
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — NOVEMBER 2019

Meeting. The Natural Resource Commission met on November 14, 2019, in Des Moines. The new Deputy Director for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is Alex Moon. Previously, Mr. Moon was the Land Quality Bureau Chief.

Land Acquisition. The following land acquisitions were approved:

- The donation of 1.7 acres of land at Wapsipinicon State Park in Jones County. The land will provide water quality benefits and improve habitat for native animals.
- The exchange of one acre of land in Green Valley State Park in Union County. The land includes a house that has been rented for some years, which has added duties to park staff. The DNR will exchange the land with the dwelling for one acre of land plus \$9,000 from the owners. Both tracts of land are adjacent to Green Valley State Park and are located on the north side of the park.
- The purchase of 120 acres at the Lansing Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Allamakee County for \$415,000. The land is being purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and will be used for public hunting and habitat development.
- The purchase of 370 acres at Tieville Bend WMA in Monona County for \$395,000 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The land will be used for public hunting, habitat development, and other recreational activities.
- The purchase of 42 acres at the North Raccoon River WMA in Greene County for \$143,000 from the landowners. The land will be used for the development of habitat, public hunting, and other recreational opportunities.

Contracts Approved. The following contracts were approved:

- A contract not to exceed \$2.3 million with the Scott County Conservation Board (CCB) for lake restoration at West Lake Park. The work includes reduction of sediment and nutrient delivery.
- A contract not to exceed \$4.0 million with the City of Council Bluffs for a second lake restoration project at Lake Manawa. Plans are for the lake to be dredged and 500,000 cubic yards of material to be removed.
- A contract not to exceed \$52,000 with Isthmus Architecture of Madison, Wisconsin, to develop and submit a historic structure report for Cedar Rock State Park, where the summer home of Lowell and Agnes Walters is located. The home, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was completed in 1950. The home was donated to the DNR in 1981 after the death of Lowell Walters and is the main attraction at Cedar Rock State Park.

Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Grants. The following grants were approved to receive funding from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund for water recreational projects:

- City of Bellevue received \$200,000 for a new boat ramp.
- City of Clear Lake received \$10,000 to install a new boat cleaning station.
- Ringgold CCB received \$41,000 for three new docks at Liberty Lake. One of the docks can be used as a kayak launcher.
- Palo Alto CCB received \$65,000 for the construction of a restroom facility at Basswood Recreation Area.
- Linn CCB received \$13,000 to regrade a parking area at the North Cedar Natural Area.
- Blackhawk CCB received \$4,100 to remove and replace a boat dock at Rapp Park.

- Union CCB received \$18,000 to install a new canoe/kayak dock at Three Mile Lake and Recreation Area.
- City of Eldon received \$25,000 for a new shelter to park boats at the Eldon Public Water Access area.
- Des Moines CCB received \$6,800 for a canoe/kayak dock at Big Hollow Recreation area.
- Dickinson CCB received \$20,000 for a boat dock and ramp at Ainsworth Orleans Beach.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on December 12, 2019, in Des Moines.

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