Engineering Project #: 24-01-30-02

Cost Estimate: \$71,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife/Fisheries/Lake Restoration

Funding Source: IA Finance Authority Water Infrastructure Fund Grant #22-32

Bid Letting Date: 1/11/2024

Construction Completion Date: 06/14/2024

Number of Bids Received: 9

Bidders

Blumer Excavating Co, LLC	Osage, IA	\$ 65,000.00
BD Construction Services, LLC	Spencer, IA	\$ 68,670.00
Underwater Solutions, LLC	Spirit Lake, IA	\$ 69,570.00
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City, SD	\$ 73,822.25
Empire Excavation	Odebolt, IA	\$ 90,300.00
Healy Excavating	Lake View, IA	\$ 92,505.00
MLS Landscape & Design Inc	Granville, IA	\$ 92,916.30
Mega Inc	Ocheyedan, IA	\$ 99,305.40
Lieber Construction Inc	North Sioux City, SD	\$111,418.11

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

***15.8 Rock Creek State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation – Jasper County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Located about 6 miles northwest of Kellogg, Rock Creek State Park is approximately 1,697 acres in size, and was dedicated in 1952. The 175-site campground borders the lake and includes electrical hookups and modern restrooms. The park offers trails to accommodate a wide variety of activities, including hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling.

This project is going to install wayfinding signage at Rock Creek State Park, including campground signage. Wayfinding signage will include directional, destination, rules and informational, and campground signage in accordance with the Iowa Parks Signage Guide. The Iowa DNR will provide all materials necessary for the install of these signs, the contractor is to provide all labor and tools necessary to install all of the signs.

Engineering Project #: 24-05-50-02

Cost Estimate: \$78,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Special Appropriation

Bid Letting Date: 01/18/2024

Construction Completion Date: 06/16/2023

Number of Bids Received: 7

Bidders

Wisecup Trucking LLC	Ogden, IA	\$77,310.75
Campbell Electric	Dayton, IA	\$78,350.00
OEL Construction Services Inc	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$84,250.00
IA Builders Dirt Work LLC	Albia, IA	\$92,450.00
Wysong Carpentry	Pleasantville, IA	\$113,360.00
Voltmer Inc	Decorah, IA	\$125,845.00
Iowa Plains Signing Inc	Slater, IA	\$322,950.00



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

***15.9 Elk Rock State Park, Wayfinding Signage Installation –Marion County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Elk Rock State Park is located on Lake Red Rock which is Iowa’s largest lake with over 15,000 acres of water. Elk Rock State Park consists of 800 acres along the reservoir. Park facilities include two campgrounds (equestrian and non-equestrian) with 87 camp sites, a four-lane boat ramp, and multi-purpose trails.

This project is going to install wayfinding signage at Elk Rock State Park including campground signage. Wayfinding signage will include directional, destination, rules and informational, and campground signage in accordance with the Iowa Parks Signage Guide. The Iowa DNR will provide all materials necessary for the install of these signs, the contractor is to provide all labor and tools necessary to install all of the signs.

Engineering Project #: 24-05-63-02
Cost Estimate: \$58,000.00
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: Special Appropriation
Bid Letting Date: 01/18/2024
Construction Completion Date: 06/16/2023
Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Wisecup Trucking LLC	Ogden, IA	\$48,438.51
Campbell Electric	Dayton, IA	\$53,350.00
IA Builders Dirt Work LLC	Albia, IA	\$57,620.00
OEL Construction Services Inc	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$64,030.00
Wysong Carpentry	Pleasantville, IA	\$65,130.00
Iron Hill Construction LLC	Coralville, IA	\$71,526.00
Voltmer Inc	Decorah, IA	\$71,600.00
Iowa Plains Signing Inc	Slater, IA	\$210,000.00



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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item

16. Public Land Acquisition Project

16.1 Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Butler County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

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

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)

Acreage: 142 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$398,000

Appraised Value: \$398,000

Property Description: The proposed 142-acre addition to the Big Marsh WMA includes 31 acres enrolled in a USDA-NRCS WRP easement. Those acres have been seeded down to diverse native grasses and forbs. The remainder of the tract is floodplain timber. 1.1 miles of the West Fork of the Cedar River run through the center of the tract. The addition of this tract will connect existing public land to the river. The existing public land has had extensive wetland restoration completed through the USDA WRP program. Connecting the existing public property to the river will provide staff additional flexibility in management, allowing them to capture water from the river during dry years or move water off more quickly during wet years.

