

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to operation

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 1, “Operation of Natural Resource Commission,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 455A.5.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A and 455A.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 1 governs the conduct, structure, and business operations of the Commission. Consistent with Executive Order 10 (January 10, 2023) and the five-year review of rules in Iowa Code section 17A.7(2), this chapter was edited for length and clarity. Specifically, the new chapter reduces and consolidates the rules. This is accomplished by rescinding outdated provisions and by removing those redundant to statute, including particular provisions around conflict of interest found in Iowa Code chapter 68B and associated rules. The chapter has also been streamlined as much as possible, stating the conduct, structure, and business operations of the Commission more succinctly and clearly than before.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 27, 2023, as **ARC 7249C**. Public hearings were held on January 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. and January 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Wallace State Office Building, Conference Room 4E, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearings.

One written comment was received. It suggested that the rulemaking be changed to allow the sale or lease of farm products at a farmer’s market and to reflect the 2021 legislation that added “real estate” to the conflict of interest provisions found in Iowa Code chapter 68B. The Commission supports these edits.

Consistent with this comment, the following changes from the Notice have been made:

1. The term “real estate” was added to the title of rule 571—1.8(17A,455A) and subrules 1.8(1) and 1.8(2);
2. The phrase “or to the general public at a farmer’s market, retail store, or road-side stand” was added to paragraph 1.8(2)“b” regarding the sale or lease of farm products;
3. Paragraph 1.8(2)“h” was added to address the sale or lease of real estate at a live auction; and
4. Paragraph 1.8(2)“i” was added to address the leasing of real estate.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 11, 2024.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

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

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 5, 2024.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

TITLE I
GENERAL

CHAPTER 1

OPERATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

571—1.1(17A,455A) Scope. This chapter governs the conduct of business by the natural resource commission. Rulemaking proceedings and contested case proceedings are governed by other departmental rules.

571—1.2(17A,455A) Meeting location and notification.

1.2(1) Time of meetings. The commission generally meets monthly, but is required to meet at least quarterly. The director, chairperson, or a majority of the commission may establish meetings.

1.2(2) Notification of meetings. The director will provide public notice of all meeting dates, locations, and agendas. Notice of meetings is given by posting the agenda. The agenda lists the time, date, location, and topics to be discussed at the meeting. The agenda may include a specific time for the public to address the commission on any issue related to the duties and responsibilities of the commission, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

a. The agenda for each meeting will be posted at the department's main office and on the department's website. The agenda will be provided to anyone who files a request with the department. The final agenda will be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible will be given. Any additions to the agenda after posting and distribution will be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible will be given. The commission may adopt additions to the agenda at the meeting only if good cause exists requiring expeditious discussion or action. The reasons and circumstances necessitating agenda additions, or those given less than 24 hours' notice by posting, shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

b. Written materials provided to the commission with the agenda may be examined by the public. Copies of the materials may be distributed at the discretion of the director. The director may require a fee to cover the reasonable cost to the department to provide the copies, in accordance with rules of the department.

571—1.3(17A,455A) Attendance and participation by the public.

1.3(1) Attendance. All meetings are open to the public. The commission may exclude the public from portions of the meeting in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.

1.3(2) Participation.

a. Items on agenda. Presentations to the commission may be made at the discretion of the chairperson.

b. Items not on agenda. The commission will not act on a matter not on the agenda, except in accordance with paragraph 1.2(2)“b.” Persons who wish to address the commission on a matter not on the agenda should file a request with the director to place that matter on the agenda of the subsequent meeting.

c. Meeting decorum. The chairperson may limit participation as necessary for the orderly conduct of agency business. Cameras and recording devices may be used during meetings provided they do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting. The chairperson may order the use of these devices discontinued if they cause interference and may exclude those persons who fail to comply with that order.

571—1.4(17A,455A) Quorum and voting requirements.

1.4(1) Quorum. Two-thirds of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum.

1.4(2) Voting. The concurrence of a majority of the commission members is required to determine any matter before the commission for action, except for a vote to go into closed session, which requires the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the commission.

