
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 13, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — NOVEMBER 2018

Meeting Held. The Natural Resource Commission held a teleconference meeting on November 8, 2018. Chairperson Margo Underwood conducted the meeting.

Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery. The Commission approved an amendment to a contract at the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery. The amendment increases costs by \$40,000 and alters the design of the fish hatchery filtration building by adding water pumps and ultraviolet equipment. Funding is 75.0% from federal funds and 25.0% from Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds.

Water Trail Grants. The Commission approved the award of five water trail enhancement grants, which provide cost share funds for water trail infrastructure projects. The grants are funded from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and include the following:

- The Delaware County Conservation Board received \$2,000 for a project that provides access along the Maquoketa River.
- The City of Fort Dodge received \$20,000 to repair access to Lizard Creek.
- The Buchanan County Conservation Board received \$38,000 to redesign access to the Wapsipinicon River, including a launch for people with mobility impairments and improvements to parking.
- The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board received \$22,000 to improve the Old Town Park Water Trail access to the West Nishnabotna River.
- The City of Johnston received \$48,000 to develop access to the Beaver Creek Water Trail.

Public Land Acquisition. The Commission approved three public land acquisitions, which include:

- An acquisition of 1.4 acres of land adjacent to the Volga River State Recreation Area in Fayette County for \$3,000. Funding is from REAP. The land will be used for hunting and recreation.
- An acquisition of 90 acres in Franklin County for \$244,000. Funding includes \$164,000 from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund and \$80,000 from federal funds. The land will be used for hunting and recreation.
- An acquisition of 20 acres in Dickinson County adjacent to the Twin Forks Wildlife Management Area for \$73,000. Funding includes \$58,000 from federal funds and \$15,000 from the Ted Farris estate. The land will be used for hunting and recreation.

Construction Projects. The Commission approved two construction projects, which include:

- A contract for \$137,000 for the repair of jetties at Big Creek State Park in Polk County. Funding is from the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.
- A contract for \$250,000 for a drain valve replacement project at Geode State Park in Henry County. Funding is from the Lake Restoration Program.

Wildcat Den State Park. The Commission approved a latrine removal and replacement project at Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine County. Funding is from a \$2.0 million allocation from REAP to the State parks for operations and maintenance. This allocation was made in [HF 2491](#) (FY 2019 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act).

Chronic Wasting Disease. Dale Gardner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed chronic wasting disease and other related diseases. The [DNR website](#) discusses the differences between chronic wasting disease, tuberculosis, and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (bluetongue). The DNR has

established three deer management zones where wild deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease. Each zone has 250 additional antlerless licenses available to hunters, and the DNR will collect data from the deer taken. Chronic wasting disease is spread through direct contact between deer and through urine, blood, feces, and saliva left on the landscape, where the disease remains infectious for years. The disease is 100.0% fatal, although infected deer may not display symptoms.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 13 in Des Moines. Additional information about the [Natural Resource Commission](#) is available on the DNR website.

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