
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 15, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — OCTOBER 2021

Meeting. The Natural Resource Commission met on October 14, 2021. The meeting was held via teleconference. The following topics were discussed at the meeting.

Remarks. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Kayla Lyon gave an update on the Derecho Community Forest Grant Program and reported that the Program had awarded all of its \$250,000 and planted more than 2,500 trees in 19 counties. Former State Parks Bureau Chief Todd Coffelt provided a financial and operational update on the Honey Creek Resort for 2020 and 2021.

Donations Approved. The Commission approved 20 donations for a total of approximately \$29,500. The approved donations ranged from \$15 to \$20,000.

Contracts Approved. The following contracts were approved:

- A contract with Baker Mechanical, Inc., not to exceed \$90,111 to update a water quality monitoring system at the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery. The contract is funded through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Land Management Fund.
- An amendment to the contract with Iowa State University (ISU) not to exceed \$135,000 to continue forestry production services for an additional year. The contract allows ISU to hire students as seasonal workers to assist with State Forest Nursery (SFN) operations. The contract is funded through the sales of the SFN.
- A contract with the University of Wisconsin not to exceed \$73,942 to continue a project on phosphorus cycling in Iowa that has already been started with Dr. Grace Wilkinson of ISU. Dr. Wilkinson has moved to the University of Wisconsin and will continue work on this project. The contract is funded through the Lake Restoration Program.

Land Acquisitions. The following land acquisition projects were approved:

- One acre located at Lake Darling State Park in Washington County near Highway 1. Park staff plan to plant native trees and prairie and use the land to provide public access to outdoor recreation opportunities. This land was donated to the DNR by the Friends of Lake Darling State Park organization.
- 16.73 acres located at the Sac City Wetland Complex Wildlife Management Area. The land will be used to provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities and will be used to restore wetlands and continuing prairie restoration. This land was purchased by the DNR from B-J Inc. for \$18,000 through Wildlife Habitat Stamp fees.
- 0.34 acre located at the Vermace Woods Wildlife Management Area located three miles southwest of Belle Plaine. The land will be used to provide access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities at the Vermace Woods Wildlife Management Area to the public. This land was purchased by the DNR from private owners for \$3,000 through Wildlife Habitat Stamp fees.

Other Meeting Items. The Commission also took the following actions:

- Denied a petition for rulemakings to prohibit anchoring and rafting within 300 feet of shore on West Okoboji Lake, and to require special event permits issued for West Okoboji Lake to rotate among sites such that no site could host a special event more than once every four years.
- Approved a Notice of Intended Action to amend [571 IAC 16](#) to change the term of a Class 1 dock permit to remain valid until the property is sold or transferred rather than expiring after five years.

- Approved a construction project at Three Mile Lake in Union County. The project will include dredging two existing silt basins, constructing two new silt basins, and stabilizing approximately 1,400 feet of degraded streambank. The estimated cost is \$373,000, and the project will be funded through the Lake Restoration Program.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

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