

**SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING
03/01/07 FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS (DRAFT)**

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The advisory committee supports and presents the following recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. The advisory committee recommends that:

1. The burden of funding should be a responsibility of all Iowans, since all Iowans will benefit from sustainable funding for natural resources. This value is also supported by responses in the Willingness to Pay survey.
2. The funding source, aka mechanism, should have statewide appeal and be politically viable.
3. The source of funds should be easy to administer without the need to establish significant additional administrative staff.
4. Leveraging should be considered a tool to assist local, state, and NGOs in increasing the recommended funding amount when possible.
5. The new funding mechanism(s) must conform to all state and federal commerce regulations.
6. The funding mechanism(s) should be "new money" and not a replacement of existing resources.
7. The funding mechanism(s) should be stable, protected, and identified as dedicated. Newly generated funds should be dedicated to help ensure that the funds are used for their intended natural resource purpose, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of these funds.
8. The new funding must unite, rather than divide, conservation agencies and organizations.
9. Along with the five funding mechanisms reported in the 01/10/07 Preliminary Report to bring in new revenue for natural resources (gaming/gambling revenue, fractional sales tax increase that is constitutionally protected, a portion of the lottery, tax incentives/credits for conservation practices, and bonding), these and other viable funding mechanisms should be explored further by the committee for viability.
10. This report be considered the final report in relation to the HF2797 charge, and an important step in investigating and ensuring sustainable and adequate funding for natural resources in Iowa.
11. The General Assembly reauthorize the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee to continue its work to further research sustainable funding and pursue input from the newly elected Governor, the current legislature, and other organizations.

a. The sustainable natural resource funding advisory committee, comprised of representatives identified in the original 2006 House File 2797 (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, Iowa Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Sierra Club of Iowa, Izaak Walton League of Iowa, State Conservation Districts of Iowa, Secretary of Agriculture (IDALS), Department of Natural Resources) shall be reauthorized for a one year period to the end of FY08.

b. The advisory committee shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 10, 2008. The report shall contain but is not limited to the following:

1) A further in-depth exploration of possible funding mechanisms determined by the committee's 03/01/07 Final Report.

2) A document that more fully explains the benefits that would occur if the amount proposed by the 03/01/07 Final Report were appropriated.

3) Further analyze information regarding "Iowans Willingness to Pay" as a tool to identify pathways and methods to share information regarding the needs determined to protect and enhance Iowa's natural resources for all Iowans' benefit.

4) Information identifying the economic impacts that would result if the amount proposed by the 03/01/07 Final Report were appropriated.

5) To support the work of this committee, the need for economic documentation, social and fact finding, and the cost of meetings, travel, outreach, and transparency in all work related to this committee, an appropriation of \$100,000 shall be made to the Department of Natural Resources to distribute regarding this charge. However, all expenditures shall be accounted for in the annual reports required to the legislature, and shall take formal agreement by a majority of the committee members before any payments are made. All expenditures shall be made with all applicable State policies and spending practices are followed. Any monies remaining will revert to the State General Fund.

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN ADDITION TO RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO HF 2797:

1. The Environment First Funding should be moved to a higher priority location in the wagering tax allocation formula. The Environment First Fund should be increased.

2. Emphasis must be placed on raising public awareness of conservation funding needs.

3. A group be created to administer the Local Conservation Partnership Program (LCPP) funds received.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING**

Mark Ackelson
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Mary Lundby
Iowa Senate - Republican

Jane Clark
Sierra Club - Iowa Chapter

Pauline Novotny
Izaak Walton League of Iowa

Dan Cohen
Iowa Association of County
Conservation Boards

Henry Rayhons
IA House of Representatives -
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Dick Dearden
Iowa Senate - Democrat

Deb Ryun
Conservation Districts of Iowa

Barbara Finch
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Marvin Shirley
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Tammi Kircher
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Owen Shunkwiler
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Richard Leopold, Director
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Ken Tow
Secretary of Agriculture

Lola Lopes
The Nature Conservancy

Dave Van Waus
Pheasants Forever

John Whitaker
IA House of Representatives - Democrat

Along with the support that committee members have received from their respective organizations and staff, we would also like to acknowledge the support during this process provided by the following individuals:

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