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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2020

**Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission met on September 10, 2020. The meeting was held at the Brent S. Olson Memorial Visitor Center in Pisgah. Teleconference participation was also available. The following topics are among those discussed.

**Director Remarks.** Department of Natural Resources Director Kayla Lyon mentioned some State parks still affected by the derecho storm. The director also mentioned deer exchange progress as well as increases year-to-date in deer hunting licenses.

**Budget Request FY 2022.** The FY 2022 budget request includes the following appropriations:

- \$9.6 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) for lake water quality improvements, an increase of \$1.0 million compared to estimated FY 2021.
- \$500,000 from the RIIF for water trails/low-head dams, an increase of \$250,000 compared to estimated FY 2021.
- \$2.0 million from the RIIF for park infrastructure improvements, an increase of \$1.0 million compared to estimated FY 2021.

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

- A contract with NatureServe for software supporting the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory. The amount is not to exceed \$34,000. Around half of the cost will be the annual licensing fee, funded by the General Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A contract with Visual Labs, Inc., for body cameras to be utilized by peace officers, not to exceed \$96,000. The two-year contract extends to 2022 and is funded by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A multiyear contract with the University of Iowa for a study on the Iowa Great Lakes, not to exceed \$287,000. The study will be funded by the Lake Restoration Program.
- Three timber sale contracts at Shimek State Forest (\$68,000) and Yellow River State Forest (\$95,000 and \$52,000). The funds will be deposited in the Land and Water Conservation Fund – Forestry.

**Public Lands Acquisitions.** The Commission approved the following land acquisitions:

- A total of 80 acres near the North River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The purchase price of \$360,000 will be funded by the federal Pittman-Robertson Program (\$270,000) and the Wildlife Habitat Stamp (\$90,000).
- A total of 243 acres near Stone State Park (Heendah Hills WMA). The purchase price of \$335,000 will be funded by Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) public/private funds.

**Construction Projects.** The Commission approved storm water improvements at Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at a cost of \$150,000.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on October 8, 2020.

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