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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

July 22, 2025



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — JULY 2025

**Meeting.** The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on July 10, 2025. Among the topics discussed were the following:

**Contracts Approved.** The NRC approved the following contracts:

- A contract with the Food Bank of Iowa not to exceed \$2.1 million for the operation of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. The funding for this contract will come from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A contract with Conservation Corps of St. Paul, Minnesota, not to exceed \$400,000 to hire and employ crews that will work closely with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) project leaders to complete diverse work including sign installation, fish and wildlife sample collection, manual labor, skilled chainsaw work, trail maintenance, landscaping, restoration planting, prairie or woodland prescribed fires, and small equipment operation (e.g., brush hogs and walk-behind skid steers). The funding for this contract will come from Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds, the Woodland Health Initiative, the State Parks and Preserves appropriation, the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, and the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) appropriation.
- A contract with Kossuth County Conservation Board not to exceed approximately \$86,000 to hire a qualified consultant for assessing potential improvements to water quality, infrastructure, habitat, and recreational opportunities associated with the restoration of Smith Lake. This contract will be funded by the Lake Restoration Program.
- A contract with Horizon Architecture not to exceed approximately \$110,000 to have Horizon Architecture prepare final designs for construction projects at the Cody Shooting Complex. This contract will be funded by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund as well as Marine Fuel Tax and federal funds.
- A contract with the City of Grinnell not to exceed approximately \$600,000 to hire a qualified consultant to provide the City of Grinnell with planning, engineering, permitting, cost estimation, and easement acquisition services associated with meeting restoration goals and objectives for Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza. The funding for this contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.

**Construction Projects Approved.** The NRC approved the following construction projects:

- A project at Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit in Fremont County to repair washouts of the Johnson levee and to build a new 600-foot levee. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$220,000 and will receive funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Executive Council. The contract for the project was awarded to Leroy and Sons, Inc., from Arcadia, Iowa.
- A project at Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit in Fremont County to repair blowouts and sloughing at Copper Creek levees. The project is estimated to cost \$57,000 and will receive funds from FEMA and the Executive Council. The contract for the project was awarded to Legacy Grading LLC from Unionville, Missouri.
- A project at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Johnson County for maintenance of two gravel roads. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$340,000 and will receive funds from the Parks and Institutional Roads Program. The contract was awarded to Adam Laubenthal DBA Laubenthal Excavation from Bradgate, Iowa.

- A project at Lake Keomah State Park in Mahaska County to replace the lake's drawdown valve. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$110,000 and will receive funding from the Lake Restoration Fund. The contract was awarded to Construction Leaders Company LLC from Urbandale, Iowa.

**Other Items Approved.** The NRC approved the proposed county antlerless license quotas for the 2025-2026 hunting season.

**Agenda.** The agenda for this meeting is available at the DNR's [website](#).

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be August 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

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