Legislative Services Agency
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Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Update Article

Natural Resource Commission Meeting — October 2026

October 21, 2026

Meeting

The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) met on October 8, 2026. The agenda for this meeting is available at the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) website.

Contracts

The NRC approved the following contracts:

- A contract with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies not to exceed approximately $100,000 to conduct supplemental sampling in Iowa for a national survey on the importance and economic value of outdoor recreation in Iowa. Funding for the contract will come from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- A contract with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board not to exceed approximately $200,000 to help fund a project at Casey Lake to render sediment phosphorus inactive and improve water quality. Funding for the contract will come from Lake Restoration Program moneys.
- A contract with SOLitude Lake Management, LLC, not to exceed approximately $260,000 to hire a qualified firm to complete a project at Casey Lake to render sediment phosphorous inactive and improve water quality. Funding for the contract will come from Lake Restoration Program moneys as well as moneys from the Black Hawk County Conservation Board.
- A contract amendment with Ducks Unlimited not to exceed $250,000 to extend a contract with Ducks Unlimited to perform engineering and feasibility assessments on shallow lakes and marshes in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, which includes 35 counties in Iowa. Funding for the contract will come from Iowa migratory bird fees moneys and moneys from the Lake Restoration Program.
- A contract with Iowa State University not to exceed $900,000 for tissue testing at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Iowa deer. Funding for the contract will come from the Fish and Game Protection Fund as well as grant moneys from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Construction Projects

The NRC approved the following construction projects:

- A project at Rock Creek State Park in Jasper County to resurface a boat ramp parking lot, add a rigging lane, and remove a pit latrine foundation. The project is estimated to cost $525,000 and will receive Marine Fuel Tax moneys as well as Federal Boat Safety moneys. The contract for the project was awarded to Home Boy Enterprises, LTD, from Bondurant.
- A project at Big Creek State Park in Polk County to improve water quality by addressing storm water runoff through the construction of a storm water detention basin on the east end of the beach parking lot and storm sewer construction. The project is estimated to cost $672,000 and will receive

moneys from the Lake Restoration Program. The contract for the project was awarded to Southeast Constructors, Inc., from Des Moines.

- A project at Ledges State Park to replace the wooden rails and walkways of two bridges. The project is estimated to cost $212,000 and will receive moneys from the Parks and Institutional Roads Fund. The project was awarded to Holman Construction, LLC, from Indianola.
- A project in Mashall County to build an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) storage building at the Marshall County ATV Park. The project is estimated to cost $400,000 and will receive moneys from the ATV Fund. The contract for the project was awarded to Ciro Diiorio Masonry and Landscaping, LLC, from Marshalltown.
- A project at the State Forest Nursery in Story County to construct a building to conduct seed drying at the nursery. The project is estimated to cost $290,000 and will receive moneys from the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund and federal moneys. The contract for the project was awarded to GTG Construction, LLC, from Johnston.

Other Items

The NRC approved the following other items:

- A land acquisition of 60 acres in Clinton County near the Syracuse Wildlife Management Area. The cost of the acquisition is approximately $110,000, and the land will be used to protect habitat for two federally endangered species of bat and provide public access to outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities. The acquisition will receive moneys from Wildlife Habitat Stamp sales.
- An Adopted and Filed rulemaking for 571 IAC 96 pertaining to small game hunting.
- A subrecipient grant agreement with the Wildlife Management Institute not to exceed approximately $130,000 to hire an Urban CWD Specialist to work alongside the DNR Urban Wildlife Biologist to help cities develop a framework for deer management that includes CWD resiliency. The DNR has received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for this purpose.

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