
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — MAY 2019

Meeting. The Natural Resource Commission met on May 9, 2019. Chairperson Margo Underwood conducted the meeting. Laura Foell, the newest Commission member, was sworn in by Bruce Trautman, the Acting Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Legislative Update. Tammie Krausman, Legislative Liaison, provided a legislative update. This included a discussion of [SF 609](#) (FY 2020 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Bill) that appropriates \$11.9 million to the Department from the General Fund for FY 2020. This is an increase of \$366,000 compared to estimated FY 2019.

Art in State Parks. Todd Coffelt, Parks Bureau Chief, announced a new project for the 100th year celebration of State parks called The 20 Artists, 20 Parks Program. There will be 20 artists from Iowa State University who are assigned to a State park from April through August 2019. These artists will create artwork that reflects their time at the State park. This will include faculty and graduate student artists from the Colleges of Design, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Department of Cultural Affairs is also assisting with coordinating the Program.

Low-Head Dam Contract. The Commission approved a contract with LT Leon Associates for \$148,000 to provide a study for a project at Steamboat Rock Dam. The study will include project stakeholders from the City of Steamboat Rock and Hardin County Conservation Board and will focus on dam safety and fish passage. Funding is from the low-head dam appropriation and from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.

Rattlesnake Study. The Commission approved a contract with Stantec Consulting Services for \$63,000 to study the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake that has been listed on the federal endangered species list since 2016. The study will verify the presence of the rattlesnake in Iowa and document the locations. Funding is from a federal grant.

Land Acquisitions. The Commission approved the following land acquisitions:

- A total of one-half acre at Trout Run Wildlife Management Area in Winneshiek County for \$1,000. Funding is from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.
- A total of 13.3 acres at Leo Grau Wildlife Management Area in Buena Vista County for \$13,000. Funding is from Ducks Unlimited.
- A total of four acres at Leo Grau Wildlife Management Area in Buena Vista County for \$4,000. Funding is from the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund.

Luster Heights Land Transfer. The Commission approved the transfer of 25 acres at the former Luster Heights Prison Camp located in Allamakee County to the federal Department of the Interior. The land will be used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to construct the McGregor District Office for the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. The transfer included \$211,000 that was deposited into the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

Geode State Park Construction. The Commission approved a contract for \$1.6 million with Peterson Contractors for lake dredging and shoreline armoring at Geode State Park. The project was originally contracted in 2017; however, the work was not completed. The original contract was for \$3.0 million and approximately \$814,000 was paid, leaving a balance of \$2.2 million to finish the project. The new

contractor's bid of \$1.6 million is expected to save the DNR approximately \$600,000. The estimated time to finish the project is Spring 2020.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2019, at Honey Creek Resort State Park.

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