
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 10, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2021

Meeting. The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) met on December 9, 2021. The meeting was held in person and via teleconference. The following topics were discussed:

Donations Approved. The Commission approved five donations for a total of \$555. Donations ranged from \$25 to \$200.

Contracts Approved. The following contracts were approved:

- An amended contract with Marine Safety Experts to extend the contract for another year. This amendment does not increase the cost to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- An amended contract with Ducks Unlimited (DU) to increase the funding available for the contract by \$50,000 due to the increased costs for materials that will be required by contractors. Funding for this contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.
- A contract with DU not to exceed \$375,000 to partner with the DNR to perform engineering and feasibility assessments on large marshes and big rivers throughout the State outside of the 35-county Prairie Pothole Region. Funding for this contract will come from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A contract with Dickinson County Water Quality Commission (WQC) not to exceed \$103,000 to help support the efforts of the WQC to protect the quality of lakes in Dickinson County. Funding for this contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.
- An amended contract with Mid States Farm Management Co. to continue habitat management services through 2022. The amendment will add \$9,000 to the contract and funding will come from Stephens State Forest operations.
- An amended contract with Hertz Farm Management, Inc. to continue habitat management through 2022. The amendment will add approximately \$19,000 to the contract and funding will come from Yellow River State Forest operations.
- An amended contract with Agri-Valley Farm Management, LLC to continue habitat management services through 2022. The amendment will add approximately \$22,000 to the contract and funding will come from Loess Hills State Forest operations.
- An amended contract with AGRILAND Inc. to continue habitat management services through 2022. The amendment will add approximately \$37,000 to the contract and funding will come from Great Lakes Wildlife Management Unit operations.
- A contract with Iowa State University not to exceed \$60,000 to design, create, edit, and publish a series of 32 short videos depicting forest management, tree planting, and related topics as specified in the Iowa Forest Landowners' Toolkit grant proposal. Half of the funding for this contract will come from federal Forest Service funds, while the other half will come from State Woodland Health funds.

Public Land Acquisitions. The following public land acquisitions were approved:

- 50 acres for \$117,000 located four miles southeast of Dumont in west central Butler County to provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities, and allow maintenance and improvement of the existing oxbows and timber while managing the area for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Half of the funding for this acquisition will come from a federal State Wildlife Grant, while the other half will come from the State's Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program.
- 207 acres for \$636,000 located five miles southeast of Centerville in southeastern Appanoose County to provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities, provide for management of the remnant prairie acres, add critical upland habitat acres to the greater Sedan

Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, and improve the access to the north and west sides of the complex. Funding for this acquisition will come from multiple sources including: \$477,000 through the federal Pittman-Robertson Act, \$149,000 from State Wildlife Habitat Stamps, \$5,000 from the national Wild Turkey Federation, and \$5,000 from the Rathbun Lake Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

- 71 acres as well as an 80-acre conservation easement for \$388,000 located 1.7 miles northwest of Redfield in southwestern Dallas County. This land will provide public access to the purchased parcel of land, as well as management access to the current Middle Raccoon River Wildlife Management Area. The acquisition will also allow for the opportunity to develop a parking lot on the south side of the river, providing off-road parking and improved public access to the existing public land, and provide hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Funding for this acquisition will come from multiple sources including: \$291,000 through the federal Pittman-Robertson Act, \$77,000 from the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund's Protected Waters Area, and \$20,000 from the Dallas County Conservation Board.

Construction Projects. The following construction projects were approved:

- A project to repair the pavement of Wilson Island State Recreation Area, estimated to cost approximately \$310,000. Funding will come from the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Parks and Institutional Roads Fund.
- A project to replace the existing courtesy docks at the Highway 9 and Hinshaw Bridge access areas of Templar Park in Dickinson County. The project is estimated to cost \$180,000, and funding will come from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund (MFT).

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

- Approved two grants from the On-Stream Impoundment Restoration Fund totaling \$500,000 for two projects. The first grant is for approximately \$64,000 to the Webster County Conservation Board to construct a sediment/nutrient retention structure above the south arm of Badger Lake, for sediment removal from the upper east end of the lake, and for fishery renovation. The second grant is for approximately \$436,000 to the Lake Delhi Combined Recreational Facility and Water Quality District to design and construct a sediment trap within the upstream end of the impound, and for sediment removal.
- Approved a Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) to amend [571 IAC 112](#) to change the definitions of an ungulate and game bird by referencing the Iowa Code.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022, at 10 a.m.

LSA Staff Contact: Austin Brinks (515.725.2200) austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1284120