



Legislative Services Agency

State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, 515.281.3566

Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Update Article

Natural Resource Commission Meeting — September 2026

September 24, 2026

Meeting

The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on September 10, 2026. The agenda for this meeting is available at the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) [website](#). The following topics were discussed:

Contracts

The NRC approved the following contracts:

- A contract amendment with Trees Forever not to exceed \$250,000 to provide funding for Trees Forever to hire and employ up to four Community Forest Health Technicians. Funding for the contract will come from United States Forest Service federal funds.
- A contract amendment with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc., not to exceed \$75,000 to continue shipping services for the delivery of tree seedlings to customers within and outside of Iowa. Funding for the contract will come from the sale of seedlings from the State Forest Nursery.
- A contract with Iowa State University (ISU) not to exceed \$500,000 to continue a partnership between the DNR and ISU to provide students with work experience at the State Forest Nursery. Funding for the contract will come from State Forest Nursery sales.
- A contract amendment with Houston Engineering, Inc., not to exceed approximately \$110,000 to assist the DNR with oversight on a Lake Restoration Project at Three Mile Lake. Funding for the contract will come from the Lake Restoration Program and the Executive Council.
- A contract with Kossuth County not to exceed approximately \$240,000 to restore Mallard Waterfowl Production Area. Funding for the contract will come from a Federal North American Wetland Conservation Act grant.

Construction Projects

The NRC approved the following construction projects:

- A project at Ledges State Park in Boone County to upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities. The project is estimated to cost \$895,000 and will receive moneys from the Park Infrastructure Fund. The contract for the project was awarded to Blue Ribbon Builders from Earlham.
- A project at Volga River State Recreation Area in Fayette County to upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities at the campground. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$310,000 and will receive moneys from the Park Infrastructure Fund. The contract for the project was awarded to MZ Construction, Inc., from Livingston, Wisconsin.
- A project at Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park in Webster County to expand the trail system at the park. The project is estimated to cost \$350,000 and will receive moneys from the ATV Program and a federal recreational trails grant. The contract for the project was awarded to Dixon Construction from Correctionville.

- A project at Lake Darling State Park and Geode State Park in Washington and Henry counties, respectively, to pave 10 campsites, including 2 ADA-compliant sites, along with curb and gutter, minor grading, and other ADA improvements. The project is estimated to cost \$200,000 and will receive parks infrastructure accessibility moneys and a donation from Lake Darling Friends Group. The contract for the project was awarded to Rise Construction from Des Moines.

Other Items

The NRC approved the following other items:

- A public land acquisition of approximately 80 acres near the Big Sioux Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Sioux County. The cost of the acquisition is \$173,000, and the land will be used to create a WMA along the Rock River and provide public access to hunting and other outdoor activities.
- A Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) to rescind and replace [571 IAC 2](#) pertaining to public records and fair information practices.
- An NOIA to adopt new 571 IAC 2506 pertaining to contested cases.

LSA Staff Contact

Austin Brinks

(515.725.2200)

austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1615526