
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 19, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2025

Meeting. The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on December 11, 2025. The agenda for this meeting is available at the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) [website](#). The following topics were discussed:

Contracts.

- A contract with the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission not to exceed approximately \$154,000 to help support four projects in the county. Funding for the contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.
- A contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board not to exceed approximately \$340,000 to work with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board to retain Shive Hattery to complete final design and permitting on the proposed restoration plan, including targeted dredging of the eastern arm of Diamond Lake, removal of excess sediment in the campground marsh, construction of two spoil sites, over 1,000 linear feet of shoreline stabilization, and installation of fish habitat. This project will also include drawing the lake down and installing a low water drain that will allow managers to better manage water levels in the future. Funding for the contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.
- A contract with Polk County Conservation Board not to exceed approximately \$480,000 to work with the Polk County Conservation Board to fund a shoreline stabilization project of approximately 5,000 linear feet at Easter Lake. Funding for the contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program.

Construction Projects. The NRC approved the following construction projects:

- A project at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Johnson County for road maintenance of the two roads in the WMA. The project is estimated to cost \$140,000 and will receive funds from the Parks and Institutional Roads Fund. The contract for the project was awarded to Boomerang Corp. from Anamosa.
- A project at Pikes Peak State Park in Clayton County for road maintenance. The project is estimated to cost \$110,000 and will receive funds from the Parks and Institutional Roads Fund and from parks infrastructure moneys. The contract was awarded to Kluesner Construction from Farley.
- A project at Easter Lake in Polk County to address shoreline erosion by armoring approximately 5,000 linear feet of the shoreline using riprap. The project is estimated to cost \$880,000 and will receive funds from the Lake Restoration Program and from the Polk County Conservation Board. The contract was awarded to Kluesner Construction from Farley.
- A project at Waubonsie State Park in Fremont County to update the existing water system and wellhouse by adding new storage tanks and reconfiguring the reservoirs and piping to create separate pressure zones to raise water pressure to acceptable levels. The project is estimated to cost \$315,000 and will receive parks infrastructure moneys. The contract was awarded to Vicker Drilling, LLC, from Creston.
- A project at Clear Lake State Park in Cerro Gordo County for maintenance and repair of the east restroom shower building. The project is estimated to cost \$250,000 and will receive funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and from parks infrastructure moneys. The contract was awarded to Sadler Construction from Eagle Grove.
- A project at Clear Lake State Park in Cerro Gordo County to repair the park lodge. The project is estimated to cost \$480,000 and will receive funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation

Fund and from parks infrastructure moneys. The contract was awarded to Henkel Construction Company from Mason City.

- A project at Spring Branch in Delaware County to repair the toe of the slope located just above and below the ordinary high-water mark. The project is estimated to cost \$73,000 and will receive funds from a Federal Section 319 grant, the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund, and a cash donation. The contract was awarded to Sommer Excavating, LLC, from Waukon City.

Administrative Rules. The NRC approved the following administrative rules:

- A Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) to amend [571 IAC 15](#) pertaining to general license regulations to add a new lifetime fur harvester permit for disabled veterans.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 16](#) pertaining to docks and other structures on public waters to match rules with new Iowa Code.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 76](#) pertaining to unprotected game to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 76](#) pertaining to endangered and threatened plant and animal species to update the list of plant and animal species and remove special concern species from the rule.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 78](#) pertaining to ginseng harvesting and sale to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 79](#) pertaining to fish stocking procedures and fees for private waters.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 80](#) pertaining to salvage of fish and game to ensure that salvaged resources are used appropriately and not exploited for commercial gain or illegal purposes. In addition, the chapter also clarifies procedures for collecting found-dead deer and shed antlers during different times of the year.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 81](#) pertaining to fishing regulations to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 82](#) pertaining to commercial fishing to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 83](#) pertaining to scuba and skin spearing of rough fish to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 84](#) pertaining to promiscuous fishing to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 86](#) pertaining to turtles to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 87](#) pertaining to mussel regulation to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 89](#) pertaining to aquaculture to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 90](#) pertaining to aquatic invasive species to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 93](#) pertaining to commercial use of captive reared waterfowl to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 95](#) pertaining to game harvest reporting and landowner tenant registration to reduce and clarify wording and add two methods for hunters to report harvests.
- A NOIA to amend [571 IAC 98](#) pertaining to wild turkey hunting to remove the requirement that an owner or tenant select a method of take and allow the license to be valid until filled.
- A NOIA to rescind [571 IAC 103](#) pertaining to mobile radio transmitters.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 111](#) pertaining to natural resources collector permits for research, education, and wildlife rehabilitation to reduce and clarify wording and align with State and federal law.
- A NOIA to consolidate [571 IAC 112](#) and [571 IAC 115](#) pertaining to hunting preserves and whitetail hunting preserves, respectively, to reduce and clarify wording and to rescind [571 IAC 104](#) pertaining to wildlife importation, transportation, and disease monitoring.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 113](#) pertaining to restitution for pollution causing injury to wild animals to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and replace [571 IAC 116](#) pertaining to the Help Us Stop Hunger program to reduce and clarify wording.

- A NOIA to rescind and consolidate [571 IAC 2](#), [571 IAC 3](#), and [571 IAC 4](#) pertaining to public records and fair information practices, submission of information and complaints, and agency procedure for rulemaking, respectively, to reduce and clarify wording. The NOIA also rescinds and replaces [571 IAC 5](#) and [571 IAC 6](#) pertaining to petitions for rulemaking and declaratory rulings, respectively, to reduce and clarify wording.
- An Adopted and Filed (AF) rulemaking document to rescind and replace [571 IAC 7](#), [571 IAC 8](#), and [571 IAC 11](#) pertaining to rules of practice in contested cases, contracts for public improvements and professional services, and waivers or variances from administrative rules, respectively, to reduce and clarify wording.
- A NOIA to rescind and consolidate [575 IAC 1](#), [575 IAC 2](#), and [575 IAC 3](#) pertaining to the State Advisory Board of Preserves to reduce and clarify wording.

Other Items. The NRC voted on the following other items:

- The 2026 NRC meeting tour schedule.
- A public land acquisition of approximately 170 acres near Copeland Bend WMA in Fremont County for approximately \$260,000. The land will enhance wetland management opportunities on adjacent State-owned lands, expand habitat for a wide range of wildlife species, and simplify existing property boundaries, improving overall management efficiency and enhancing public access to the WMA. Funding for the acquisition will come from a Federal Wildlife Restoration Land Grant.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be on January 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

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