Purpose: Big Marsh an important destination for hunters of many different species but in particular waterfowl. It is also home to many species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) including the state endangered Wood turtles and state threatened Blanding's turtle. The river is important to many SGCN mussels and fish as well. The tract is located within an HCP bat recovery area and an Audubon designated Important Bird Area.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$200,000 NAWCA Prairie Lakes Wetland Initiative XII, \$194,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$4,000 Whitetails Unlimited

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

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 (INHF)

Acreage: 204 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$700,000

Appraised Value: \$1,122,000

Property Description: This irregular-shaped property is located two (2) miles northwest of Bevington in northeastern Madison County. The steep to near level tract lies within and upslope from the North River floodplain. Approximately 40 percent of the property lies within the floodplain, and the North River meanders through the tract a distance of approximately one half of a mile. Land use includes 160 acres of oak timber, 35 acres of grassland, and remainder in wetlands, creek tributaries, and the North River. The

average CSR of the property is 35.3. There are no building improvements. Access is provided at the northeast portion of the property by a county, gravel road.

Purpose: This acquisition, reflecting close proximity to the Des Moines metro area as well as a diversity of habitat types, 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): \$695,000 Federal Pittman-Robertson, \$5,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***17. Public Land Management Projects**

17.1 Management Agreement, Pine Valley Nature Area – Jackson County Conservation Board - Jackson County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with Jackson County Conservation Board for Pine Valley Nature Area located in Jackson County.

Location: This parcel is located 3 miles north of Monmouth in Jackson County. It sits adjacent to the 650-acre Pine Valley Nature Area that is managed by the Jackson County Conservation Board.

Site Purpose: This 26-acre area is used for outdoor recreation and hunting.

Management History: This site has been managed by Jackson County Conservation Board since 1992.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement with the Jackson County Conservation Board is for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the Jackson County Conservation Board on November 21, 2023.

17.2 Management Agreement, Millgrove Access Wildlife Area – Poweshiek County Conservation Board - Poweshiek County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with Poweshiek County Conservation Board for Millgrove Access Wildlife Area located in Poweshiek County.

Location: This parcel is located 4 miles Northwest of New Sharon in Poweshiek County. This property sits adjacent to a 450-acre property that is managed by the Poweshiek County Conservation Board.

Site Purpose: This 168-acre area is used for outdoor recreation and hunting.

Management History: This site has been managed by Cedar County Conservation Board since 1998.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement with the Cedar County Conservation Board is for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Cedar County Conservation Board on December 12, 2023.

17.3 Management Agreement, Crescent Park – City of Lake View - Sac County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the City of Lake View for Crescent Park located in Sac County.

Location: This parcel is located on the north shore of Blackhawk Lake in Sac County. This property is a portion of ground between the homes and lake shore that runs from Crescent Park at the North to Denison Beach to the South.

Site Purpose: This agreement allows the City of Lake View to maintain this public access and to administer a Dock Management Area along this property.

Management History: This site has been under agreement since 1986.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement with the City of Lake View is for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Lake View City Council on January 15, 2024.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item

18. 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 October 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 January 9, 2024, 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	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	\$53,920
2	City of West Des Moines	This grant satisfies the final need for the initial phase of a much larger area cleanup and improvement project of a former quarry site along the Raccoon River. Dollars from this grant will help to fund construction of a paved access road, paved parking lot, and 20-foot wide concrete motorized boat ramp on the Raccoon River—dividing a larger river segment into two smaller segments, which will attract greater use of the resource.	\$1.6 M	\$75,000	\$75,000
3	City of Fort Dodge	Parking improvements and amenities on the Des Moines River Water Trail at Sunkissed Meadows Access in the City of Fort Dodge. This is part of a very large river front revitalization project, which	\$330,915	\$150,000	\$150,000

		has already included the removal of two dams and bank improvements that create access for fishing.			
4	City of Harlan	Construction of a new river access at Highway 44 in the city of Harlan, along the West Nishnabotna River Water Trail. This amount funds the final need for the project. Project includes concrete ramp, a turn-around lane, staging area, parking lot, and access road.	\$506,000	\$218,500	\$218,500
5	City of Marion	This project installs the first formal access on Indian Creek within the City of Marion, as part of a multi-phased development plan.	\$450,000	\$150,000	--
6	Polk County Conservation	This grant is for the design of a non-paddling access on Fourmile Creek. A stair step design to allow people to get to the water for wading or fishing and, later, once the creek has been restored, the access could be used for paddlers.	\$74,027	\$59,222	--
DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS			\$3,033,862	\$706,642	\$497,150

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

19. Contract with Iowa State University (Ambient Lake Monitoring)

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

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$877,820.40

Dates: March 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026

DNR shall have the option to extend this Contract for up to six years from the beginning date of the original contract by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of this Contract.

