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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 18, 2019



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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — JUNE 2019

**Tour.** On June 12, 2019, the Natural Resource Commission toured several areas around Honey Creek Resort State Park on Lake Rathbun. Areas included:

- The water control structure and spillway at Lake Rathbun, which is managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- The Rathbun Fish Hatchery, which produced over 93.0 million fish in 2018. The Hatchery specializes in walleye production but also produces catfish and bass.
- The Coffey Marsh Waterfowl Refuge, which has over 850 acres.
- Honey Creek State Park.



Photo of the Lake Rathbun spillway.

**Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission met on June 13, 2019. Chairperson Margo Underwood conducted the meeting.

**Veterans Casting Away Disabilities Presentation.** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) partnered with the Department of Veteran Affairs to host the 17th annual Veterans Casting Away Disabilities in May 2019. The event was held at Honey Creek State Park. The weeklong fishing getaway provided fishing for 65 veterans from Iowa and around the Midwest who have been injured or disabled. The departments are also organizing other fishing and hunting events throughout the year.

**City and County Grants.** The Commission approved 12 grants to receive funding totaling \$1.3 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grants included:

- \$150,000 to Linn County Conservation Board for Morgan Creek Park.
- \$75,000 to the City of Osceola for the Clay Park development project.
- \$267,000 to Madison County Conservation Board for the Madison County Conservation Center.
- \$125,000 to the City of Norwalk for the Great Western Trail connector.

- \$75,000 to the City of Cascade for the Cascade municipal pool project.
- \$175,000 to the City of Dubuque for the Bee Branch Creek Trail connector.
- \$75,000 to the City of Fairfax for the Sevig Park project.
- \$100,000 to the City of Algona for the Tietz Park shelter house.
- \$75,000 to the City of Robins for restrooms at Troy Park.
- \$80,000 to the Wright County Conservation Board for the Lake Cornelia campground expansion.
- \$67,000 to the City of Evansdale for the Angels Park playground replacement.
- \$75,000 to the City of Windsor Heights for the trail system located near University Avenue.

**Resident Deer-Hunting Rule.** The Commission approved the final notice of the resident deer-hunting rule. Deer-hunting quotas were adjusted for 24 counties, and five counties will have a January hunting season for antlerless deer.

**Deer Management Zone Hunts.** The Commission approved 59 deer management hunts, which are organized to control the deer population in towns or cities.

**Yeader Creek Contract.** The Commission approved a contract that will not exceed \$937,000 with the City of Des Moines for the stream improvement projects along Yeader Creek, which is part of the Easter Lake Watershed Project. The total cost is estimated at \$3.1 million, with the City of Des Moines contributing \$2.2 million. Funding for the DNR portion is from federal nonpoint source pollution moneys.

**Land Acquisitions.** The Commission approved the following land acquisitions:

- A total of 140 acres in Madison County from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) for \$530,000. The land will be used to protect the Indiana bat, which is on the federal endangered species list.
- A total of 36 acres in Buena Vista County from the INHF for \$36,000. The land includes a large wetland that is part of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement and Protection project.
- A total of 100 acres in Clarke County from the INHF for \$252,000. The land will be used for upland game bird habitat and provide access for public hunting.
- A total of 149 acres in Winnebago County from the INHF for \$150,000. The land will be used for public hunting.
- A total of 150 acres in Fremont County that was donated by William Blackburn. The land has been used as a preserve and has a gazebo located on it. The land will be used for recreational events and for public hunting.
- A total of 17 acres with a permanent easement from Ronald Lake for \$43,000. The land will be used for public fishing.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2019, at the Boone Research Center. A tour of the area will be held prior to the meeting.

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