

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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

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

6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50321

Lake Darling Conf Room

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

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

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *11. Public Land Management Projects (11.1-11.6) *15. Contract with Iowa State University (Acoustic Bat Monitoring) *16. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Grant Recommendations *18. Contract with Lundquist Living Trust (IHAP)	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.	Iowa Tree Planting Grant Program	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
6.	Chapter 35 – Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant Recommendations	Decision	Joe Larscheid
7.	Contract with Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. (WMI)- Fisheries Specialists	Decision	Joe Larscheid
8.	Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Contract with Versar Global Solutions-CREP Program Environmental Assessment	Decision	Todd Bishop
10.	Contract with Pheasants Forever-Private Lands Assistance	Decision	Todd Bishop
*11.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
11.1	Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Louisa County		
11.2	Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Des Moines County		
11.3	Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Louisa County		
11.4	Chapter 17 Lease - Mississippi River, Scott County		
11.5	Management Agreement – Five Island Lake Access, City of Emmetsburg		
11.6	Flowage Easement – Emmet County – Burr Oak Lake WMA, Egeland		
12.	Small Construction Projects- Dike Repair at Riverton WMA; Riprap Installation at Sugema Wildlife Unit	Information	Travis Baker
13.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
13.1	Ledges State Park, East Shower Building Replacement – Boone County		
13.2	DNR Fairgrounds Building, Conservation Discovery Area – Polk County		

13.3	Red Rock Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Road Maintenance – Warren, Polk and Marion Counties		
13.4	Lake Wapello State Park, Parking Lot Pavement Maintenance – Davis County		
13.5	Lake Keomah State Park – Lodge Window Replacements - Mahaska County		
14.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
14.1	Gladfelter Marsh WMA, Hancock County – Jerry and Carol Tlach	Decision	
14.2	Grant Center WMA, Monona County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	
*15.	Contract with Iowa State University (Acoustic Bat Monitoring)	Decision	Travis Baker
*16.	Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Grant Recommendations	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Water Trails Development Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Travis Baker
*18.	Contract with Lundquist Living Trust (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
19.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thursday, March 13, Des Moines ● Thursday, April 10 			

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.

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**MINUTES OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 9, 2025

Video Teleconference
and
6200 Park Ave.

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

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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 9:37 am on January 9, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Tom Prickett
- Tammi Kircher
- KR Buck
- Laura Kudej
- Marcus Branstad

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

- Laura Foell
- Uriah Hansen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *5. Donations
- *6. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Area
- *7. Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest
- *8. Timber Sale Contract with Ken Knapp Logging for Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- *9. Public Land Management Projects (9.2-9.5)

Motion was made by KR Buck to remove item 9.1 from the consent agenda and to amend the order of the agenda to address items that require a vote first, transitioning to information-only items around 10:15am. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 17 LEASE RENEWAL, WEST OKOBOJI LAKE – DICKINSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a Chapter 17 lease renewal on West Lake Okoboji. Commissioners held a robust discussion on the lease program and fees set in rule, noting the lease amount seemed low compared to market value. General Counsel Tamara McIntosh explained the multi-step process that is required if the Commission wanted to adjust a lease fee apart from how it is laid out in rule. Commissioners requested that more information be presented at the February NRC meeting regarding leases and lease fees.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the item by saying aye. KR Buck-nay.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FEMA REPAIRS – FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road repairs due to flooding at the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA, BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – FAYETTE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a bridge replacement at the Volga River State Recreation Area.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

EAST TWIN LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS – HANCOCK COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for water control structure improvements at the East Twin Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammie Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION- YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – COREY AND TIFFANY ANDERSON

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent to Yellow River State Forest.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION- HERITAGE VALLEY FOREST LEGACY AREA, WINNESHIEK COUNTY – HOWE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to acquire a permanent conservation easement on a tract of land located in northwestern Winneshiek County.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT

Michelle Balmer requested commission approval for a contract with Solitude Lake Management to complete alum applications at Green Valley Lake (Union County) and Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby County). Ms. Balmer explained the timeframes chosen for the Spring and Fall applications. Commissioners requested to view an upcoming alum application as schedules allow.

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 item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

- Director Lyon provided statistics on statewide participation in the First Day Hikes held at a variety of Iowa’s State Parks. Ledges had the highest participation with 242 participants, followed by Mines of Spain with 222 participants.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth gave an overview of available fishing, hunting and trapping seasons, noting that resident 2024 licenses expire on January 10, 2025.
- Mr. Hildreth highlighted tree planting programs available and encouraged interested organizations and communities to visit the Urban Forestry page of the IDNR website for more information.
- Mr. Hildreth concluded his remarks by sharing seasonal position opportunities at the Department including positions in Wildlife, Fisheries and Law Enforcement (seasonal water patrol officers).

CONTRACT WITH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE-PARK TECHNICIAN SPECIALISTS

Sherry Arntzen requested commission approval for a contract with Wildlife Management Institute for park technician specialists.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SIOUX COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD-COOPERATIVE HABITAT TECHNICIAN

Todd Bishop requested commission approval for a contract with Sioux County Conservation Board for a cooperative habitat technician position.

