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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 15, 2020



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — MAY 2020

**May Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission held a teleconference meeting on May 14, 2020. The following issues were included in the discussion. The full agenda can be found [here](#).

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

- A contract with Under the Sea, L.L.C., for up to \$276,000 to replace aquarium tanks in the Aquarium Pavilion at the Iowa State Fair. Funding is from the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Land Management Fund.
- A contract with Liberty Press, L.L.C., for up to \$31,000 for the printing of 2020-2021 Iowa hunting, trapping, and migratory game bird regulations.
- A contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for up to \$120,000 for a new water control structure at Klum Lake wetland. Funding is divided between federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds and the State Migratory Bird Stamp.
- A contract with JEO Consulting Group for up to \$60,000 for the creation of a master water trail plan for the Cedar River in Mitchell County. The project will be funded by the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).
- A contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for up to \$38,000 for a study on the rusty-patched bumble bee. The project will be funded by a federal grant.

**Land Acquisition.** The following land acquisitions were approved:

- Rice Lake Wildlife Management Area, Worth County — Warp Drive, Inc. The purchase of 23 acres located in Worth County-adjacent Rice Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Funding of \$104,000 will come from a combination of Iowa-Minnesota Prairie Potholes II NAWCA funds and the Wildlife Habitat Stamp.
- Green Hill WMA, Pottawattamie and Mills counties — Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Nature Conservancy. The purchase of the 516-acre Green Hill Ranch, to be named Green Hill WMA, located in Pottawattamie and Mills counties near St. Mary's Island WMA. Funding of \$1.3 million will come from a combination of federal Pittman-Robertson Act funds, federal Highway Administration (Scenic Byway Grant) funds, and the REAP Private/Public Grant.
- Sorenson WMA, Calhoun and Carroll counties — Sorenson. The purchase of 41 acres in Calhoun and Carroll counties near Rainbow Bend WMA. Funding of \$192,000 will come from a combination of Calhoun County Pheasants Forever, federal NAWCA funds, and the State Migratory Bird Stamp.

**Final Rules.** The following final rulemakings were approved:

- 571 IAC ch. 40, Boating Speed and Distance Zoning. The rule creates a restricted "Beaver Creek Safety Zone" on Beaver Creek within the Iowa National Guard's Camp Dodge property in Polk County. The zone prohibits the public from entering Camp Dodge via Beaver Creek.
- 571 IAC ch. 44, Special Events and Fireworks Displays. The rule adds virtual tournaments to the definition of "fishing tournament."

- 571 IAC ch. 54, Restrictions on Introduction and Removal of Plant Life. The rule allows cities and counties to apply for a permit to use “chemicals, including pesticides and herbicides.” The permit is limited to the removal of plants from water intake structures.
- 571 IAC ch. 81, Fishing Regulations. Changes in the rule apply to seasons, bag limits, possession limits, and length limits.
- 571 IAC ch. 91, Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons. The rule addresses hunting waterfowl and coot and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting.
- 571 IAC ch. 113, Restitution for Pollution Causing Injury to Wild Animals. The rulemaking amends the chapter to refer to the latest American Fisheries Society’s update on counting methods and restitution values.

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

- Indian Bluffs WMA, Road Maintenance — Jones County. The Commission approved a total of \$130,000 from the Department of Transportation Parks and Institutional Roads Fund.
- Lake Darling State Park, pavement trail — Washington County. The Commission approved a total of \$98,000 coming from the Lake Darling Friends Group.
- Pine Lake State Park, Park Renovations — Hardin County. The Commission approved a total of \$1.2 million from the Parks Infrastructure Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) Grant.
- Backbone State Park, Beach Lodge Lighting Project — Delaware County. The Commission approved a total of \$40,000 coming from a Helmsley Foundation Grant.
- Emerson Bay and Hattie Elston, Boat Ramps and Docks — Dickinson County. The Commission approved a total of \$98,000 coming from the Marine Fuel Tax.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2020.

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