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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 21, 2023



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2023

**Meeting.** The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on December 14, 2023. Among the topics discussed were the following.

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

- A donation of approximately 18 acres in Lee County. The land will be used for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities near Shimek State Forest.
- A donation of 200 acres at Big Wall Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Wright County. The land will be restored to wildlife habitat and provide wetland sites.
- Approximately 17 acres at Green Island WMA in Jackson County for \$35,000. The land will be used for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities and water quality benefits. Funding sources for the acquisition will include Wildlife Habitat Stamp moneys and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant.
- A donation of approximately three acres at Lake George WMA in Hancock County. The land will be used for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Approximately two acres at Mr. Talbot State Preserve in Clayton County for \$10,000. The land will help the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manage the State Preserve. The funding source for the acquisition will come from the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Open Spaces Account.
- Thirty-one acres at Perkins Marsh WMA in Palo Alto County for \$330,000. The land will be used as a saturation buffer between a restored marsh and a neighboring cropland field. The land will also provide access to public hunting and other recreation opportunities. Funding sources for this acquisition will come from Wildlife Habitat Stamp moneys and a NAWCA grant.
- A donation of 11 acres in Howard County. The land will be used to protect native species in a native prairie area.
- A donation of approximately 31 acres at the Mcintosh WMA in Cerro Gordo County. The land will be used to protect native species in a native prairie area.

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

- A contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) not to exceed \$500,000. The contract will allow ESRI to provide software maintenance to the DNR's Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Funding for this contract will come from various sources available to the DNR.
- Three additional deer management zone hunts, each with an additional 500 deer tags, to provide increased Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance.
- A 28E agreement with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to demolish five buildings at Springbrook State Park.

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

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be January 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

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