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 item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS- CONCRETE REMOVAL AND FILL AT LACEY-KEOSAQUA STATE PARK

Travis Baker presented a construction projects for concrete repair at Lacey-Keosaqua State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

INFORMATION

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners provided updates on their recent outdoor experiences.
- Commissioner Buck requested to revisit the location of the April NRC meeting.
- Commissioner Buck requested a follow up on a Pheasants Forever presentation to the Commission.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Marcus Branstad adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:45am on January 9, 2024.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

5. Iowa Tree Planting Grant Program

Commission approval is requested for spending for the Iowa Tree Planting Grant program

Grant Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$ 710,000.00

Dates: January 1, 2025 to November 30, 2026

Funding Source(s): Federal Funds (Forest Service) 100%; Inflation Reduction Act

Contract Purpose: The DNR's purpose is to sub-grant money from the USDA Forest Service to disadvantaged communities for tree planting projects on public property. The grant money can be used over a two-year period.

The DNR Forestry Section manages the Urban Forest program, aimed at working with communities and counties to better their managed tree resources through pass through grant funding. USDA Forest Service is an agency that works in concert with DNR to provide grant funding available to community governmental entities, volunteer organizations, and service organizations involved with local urban and community forest services. The DNR and the USDA Forest Service have a long history of working together to advance shared priorities.

The DNR will:

- create the grant application for communities and counties to apply for the grant money, which will include Federal stipulations.
- create a grant agreement for awarded communities and counties to help meet requirements.
- provide the Forest Service with biannual grant reports.
- make final approval on completion of the grant that all agreements/requirements are met for final reimbursement.

Below is a list of communities who are eligible, upon NRC approval to receive grant awards for \$25,000 and above:

Applicant	Funding Amount
Audubon County	\$26,520
City of Ames	\$30,000
City of Belmond	\$30,000
City of Burlington	\$30,000
City of Carter Lake	\$30,000
City of Cedar Falls	\$30,000
City of Creston	\$29,870
City of Denison	\$30,000
City of Des Moines	\$30,000
City of Garner	\$25,000
City of Granville	\$30,000
City of Grimes	\$30,000
City of Humboldt	\$30,000
City of Iowa City	\$30,000
City of Jefferson	\$30,000
City of Lake City	\$30,000
City of Marion	\$30,000
City of Oelwein	\$30,000
City of Sioux City	\$30,000
City of Spencer	\$30,000
City of West Des Moines	\$30,000
Linn County	\$27,840
Sioux County	\$30,000
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraksa	\$30,000

Selection Process Summary: The Department opened the application to all eligible communities and counties from mid-October to the end of December. Grants were scored by a committee of five. Grant agreements to the community entities who are being awarded this grant will be sent out after the Commission approval.

Proposal Due Date: 1/25/2025

Proposals Reviewed: 24

Recommendation: Communities and Counties listed below

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 February 12, 2025

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

Decision Item

6. 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 \$72,149 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 2024 and January 2025 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 Director designees and one DNR Fisheries Biologist advisor.

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

District I	\$72,149.00	
Hamilton	\$16,240.50	Briggs Woods Lake Fishing Jetty and Shoreline Armoring.
Marshall	\$46,579.00	Sand Lake Addition Shoreline Armoring.

District II	\$90,201.00	
Cerro Gordo	\$23,937.60	Wilkinson Park Pond Berm Reinforcement, Control Structure Replacement, and Fish Habitat Improvements.
Franklin	\$23,274.90	Maynes Grove Lake Dredging.
Winneshiek	\$42,988.50	Walden Pond Dredging, Control Structure Replacement, and Fish Habitat Improvements.

District III	\$142,110.00	
Lyon	\$29,250.00	Lilylog Wildlife Area Pond Berm Repair and Shoreline Armoring.

District IV	\$128,172.00	
Ringgold	\$4,280.29	Liberty Lake Silt Pond Dam Construction.

District V	\$129,835.00	
Louisa	\$14,940.00	Virginia Grove Recreation Area Fish Habitat Improvements.
Mahaska	\$13,941.00	White Oak Conservation Area Lake Herbicide Treatment.

District VI	\$159,443.00	
Delaware	\$22,500	Elk Creek Fish Habitat and Streambank Protection.
Dubuque	\$75,000	Locher Lake and North Fork Maquoketa River Acquisition.
Linn	\$61,943	Pinicon Ridge Park Dredging, Shoreline Armoring, and Fish Habitat Improvements.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 February 12, 2025

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

Decision Item

7. Contract with Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. (WMI)

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

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$1,400,000

Dates: March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2028

Funding Source(s): external funding (e.g., U.S. Army Corp of Engineers) or other DNR funding (e.g., Lake Restoration Program).

Contract Purpose: The purpose in entering into this Contract is for the DNR to provide funding for WMI to hire and employ up to 6 Fisheries Specialists for a period of up to three years.

The DNR Fisheries Bureau has a long history of providing high quality fishing opportunities for Iowa anglers. The Bureau normally manages the waters of the state with a combination of permanent employees and seasonal workers in the Management, Research, and Culture sections. Occasionally, the Fisheries Bureau has a need to increase staffing capacity to address a specific, short-term need or to implement a project. This contract with WMI will help the Bureau address these high priority needs when external or other DNR funding is available.