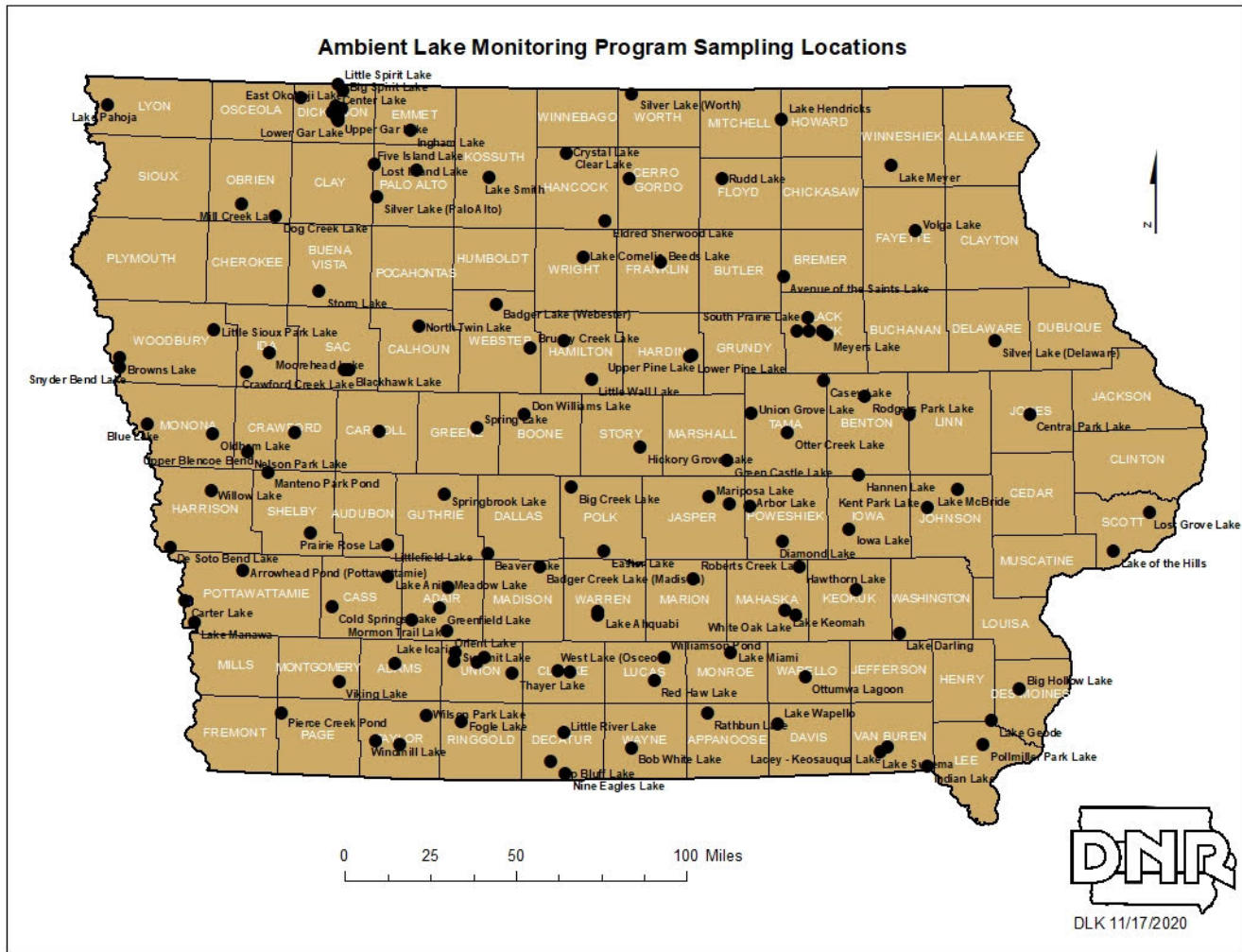
Funding Source(s): Environment First Fund \$526,692.24 (60%), Lake Restoration Program \$351,128.16 (40%)

