NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — APRIL 2020

April Meeting. The Natural Resource Commission held a teleconference meeting on April 9, 2020. Director Kayla Lyon reported that the majority of employees located in the Wallace Building in Des Moines were working from home and the employees who work at State parks, fisheries, wildlife areas, and other field locations were working outdoors.

Honey Creek Resort. Todd Coffelt, Parks Bureau Chief, provided a brief update on the restoration projects at Honey Creek Resort by the resort management company Delaware North. The resort rooms in the basement and on the first floor have been refurbished, and a wedding pavilion was added. The plans for a spa and an outdoor swimming pool have been delayed. The resort closed all operations on March 22, 2020, and will reopen on May 22, 2020.

Parks 2020 Book. Mark Ackelson, Iowa Parks Foundation, informed the Commission that a new book entitled Iowa State Parks is available for sale and provides information celebrating 100 years of state parks. The book provides essays, park descriptions, and photographs at all of the Iowa State parks.

Contracts Approved. The following contracts were approved:

- A contract with Iowa State University (ISU) for up to $44,000 to train and coordinate volunteers for conducting acoustic surveys on bats. The volunteers will collect data that will be analyzed by ISU and submitted to the Department of Natural Resources.

- A contract with Strata Morph GeoeXploration, Inc., in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, for $32,000. The purpose of the contract is to conduct a survey and complete an archeological investigation of Black Hawk Lake for a proposed dredging project. Funding is from the Lake Restoration Fund.

Public Land Acquisitions. The following land acquisitions were approved:

- The acquisition of six acres for the Copeland Bend Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Fremont County. The cost is $6,000 and funding is from the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Stamp.

- The acquisition of two easements in Winneshiek County near North Bear Creek. The easements will allow angler access for public fishing. The cost of the first easement is $11,000 for 4.5 acres, and the cost of the second easement is $1,600 for 0.7 acres. Funding is from the Fish Restitution Fund.

Construction Projects. The following construction projects were approved:

- A road improvement project at Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine County. The project will include the construction of a new curb and gutter system that will prevent water runoff and soil erosion in the park. Funding of $160,000 is from the Parks and Institutional Road Fund.

- The improvement of roads at the Grand River WMA in Decatur County and the Mount Ayr and Sand Creek WMAs in Ringgold County. The project will improve roadways by eliminating any high shoulder areas. Additional rock will be placed on the roadways after the improvements have been made, ditches will be cleaned, and a larger culvert area will be installed. Funding of $160,000 is from the Parks and Institutional Road Fund.
**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2020. The location will be determined at a later date.

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