WMI is an organization that works in conjunction with DNR to provide administrative support and facilitate and promote conservation and professional management of wildlife. The DNR and WMI have a long history of working together to advance shared priorities. One of WMI's primary goals for 2025-2030 is to provide novel business solutions to wildlife management partners' business processes and administrative challenges. WMI's purpose in entering into this Contract is to help achieve joint goals and objectives with DNR by employing up to 6 Fisheries Specialists.

The DNR will:

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

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

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included the ability to provide the services required to employ up to 6 Fisheries Specialists in partnership with the DNR.

Proposal Due Date: 11/25/2024

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Wildlife Management Institute

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

8. 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: \$547,482 (\$182,482 restricted)

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

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

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

Number of Applications Received: 5 (3 additions to existing/new Wildlife Areas and 2 Habitat Development projects)

Recommendations: The committee recommends offering full funding to the Kossuth County Wildlife Area with the remaining \$156,791 being offered to Wright County Wildlife Area. Additionally, the committee recommends offering full funding to the Jefferson County Habitat Development project. The minimum score for eligible projects is 45, so the habitat development project in Clayton County was not eligible to be funded. 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
52.8	45%	Kossuth	<i>Crail Land Acquisition</i> – This 128.32-acre project provides protection, habitat for wildlife, and public recreation along the river corridor on the East Fork of the Des Moines River in Kossuth County. The diversity of wetland types on this property include: oxbows, shallow water, and riverine, which deliver a variety of benefits including improving water quality, recharging groundwater, reducing flooding, providing soil protection, wetland habitat for wildlife and offering recreational opportunities.	\$208,209.00	\$208,209.00
49	35%	Wright	<i>Snarl St. South Addition: Galyen Trust</i> - This 60-acre parcel in the Iowa River Basin would provide hunting access in Wright County on several habitat types including upland, floodplain timber, and oxbows. This property is directly adjacent to the south of Snarl Street Wetlands WMA, a 117-acre parcel that is currently owned and managed by the Wright County Conservation Board.	\$193,500.00	\$156,791.00
45.8	49%	Wapello	<i>Garrison Rock Addition</i> - Garrison Rock is a 302-acre property owned by Wapello County Conservation. This area has historic significance and is a popular area for outdoor recreation. This project would protect the area by acquiring an	\$50,000.00	-0-

			adjacent 17.79-acre parcel of land. Benefits of the acquisition include making the existing trail system more user-friendly, providing better public access to the area, and preventing the possibility of private entities developing the land and negatively affecting the natural area.		
48	41%	Jefferson	<i>Turkey Run Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration</i> - Jefferson County Conservation is working to return Turkey Run Wildlife Area 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.	\$10,831.00	\$10,831.00
44	25%	Clayton	<i>Pleasant Ridge Wildlife Area - TSI</i> – This project would perform 13 acres of timber stand improvement at the Pleasant Ridge Wildlife Area to restore and enhance degraded oak-hickory woodland for wildlife.	\$10,159.50	-0-
Total				\$472,699.50	\$375,831.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2025

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

Decision Item

9. Contract with Versar Global Solutions

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Versar Global Solutions, of Washington, DC.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$82,992.75

Dates: 2/14/2025 to 10/1/2025

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires professional services to provide a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to analyze the potential impacts to the human environment that may result from the approval of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement. CREP is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) with assistance from the DNR. CREP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shall administer the Iowa Floodplains, Hills, and Access Easement Program, which includes determining eligibility, evaluating, scoring, and ranking offers for enrollment. DNR will provide technical assistance to landowners in developing conservation plans tailored to the acreage enrolled through the program and manage public hunting access on enrolled lands. Additionally, the program will cover the costs required to maintain the established conservation cover, ensuring the long-term ecological benefits of the enrolled areas.

CREP is a public-private partnership program, allowing states, Tribal governments, non-profit and private entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices that address high priority conservation and environmental objectives. DNR will work with FSA to define practices that achieve substantial on-site and off-site natural resource benefits targeting one or more of the following goals:

- Enhance water quality
- Reduce soil erosion
- Restore/establish wildlife habitat

The tasks under this performance work statement outline the proposed steps that will meet the requirements of both the federal agency (FSA) and the cooperators' environmental requirements. The contractor will help DNR, FSA, and USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Business Center Environmental Activities Division (ENV) by preparing the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), Notice of Availability (NOA), scoping letters, and consultation letters, as applicable.

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

Criteria Reviewed: Proposals were evaluated with the following considerations: Respondent's professional experience, performance record, and letter(s) of reference; Compliance and thoroughness of Respondent's response to RFP Technical Proposal; The capacity of the Respondent and Project Team to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; Respondent's work plan to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; Respondent's proposed implementation timeline to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; Respondent's actual examples provided to the DNR with Proposal of Respondents previous or current work from customers or clients similar to the goods and/services sought in the Statement of Work; and Cost.