Contract Background: This contract encompasses the majority of lake water quality monitoring conducted as part of the state-wide water monitoring program and is the primary basis for assessing the state's lake water quality. The purpose of this program is to define the condition of Iowa's lakes, characterize the existing and emerging issues, measure changes or trends in water quality, and provide information to citizens and decision-makers. Specific ways the DNR intends to utilize the information gathered and analyzed in this contract include: to fulfill Clean Water Act requirements of the department which includes biennial reports on the status of lake water quality, impaired waters listing, and total maximum daily load reports. Data are also utilized to manage and evaluate this natural resource and allocate lake restoration funds most appropriately. Data collected through this program has also helped the Lake Restoration Program evaluate the success of restoration projects statewide. DNR maintains a public facing database (AQuiA) where data are housed and made available for use to the general public.

The Ambient Lake Monitoring Program (ALM) began in 2000 and is one of the longest running and most robust lake monitoring programs in the United States. DNR has contracted frequently with Iowa State University (ISU) to conduct monitoring, and the Lake Restoration Program has been a partner on this monitoring effort since the program's inception.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to provide statewide lake monitoring for publicly owned lakes in Iowa. This contract represents an ongoing joint effort between the Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section (within the Environmental Services Division of DNR) and the Lake Restoration Program. ISU will provide field and analytical support for monitoring on 141 (see map below) of Iowa's significant publicly owned lakes. The majority lakes will be monitored three times during the field season for basic water chemistry, nutrients, plankton composition, algal toxins, and clarity. A subset of lakes will be monitored more intensively for a total of six times over the field monitoring season. Additionally, ISU will provide analytical support for an additional 15 lakes sampled by DNR to assess water quality.

Contract History: DNR has entered into contracts with Iowa State University on a regular basis since 2000. Iowa State University has completed similar lake monitoring to activities described in contracts with DNR from 2000 to 2020. The purpose of the contracts with Iowa State University is to have Iowa State University provide DNR with lake monitoring data, including water chemistry, biological and limnological analysis of Iowa's lakes. The most recent contracts have been the following (all with the 60/40% split between ESD and the Lake Restoration Program):



Budget:

Environment First Fund – DNR ESD Funding (60%):	\$ 526,692.24
<u>Lake Restoration Program (40%):</u>	<u>\$ 351,128.16</u>
Total Cost:	Not to exceed \$ 877,820.40

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4. Also contracts with state universities and other public agencies for laboratory work, scientific field measurement and environmental quality evaluation services necessary to implement Iowa Code Chapter 455B is authorized under Iowa Code section 455B.103(3). Iowa State University was chosen for this project because of extensive previous lake monitoring experience with DNR.

Travis Baker, Land and Water Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024

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

Decision Item

20. Contract with LT Leon Associates, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with LT Leon Associates, Inc. of Des Moines, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$60,285

Dates: Feb. 16, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund

Contract Purpose: This contract is for engineering design for recreational safety and fish passage for the Lenon Mill Dam on the Middle Raccoon River near the City of Panora. The dam is located a wildlife unit, but also serves a purpose for municipal water collection. Because the dam is in disrepair, the City has been permitted to make temporary repairs to the dam in recent years. In addition, both dams create recreational hazards and barriers for fish and mussel migration. The dam will be replaced with a designed rapids to permanently hold the pool of water. The City of Panora is expected to assist with finding funding for the capital improvements.

Iowa DNR has had satisfactory past experience with the selected vendor on similar projects, most recently included the Steamboat Rock Dam Mitigation project.

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

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included...

- Cost
- Professional experience, performance record, references
- Compliance/thoroughness of technical proposal
- Capacity of project team to complete statement of work
- Project manager and team display practical knowledge in natural channel design, sediment volume/movement analysis, and hydraulic relations
- Has designed similar dam mitigation projects in the past, including removals and replacing dams with rapids
- Has experience and ability to assist with listening to public and key stakeholders, and experience analyzing competing technical, social, and organizational demands
- Consultant defined its approach to using Iowa's River Restoration Toolbox as the core approach for analysis of the dam mitigation alternatives along with additional supplemental tools

Proposal Due Date: December 15, 2023

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: LT Leon Associates, Inc.

LT Leon Associates, Inc. submitted the only bid for this service

Travis Baker, Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 14, 2024