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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 16, 2023



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — OCTOBER 2023

**Meeting.** The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on October 12, 2023. Among the topics discussed were the following.

**Donations Approved.** The NRC approved 14 donations for a total of approximately \$10,000. The donations ranged from \$20 to approximately \$3,000.

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

- A contract with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, to enter into an Iowa Code chapter [28E](#) agreement to ensure the proper management, maintenance, and development of buildings that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- A timber sale contract with Meister Log and Lumber of approximately \$507,000, for the timber harvest of approximately 478,000 board feet of mixed hardwood trees at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County. The proceeds from the sale of the timber will be deposited in the Land and Water Conservation Fund for use by the Forestry Division.
- A contract with Black Hawk County Conservation Board, not to exceed approximately \$2.0 million, to assist in the construction of watershed and in-lake restoration practices at Hickory Hills Park. Funding for this contract will come from Lake Restoration Program funds.

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

- A lake restoration project at Casey Lake in Tama County for the renovation of four existing watershed ponds and the creation of three new in-lake ponds. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.5 million, and the project will receive funds from the Lake Restoration Program and the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. The contract for the project was awarded to Three Oaks Construction from North Sioux City, South Dakota.
- A project at Red Rock Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Marion, Warren, and Mahaska counties. The project is for the maintenance of roads in the WMA. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$220,000, and the funding will come from the State Parks and Institutional Roads Program. The contract for the project was awarded to Skyline Construction, Inc., from Decorah.
- A project at Tieville Bend WMA in Monona County to replace a water pump that has failed. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$110,000, and the funding will come from the federal Army Corps of Engineers. The contract for the project was awarded to Electric Pump LLC from Des Moines.

**Land Acquisitions Approved.** The following land acquisitions were approved:

- 234 acres in southeastern Madison County for approximately \$1.1 million. The land will be used for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Funding sources for the acquisition will include: Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act moneys, Wildlife Habitat Stamp moneys, and moneys from the Warren County and Madison County Pheasants Forever chapters.
- Approximately 21 acres in Fayette County for approximately \$51,000. The land will be used to provide public fishing access along Otter Creek. Funding for the acquisition will come from the Fish and Game Protection Fund.

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**Administrative Rules Approved.** The following administrative rules were approved:

- A Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) to rescind [571 IAC 10](#) pertaining to forfeited property.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 18](#) pertaining to rental fee schedules for State-owned property.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 19](#) pertaining to sand and gravel permits.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 20](#) pertaining to local recreation infrastructure grant programs.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 21](#) pertaining to private open space lands.

**Other Items Approved.** The NRC also approved the following items:

- Recommendations for Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) City Parks and Open Space Grants for FY 2024. There are 19 projects recommended for funding at a total cost of approximately \$1.9 million.
- Recommendations for REAP County Conservation Grants for FY 2024. There are two projects recommended for funding at a total cost of \$750,000.
- Recommendations for REAP Private/Public Cost-Share Grants for FY 2024. There are two projects recommended at a total cost of approximately \$413,000.

**Agenda.** The agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

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