Proposal Due Date: 1/17/2025

of Proposals Received: 4

Recommendation: Versar Global Solutions

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Score (135 pts total)	Rank	Cost
Versar Global Solutions	Washington, DC	108	1	\$82,992.75
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	Independence, Iowa	80	2	\$142,980.00
Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc.	St. Paul, MN	80	2	\$73,000.00
Olsson	Overland Park, KS	77	4	\$150,773.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 2/12/2025

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

Decision Item

10. Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc. of Saint Paul, MN.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$80,000.00

Dates: 2/14/2025 to 4/1/2026

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose:

The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Delivery of Private Lands assistance to complement the DNR's Private Lands Program by promoting wildlife habitat development via Habitat Proposals and providing technical assistance for the implementation of wildlife habitat development via Wildlife Plans that restore, enhance, and manage wildlife habitat in Iowa using specific conservation programs and practices (CRP – SAFE Practices & IHAP).

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

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included the following: Respondent's professional experience, performance record, and letter(s) of reference; Compliance and thoroughness of Respondent's response to RFP Technical Proposal; The capacity of the Respondent and Project Team to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; Respondent's work plan to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; and Cost.

Proposal Due Date: 1/24/2025

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: 2/12/2025

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***11. Public Land Management Projects**

11.1 Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Louisa County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an assignment of Chapter 17 Lease 45-R with Matteson Marine Services, Inc. to Brennan Marine, Inc.

Location: The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 600 feet of frontage by 100 feet of depth located at Mississippi River mile 427.7 in Louisa County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: Matteson Marine Services, Inc has been sold to Brennan Marine, Inc. This site will continue to serve as a barge fleeting area.

Location History: This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$2,802.00 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years.

11.2 Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Des Moines County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an assignment of Chapter 17 Lease 60-R with Matteson Marine Services, Inc. to Brennan Marine Inc.

Location: The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 800 feet of frontage by 150 feet of depth located at Mississippi River mile 405.8 adjacent to Baby Rush Island near the City of Burlington in Section 27, Township 70 North, Range 2 West of the 5th P.M., Des Moines County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: Matteson Marine Services, Inc has been sold to Brennan Marine, Inc. This site will continue to serve as a barge fleeting area.

Location History: This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$5,604.00 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years.

11.3 Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Louisa County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an assignment of Chapter 17 Lease 102-R with Matteson Marine Services, Inc. to Brennan Marine, Inc.

Location: The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 1600 feet of frontage by 175 feet of depth located at Mississippi River mile 430.3 in Louisa County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: Matteson Marine Services, Inc has been sold to Brennan Marine, Inc. This site will continue to serve as a barge fleeting area.

Location History: This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$13,710.67 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years.

11.4 Chapter 17 Lease - Mississippi River, Scott County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the new of Chapter 17 Lease Number 135-N with Legacy Marine.

Location: A portion of the bed of the Mississippi River approximately 230 feet in frontage by 286 feet of depth at River Mile 486.7, located in Section 34, Township 78 North, Range 4 East of the 5th P.M., Scott County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site will be used to provide a dock to support marine access equipment and maintenance

Lease History: This is a new application for a Chapter 17 Lease.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$4,078.36 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. The term of the lease will be five years.

11.5 Management Agreement – Five Island Lake Access, City of Emmetsburg

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Management Agreement with the City of Emmetsburg for Five Island Lake Access located in Palo Alto County.

Location: This property is located on the east side of Five Island Lake less than 1 mile north of the City of Emmetsburg

Site Purpose: This 4.24-acre property is split between two tracts. The north tract being 3.6 acres and the south tract being 0.64 acres. These parcels are maintained for lake access and recreational opportunities.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of Emmetsburg since 1989.

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

This agreement was approved by the Emmetsburg City Council on December 9, 2024.

11.6 Flowage Easement – Emmet County – Burr Oak Lake WMA, Egeland

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to accept a donation of a permanent flowage easement offered by Steven G. Egeland. The easement is 0.45 acres in size and will be utilized as part of a wetland restoration project in Emmet County, Iowa

Project Description: This donated easement is being secured as part of the preliminary planning stages of a wetland restoration. During periods of high water, there is potential for portions of Mr. Egeland's property to become saturated. This easement allows for saturation and flooding of these area.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

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

Information Item

12. 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
1/23/2025	22-04-36-04	NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT	FREMONT	Repair flood damage to the Check Station Dike in the Riverton WMA	\$37,000	\$39,712.00 \$42,260.00 \$43,658.45 \$44,582.00
1/9/2025	25-05-26-01	Sugema Wildlife Unit	DAVIS	This project consists of armoring a pond emergency spillway with 600 tons of class "D" riprap	\$31,000	\$24,100.00 \$24,750.00 \$24,905.00 \$24,950.00 \$26,200.00 \$28,900.00 \$36,800.00 \$37,272.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

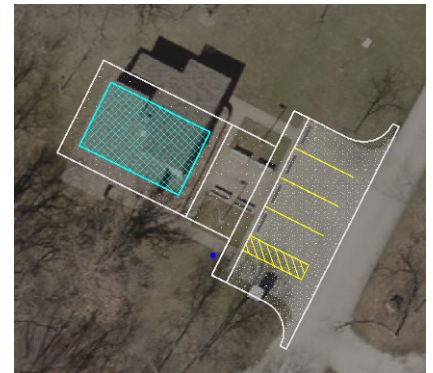
13. Large Construction Item

13.1 Ledges State Park, East Shower Building Replacement – Boone County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Ledges State Park is located just south of Boone, and was dedicated in 1924. Amenities within the park include a campground, numerous picnic areas, trails, and fishing and canoeing opportunities. It is also part of the 91-mile Central State Park Bike Route.

