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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 12, 2023



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — JUNE 2023

**Meeting.** The [Natural Resource Commission \(NRC\)](#) met on June 8, 2023. Among the topics discussed were the following.

**Donations Approved.** The Commission approved 13 donations for a total of \$1,700. The donations ranged from \$7 to \$1,000.

**Contracts Approved.** The Commission approved a contract with JEO Consulting Group, Inc., not to exceed \$65,000, to assist 15 Iowa communities with planning and managing their urban tree resources and development of a response to the presence of Emerald Ash Borer and other tree pests and problems. The funding for this contract will come from the Woodland Health Initiative.

**Construction Items Approved.** The following construction items were approved:

- A project at Sweet Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Bremer County for dredging of the water area of the WMA. The cost of the project is estimated at \$400,000, and the project will use Marine Fuel Tax moneys. The contract for this project was awarded to Veit & Company, Inc., from Rogers, Minnesota.
- A project at Bellevue State Park near Bellevue, Iowa, to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility at the park by adding a new leach field. The cost of the project is estimated at \$200,000, and the project will use State Park Infrastructure funds. The contract for this project was awarded to F.L. Krapfl, Inc., from Dyersville, Iowa.
- A project at Saylorville WMA to replace an old wooden boat ramp with a new ramp made of concrete. The cost of the project is estimated at \$135,000 and will be funded with Marine Fuel Tax funds and a Coast Guard Boat Safety Grant. The contract for the project was awarded to Absolute Concrete Construction DBA Absolute Group from Granger, Iowa.
- A project at Big Creek State Park to replace and update a fishing pier that had been damaged by the derecho. The cost of the project is estimated at \$400,000 and will be paid through a combination of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Executive Council, and Park Infrastructure funds. The contract for the project was awarded to Dixon Construction from Correctionville, Iowa.

**Public Land Acquisitions Approved.** The following public land acquisitions were approved:

- The purchase of 240 acres of land located in Madison County in Kirke Woods WMA. The land will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities to the Des Moines metro area. The purchase price of the land is \$950,000, and the funding sources consist of federal Pittman-Robertson and National Wild Turkey Federation funds.
- Thirty-five acres of land located near Sioux City, Iowa, near Brown's Lake WMA. The land will provide public access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The land is being donated to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by MidAmerican Energy.
- The purchase of 47 acres of land in the Driftless Area of northeast Iowa near Decorah. The land will provide an easement for land conservation of the forest land and resources, water quality, wildlife habitat, and oak savanna and prairies. The purchase price of the land is \$186,000, and the funding will come from a Forest Legacy Program Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.
- The purchase of 184 acres of land near Sutherland, Iowa, in southeastern O'Brien County. The land will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The purchase price

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of the land is \$800,000, and the funding sources consist of Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Open Spaces, REAP license plate, Wildlife Habitat Stamp, and O'Brien County Sportsmen's Club funds.

**Other Items Approved.** The Commission also approved the following items:

- A REAP private/public cost-share grant for \$330,000 to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to finish the White Horse Access addition along the North Raccoon River.
- Nine Land and Water Conservation Fund city and county grants for a total of approximately \$1.1 million. The funding for these grants comes from the United States Department of the Interior.
- 2023-2024 Deer Management Zone Hunts that include 69 different locations.

**Agenda.** The agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

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