571—1.5(17A,455A) Conduct of meeting.

1.5(1) General. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order unless otherwise provided in these rules. Voting will be by voice or by roll call. Voting will be by voice unless a voice vote is inconclusive, a member of the commission requests a roll call, or the vote is on a motion to close a portion of a meeting. The chairperson will announce the result of the vote.

1.5(2) Voice votes. All commission members present should respond when a voice vote is taken.

a. All members present will be recorded as voting aye on any motion when there are no nay votes or abstentions heard.

b. Any member who abstains will state at the time of the vote the reason for abstaining. The abstention and the reason for it will be recorded in the minutes.

1.5(3) Provision of information. The chairperson may recognize any agency staff member for the provision of information relative to an agenda item.

571—1.6(17A,455A) Minutes, transcripts, and recordings of meetings.

1.6(1) Audio recordings. The director may record each meeting and shall record each closed session.

1.6(2) Minutes. The director will keep minutes of each meeting. Minutes will be reviewed and approved by the commission.

571—1.7(17A,455A) Officers and duties.

1.7(1) Officers. The officers of the commission are the chairperson, the vice chairperson, and the secretary.

1.7(2) Duties. The chairperson will preside at meetings and will exercise the powers conferred upon the chairperson. The vice chairperson will perform the duties of the chairperson when the chairperson is absent or when directed by the chairperson. The secretary will make recommendations to the commission on approval or revision of the minutes and act as parliamentarian.

1.7(3) Elections. Officers will be elected annually during May.

1.7(4) Succession.

a. If the chairperson does not serve out the elected term, the vice chairperson will succeed the chairperson for the remainder of the term. A special election will be held to elect a new vice chairperson to serve the remainder of the term.

b. If the vice chairperson does not serve out the elected term, a special election will be held to elect a new vice chairperson to serve the remainder of the term.

c. If the secretary does not serve out the elected term, a special election will be held to elect a new secretary to serve the remainder of the term.

571—1.8(17A,455A) Sales and leases of goods, real estate, and services.

1.8(1) Sales and leases. The general provisions for the sales and leases of goods, real estate, and services by commission members is governed by rule 351—6.11(68B).

1.8(2) Consent by rule. The commission concludes that sales or leases of goods, real estate, or services described in this paragraph do not, as a class, constitute the sale or lease of a good, real estate, or service that affects an official's functions. Application and department approval are not required for these sales or leases unless there are unique facts surrounding a particular sale or lease that would cause that sale or lease to affect the official's duties or functions, would give the buyer an advantage in its dealings with the department, or would otherwise present a conflict of interest.

Sales or leases for which consent is granted by rule are:

a. Nonrecurring sale or lease of goods and services if the official is not engaged for profit in the business of selling or leasing those goods or services.

b. Sale or lease of farm products at market prices to a buyer ordinarily engaged in the business of purchasing farm products or to the general public at a farmer's market, retail store, or road-side stand.

c. Sale or lease of goods to general public at an established retail or consignment shop.

d. Sale or lease of legal, mechanical, or other services at market or customary prices. However, if an official's client or customer has a matter for decision before the commission, the official shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter unless consent has been obtained.

e. Sale or lease of goods at wholesale prices to a buyer ordinarily engaged in the business of purchasing wholesale goods for retail sale.

f. Sale or lease of creative works of art, including but not limited to sculpture and literary products, at market, auction, or negotiated prices. However, if an official's customer has a matter for decision before the commission directly or indirectly involving that good, the official shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter unless consent has been obtained.

g. Sale or lease of goods to general public at market or franchiser-established prices. However, if an official's customer has a matter for decision before the commission, the official shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter unless consent has been obtained.

h. Sale or lease of real estate at a live auction or through an open or closed bidding process. However, if the buyer, seller, lessee, or lessor has a matter for decision before the commission within the next 12 months, the official shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter unless consent has been obtained.

i. Leasing of real estate; however, if the lessee or lessor has a matter for decision before the commission, the official shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter unless consent has been obtained.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3(1)“a” and 455A.5.

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