The existing shower building was constructed in 1984 and needs replacement. This project will remove the existing building. A five-stall parking lot and precast concrete six-stall family shower building will be constructed in the same location.



Engineering Project #: 23-02-08-04

Cost Estimate: \$380,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 50% Parks Infrastructure, 50% Land and Waters Conservation Fund Grant

Bid Letting Date: 1/23/2025

Construction Completion Date: 9/15/2025

Number of Bids Received: 10

Bidders

Vieco Development & Construction Co., Inc.	St. Joseph, MO	\$423,795.00
Caliber Concrete, LLC	Adair, IA	\$424,557.47
Shekar Engineering PLC	Des Moines, IA	\$439,344.04
R.H. Grabau Construction, Inc.	Boone, IA	\$487,669.00
Berkley Homebuilders Inc. dba Concrete Professionals	Altoona, IA	\$495,271.60
Henkel Construction Company	Mason City, IA	\$504,819.00
Jensen Builders, LTD	Fort Dodge, IA	\$511,974.50
Keller Excavating, Inc.	Boone, IA	\$514,049.50
Eick & Day Construction, LLC	Johnston, IA	\$524,696.00
Ferris Construction, LLC	Indianola, IA	\$573,070.07

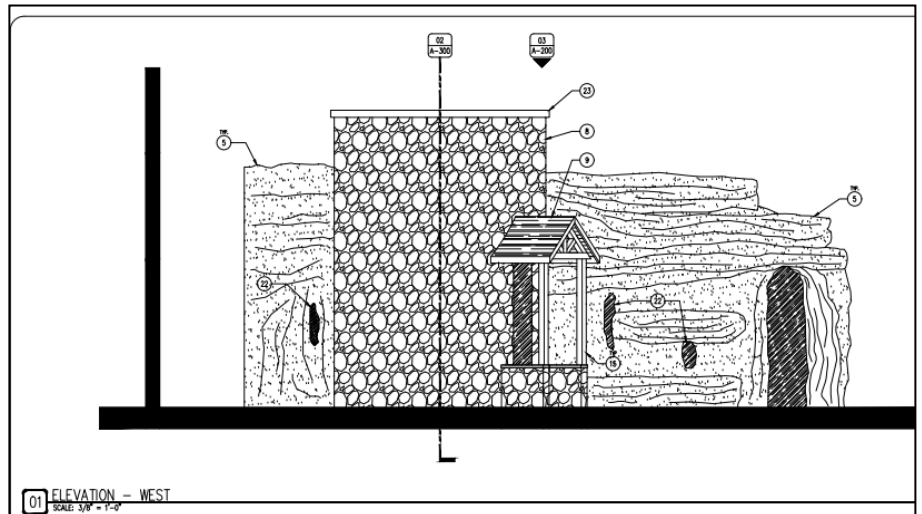
Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Vieco Development & Construction Co., Inc.

13.2 DNR Fairgrounds Building, Conservation Discovery Area – Polk County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The DNR Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds has been a marquee destination for fair goers since it opened almost a century ago. The DNR believes the Iowa State Fair is an opportunity to showcase its mission and achievements to the citizens of Iowa during this event. This year, the DNR is proposing an improvement to make the DNR experience more interactive.

The Northeast side of the DNR pavilion has had various displays over the years. A recent display of natural environments mixed with play was a hit with children of many ages. Building on this success, the new Conservation Discovery Area (CDA) will take play to a new level. This interactive interpretive area will have a Cave structure with live and taxidermized animals, lighting throughout, air and mist blasts, and textured surfaces, creating a multi-sensory experience. This Cave structure will mimic Maquoketa Caves, with stone like structures, textured and colored to appear like real stone. A Pilot Knob-like tower will be incorporated into the structure, giving the whole display a park-like setting within the DNR Pavilion building. In addition, there will be an in-floor “River” with display dioramas of different aquatic, native Iowa animals and their habitats. The entire CDA will be ADA compliant and on-grade, allowing everyone to enjoy the experience for years to come.



A Pilot Knob-like tower will be incorporated into the structure, giving the whole display a park-like setting within the DNR Pavilion building. In addition, there will be an in-floor “River” with display dioramas of different aquatic, native Iowa animals and their habitats. The entire CDA will be ADA compliant and on-grade, allowing everyone to enjoy the experience for years to come.

Engineering Project #: 24-05-77-02

Cost Estimate: \$90,000.00

Operating Bureau: Communications Bureau

Funding Source: 100% Special Appropriation

Bid Letting Date: 01/23/2025

Construction Completion Date: 07/15/2025

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Austincrete LLC	Newton, IA	\$124,831.00
Eick & Day Construction LLC	Johnston, IA	\$319,888.90

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

13.3 Red Rock Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Road Maintenance – Warren, Polk and Marion Counties

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Red Rock WMU is a 31,041 acres in size and contains multiple wildlife management areas, located approximately 45 miles SE of the Des Moines metro, and is comprised of ¼ marsh and lake, ¼ timber and ½ upland. This diverse area provides habitat for deer, squirrel, pheasant, waterfowl and dove. In addition, Red Rock WMU provides access for hiking, bird watching, fishing, hunting and nature enthusiasts as well as access to these numerous activities via boat ramps and parking areas.



