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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 16, 2021



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — NOVEMBER 2021

**Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) met on November 10, 2021. The meeting was held via teleconference. The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

**Donations Approved.** The Commission approved 11 donations for a total of approximately \$5,600. The approved donations ranged from \$10 to \$3,700.

**Grants Approved.** The following grants were approved for FY 2022:

- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) City Parks and Open Space Grants were approved, with eight projects in the small city category being recommended for funding for a total of approximately \$422,000, seven projects in the medium city category being recommended for funding for a total of approximately \$645,000, and six projects in the large city category being recommended for funding for a total of approximately \$1.1 million.
- REAP County Grants were approved, with \$775,500 recommended for Woodbury County, \$300,000 recommended for Johnson County, \$196,000 recommended for Cerro Gordo County, and approximately \$57,000 recommended for Fayette County.
- A REAP Private Public Cost Share Grant was approved for approximately \$290,000 to the Natural Heritage Foundation.
- 12 Water Recreation Access Cost Share (WRAC) Grants were approved for a total of \$548,000. Funding for these grants comes from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.

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

- Timber sale contract with Lansing Forest Products, LLC, of Lansing for the harvest of approximately 54 trees over 16.4 acres of Loess Hills State Forest. The contract will deposit approximately \$40,000 into the Forestry Conservation Fund.
- Contract with Iowa State University (ISU) not to exceed \$37,500 for conservation outreach and extension to landowners and citizens within the Iowa and Boone River watersheds. The funding source for this contract is the federal U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Grant.
- Contract with Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) of Cedar Rapids not to exceed \$2.25 million to plant at least 500,000 trees over the next 10 years. Alliant Energy will provide the entire funding of this project while the DNR will grow and plant the trees.
- Two contracts with private citizens through the Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) for a total of approximately \$44,000 and not to exceed \$37,000. The funding source for these contracts will be the Voluntary Public Access Grant through IHAP.
- Contract with Dylan Wagner Services not to exceed \$37,600 to remove native and invasive species of trees and brush from the grasslands of Badger Creek Wildlife Management Area. The funding source for this contract will be Clean Water Act 319 funds.
- Contract with Wedeking Construction Inc. not to exceed \$100,000 for various services for the Prairie Lakes and Great Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. The funding source for this contract will be the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Contract with the Tama County Conservation Board not to exceed \$2.7 million to cooperatively fund the removal of approximately 170,000 cubic yards of deposited sediment and native soil, armoring 7,270 linear feet of shoreline, constructing a wetland water control structure, stabilizing approximately

1,000 linear feet of stream bottom, and placing fish habitat structure in various locations in the lake. The funding source for this contract will be through the Lake Restoration Program.

- Contract with the Dubuque County Conservation Board and the Friends of the Mines of Spain not to exceed \$21,000 annually for the management and operation of the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center and Mines of Spain Recreation Area. The funding for this contract will come from the Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau's Operations Fund.

**Land Acquisitions.** The following land acquisition projects were approved:

- 69.3 acres for \$200,000 located one mile west of Ventura in Hancock County to restore native habitats within the watershed boundary of Clear Lake. The funding source for this acquisition will be through the Federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).
- 171 acres for approximately \$804,000 located one mile west of Gillett Grove in southeastern Clay County to provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Approximately \$603,000 of the funding for this acquisition will come from the Federal Pittman-Robertson Act, while the remaining approximately \$201,000 will come from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.
- 61 acres for \$65,000 located one-half mile north of Emmetsburg in Palo Alto County to provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The funding source for this acquisition will be \$46,000 from the Federal NAWCA and \$19,000 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp revenue.

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

- Approved a Final Rule to amend [571 IAC 15](#) to add the new lifetime trout fishing license and its fee. There was a change in this rule from the Notice of Intended Action which resulted in the fee being lowered from \$65 to \$63.
- Approved a construction project at George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County to repair approximately 1,000 square yards of trail that was washed out by the Cedar River. The estimated cost is \$97,000, and the project will be funded through the Executive Council and a donation from the park's friends group.
- Approved a construction project at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County to reestablish a floodplain bench by removing approximately 1,400 cubic yards of deposited material from the inside bends of the creek and stabilizing the banks with rock armoring. The estimated cost is \$100,000, and the project will be funded through REAP Land Management, a donation from Driftless Area Flyathon, and the Environmental Protection Agency 319 program.

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

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