

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 14, 2024



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — MAY 2024

**Meeting.** The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on May 9, 2024. Among the topics discussed were the following.

**Contracts Approved.** The following contracts were approved:

- A contract with Trees Forever, Inc., not to exceed \$350,000. The contract will allow Trees Forever to hire and employ up to four community forest health technicians to assist communities by conducting tree inventories, canopy cover assessments, and preparing management plans; perform risk assessments to help communities and public areas maximize safety; and to coordinate volunteer efforts and help implement replanting programs for communities. Funding for this contract will come from General Fund funding to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as U.S. Forest Service Federal Funds.
- A contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc., not to exceed approximately \$7.4 million. The contract will allow Pheasants Forever to hire and employ up to 20 wildlife management specialists to work with DNR wildlife staff to conserve and enhance wildlife habitat on DNR-managed lands. Funding for this contract will come from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A contract with Houston Engineering, Inc., not to exceed approximately \$109,000. The contract will provide for engineering consultation for the design of the replacement of the diversion pipe outlet in Mosquito Creek. Funding for this contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program funds.
- A subrecipient agreement with Iowa State University (ISU) not to exceed approximately \$43,000. The agreement will allow for collaboration between ISU and the DNR in delivering programming to female woodland owners as part of the Iowa Women's Woodland Stewardship Network. Funding for this agreement will come from a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

**Construction Projects Approved.** The following construction projects were approved:

- A project at Black Hawk Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Sac County for the repair of the dike at the WMA. The cost of the project is estimated at \$170,000, and the project will receive funds from a Federal Inflation Reduction Act grant. The contract for the project was awarded to John Healy, d/b/a Healy Excavating, from Lake View, Iowa.
- A project at Rock Creek State Park in Jasper County to armor approximately 17,700 linear feet of shoreline with rock revetment. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.0 million, and the project will receive funds from federal 319 Grant Program moneys, Marine Fuel Tax moneys, and Lake Restoration moneys. The contract for the project was awarded to Jay-R Corporation from Mount Ayr, Iowa.
- A project at Rathbun Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) in Lucas and Wayne counties to repair five roads in the WMU. The cost of the project is estimated at \$160,000, and the project will receive funds from the Parks and Institutional Road Fund. The contract for the project was awarded to IA Builder's, LLC, from Albia, Iowa.

**Land Acquisitions Approved.** The following land acquisitions were approved:

- Approximately 13 acres at Muskrat Slough WMA in Jones County for \$30,000. The land will be restored to an oak savanna or open oak woodland state and will be open to public hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The funding source for the acquisition will come from a Wildlife Restoration Federal Land Grant.

- Approximately 26 acres at Wapello Bottoms WMA in Louisa County for \$25,000. The land will allow the DNR to access an area to help protect the infrastructure of Roudybush wetland, and the land will be open to public hunting and other outdoor recreation activities. The funding for the acquisition will come from Wildlife Habitat Stamp moneys.

**Agenda.** The agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be June 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

LSA Staff Contact: Austin Brinks (515.725.2200) [austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov)

Doc ID 1450144