This project will clean out road ditches to improve water flow, road grading to re-establish a crown for proper drainage, and spread new rock on nearly 7 miles of roadway. Work also involves replacing three failing corrugated metal pipe culverts with reinforced concrete pipe culverts and includes erosion stone and slope protection to prevent future erosion and washouts. In addition, new roadway signs will be added to alert the public to road closures and seeding will take place over areas disturbed during construction.

Engineering Project #: 24-05-63-03

Cost Estimate: \$590,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 100% Parks and Institutional Road Fund

Bid Letting Date: 1/23/2025

Construction Completion Date: 10/31/2025

Number of Bids Received: 7

Bidders

Nagel Construction LLC	Allerton IA	\$337,353.50
Skyline Construction Inc	Decorah IA	\$451,736.25
RW Excavating Solutions LC	Prairie City IA	\$456,898.35
DCLI LLC	Leon IA	\$488,508.00
Iowa Contracting Inc	Indianola IA	\$578,880.30
Elder Corporation	Des Moines IA	\$630,618.85
Pirc-Tobin Construction Inc	Alburnett IA	\$644,642.99

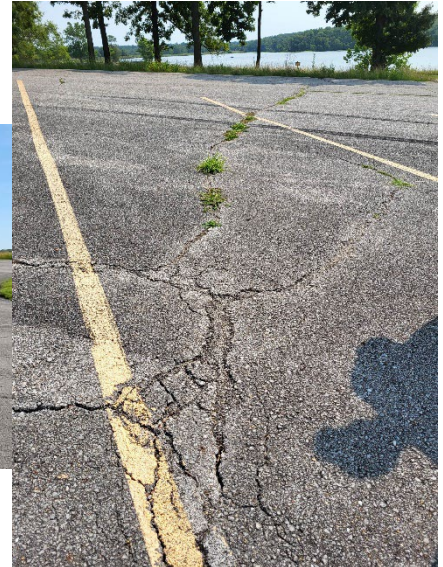
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Nagel Construction LLC.

13.4 Lake Wapello State Park, Parking Lot Pavement Maintenance – Davis County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Wapello State Park boasts a variety of outdoor opportunities. More than 1,000 acres of beautiful wooded hillsides offer scenic picnic areas, and the lake provides a relaxing atmosphere for activities such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The Lake Wapello beach house was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corp and its pueblo style architecture makes it one of the most unique buildings in the state park system. It also features one of the best sand beaches in southern Iowa. The park has cabins, campgrounds, shelters, and trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling as well as offering fishing for bluegill, red ear sunfish, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

The existing parking lot and roadway were constructed in the late 1970s. Current conditions include pavement oxidation (stiffening), rutting, and cracking. The project will include the following maintenance items: overlaying Hot Mix Asphalt pavement of varying widths and placing rock on shoulders and the travel lane.



Engineering Project #: 24-05-26-03

Cost Estimate: \$80,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

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

Bid Letting Date: 1/23/2025

Construction Completion Date: 8/15/2025

Number of Bids Received: 1

Bidders

Norris Asphalt Paving Co, LC

Ottumwa, IA

\$107,173.40

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Norris Asphalt Paving Co, LC.

13.5 Lake Keomah State Park – Lodge Window Replacements - Mahaska County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Keomah State Park near Oskaloosa in southern Iowa features 366 acres of beautiful woods and picnic areas along an 84-acre lake. Deep woods and marshy areas provide habitat for a variety of wildlife including bullfrogs and blue heron. In the fall, the lake’s trees and shrubs illuminate the environment with their vibrant colors. The park is named after the counties of Keokuk and Mahaska, and many of its facilities such as shelters and day-use lodge were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s.

The windows on the lodge are in need of replacement. Many of these windows are leaking, rotten, or nonfunctional.



Engineering Project #: 26-05-62-02

Cost Estimate: \$80,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 01/23/2025

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2025

Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

Wysong Carpentry	Pleasantville IA	\$62,546.00
Up Top Construction LLC	Brooklyn IA	\$88,000.00
Options Exteriors	Ankeny IA	\$94,900.27
Christner Contracting, Inc	Ottumwa IA	\$106,525.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Wysong Carpentry.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

14. Public Land Acquisition Projects

14.1 Gladfelter Marsh WMA, Hancock County – Jerry and Carol Tlach

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

Seller: Jerry and Carol Tlach

Acreage: 5.7 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$17,100 (\$3,000/ac pending Survey)

Property Description: This rectangular shaped property is located 7 miles north of Britt in central Hancock County. This property is bordered to the east by Gladfelter Marsh WMA and on the west by Kent Ave. This parcel has a permanent easement held by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation that restricts building of animal confinements and row crop farming but allows for grazing and haying.

Purpose: This acquisition will improve access to the southern portions of Gladfelter Marsh WMA. This property will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$17,100 Wildlife Habitat Stamps

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

Realty Services / Gladfelter Marsh WMA
Hancock County / Jerry Tlach



0 420 840 1,680 Feet



14.2 Grant Center WMA, Monona County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Monona County near Grant Center Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 348.83 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$1,738,300

Appraised Value: \$1,738,300

Property Description: This mostly rectangular shaped property is located 8.5 miles east of Whiting in north central Monona County. All but 25 acres of the tract are in remnant habitat. Twenty-five acres are currently seeded down to introduced grasses, 92 acres are remnant prairie with remainder being remnant oak hickory timber and oak savanna. The prairie is a very high-quality loess hills remnant prairie. There are state threatened Scarlet Globemallow, state special concern Small White Lady's Slipper, and state special concern Ottoe Skipper. In addition to the diversity of the property, this tract will provide excellent deer and turkey hunting.

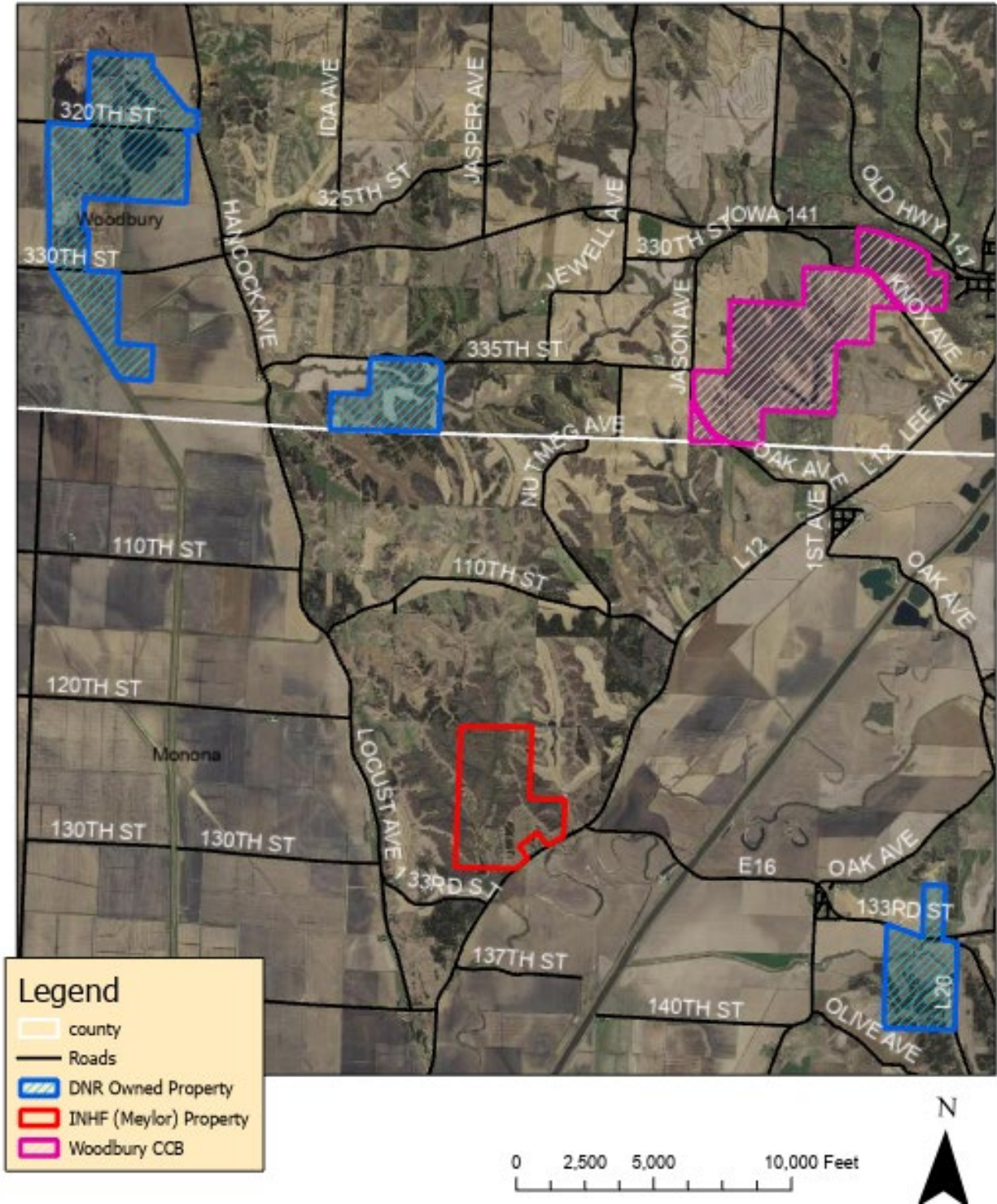
Purpose: This acquisition will permanently protect remnant prairie, oak-hickory timber and oak savanna. This property will allow for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Access will be provided by Oak Avenue on the Southeast Corner of the property.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$10,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamps, \$1,728,300 Wildlife Restoration Land Grant

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

Realty Services / Grant Center WMA
Monona County / INHF



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
2/12/2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Commission

Decision (**indicates proposed consent agenda*)

***15. Contract with Iowa State University (Acoustic Bat Monitoring)**

Recommendation:

Commission approval is requested for a service contract with Iowa State University (ISU), of Ames, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$30,791

Dates: March 13, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Funding Source(s): Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant

Contract Purpose: This contract will provide training and coordination of community scientists conducting acoustic surveys for bats, provide supplies and materials needed to conduct the monitoring, and analyze acoustic data collected by community scientists. Under the competitive grant award agreement, ISU will submit the data collected to the DNR and the federal database for use in long-term monitoring of bats. ISU tasks include:

- **Purchase Supplies for Acoustic Monitoring:** On behalf of DNR, ISU will purchase all the supplies necessary for monitoring. Monitoring units purchased for this project will become the property of the DNR.
- **Training and Monitoring Coordination:** ISU will train and coordinate community scientist volunteers recruited by DNR to conduct acoustic data collection at 58 sites. Following the conclusion of the training process, ISU will continue to coordinate trained volunteers conducting acoustic data collection, and ISU will ensure that the data collection occurs as scheduled and follows standard protocols.
- **Establish Monitoring Locations within Priority Grids:** ISU will locate and ground-truth new mobile routes and fixed-point locations in priority grids in northwest Iowa for monitoring.
- **Data Analysis and Submission:** ISU will analyze data collected by the volunteers to quantify bat activity, identify bat species, and determine differences in relative species abundance across the regions monitored. Data will be submitted to DNR and to the federal database.

The DNR's Wildlife Bureau, under its current Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program, will secure the community scientist volunteers for ISU training and coordination; 35-40 volunteers are anticipated to complete this work.

Acoustic bat call data has been collected annually since 2013 and is being used to assess trends in bat activity over time. This project is part of an ongoing national effort to monitor bat populations. ISU was selected because of its expertise in acoustic bat call data analysis and successful completion of similar work with DNR.

Contractor Selection Process:

Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Lands & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent agenda*)

***16. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grants Program, Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Grant Recommendations**

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

Grant Purpose: The purpose of the Low-Head Dam Public Hazard Program is to reduce drowning hazards and promote fish passage on Iowa's navigable rivers. Eligible applicants include any owner of a low-head dam or a partner organization. As outlined in rule, grants are issued at least annually if funding is available. The last grants were issued in November 2023. With the locally raised 50 percent cost-share minimum, the overall project recommended for funding will cost \$421,545.

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

Grant Funding Available: \$210,000

Summary of Selection Process: As directed by criteria under Chapter 30, the grant review and selection committee scored applications and to provide recommendations for the grant award.

Number of Applications Received: 1

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

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

Recommendations: The committee recommends funding to this project as it's score ranked high enough to show a high-quality project. 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	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
88	City of Estherville	Estherville Low Head Dam Mitigation Project: Construction and recreation features to replace dam.	\$210,000	\$210,000
DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS			\$210,000	\$210,000

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

**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 grant cycle was approved in February 2024.

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 13, 2025, to evaluate and score applications and to provide recommendations for the grant awards.

Number of Applications Received: 3

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	Story County Conservation	This grant will fund a new design for C.J. Shrek Access on the South Skunk River Water Trail in Story County. This is the last access on the water trail, and was originally constructed as a quick hit project by the DOT while they were working on a bridge project more than 20 years ago. It's always been difficult to use and maintain as there is very little structure present. The new design will take into consideration cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys of the channel and river bed, respectively, as well as study the historical flows to determine best approach and design for the new access.	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
2	City of Estherville	This grant funds Phase C of a larger riverfront enhancement project. Phase C is the development of two "Gateway" or accessible water accesses for improved river recreation by motorized or non-motorized boating, fishing, tubing, etc.	\$900,000	\$300,000	\$300,000

3	Mitchell County Conservation	Stateline Road Access design & land procurement. This project will create a new, safer location for parking and accessing the Cedar River. Currently, recreationists are at risk due to parking on the road where there is a steep drop-off, and scaling down the highway right-of-way to a natural path leading to the river's edge. The area is heavily used by both residents of MN and IA. This project is a collaboration among Iowa DNR, Minnesota DNR, Mitchell County Conservation, and Mower County, MN.	\$146,150	\$116,920	\$116,920
DEVELOPMENT GRANT TOTALS			\$1,096,150	\$456,920	\$456,920

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (**indicates consent item*)

***18. Contract with Lundquist Living Trust (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Lundquist Living Trust, **of** Omaha, NE.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$44,750.00

Dates: February 14, 2025 to November 30, 2031.

Funding Source(s): 33% VPA-HIP Funding, 67% Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fees

Contract Purpose: This 6 year contract with Lundquist Living Trust will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: The Lundquist Living Trust property is 307 acres located in Union County comprised of prairie and woodland habitat. The property is a re-enrollment. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from September 1, 2025 to May 31, 2032.

Land Management Tasks: The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks for this property. Tasks for this contract include prescribed fire and brush management for tree control. The DNR will assist the contractor with land management planning, provide technical assistance, and evaluate the completion of the land management tasks.

Selection Process Summary: IHAP contracting authorized under 483A.3B(3)c(1).

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2025