

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**  
**JANUARY 13, 2011**

**HELD AT:**

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**HENRY WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING**  
**502 EAST 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**DES MOINES, IA 50319**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by Chairperson, Gregory Drees on January 13, 2011 at 8:30a.m. He thanked staff for the planning and education session held the previous day it was very helpful to the commission. He then welcomed the public to the meeting and reviewed the public speaking forum guidelines.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Gregory Drees, Chairperson  
Richard (Kim) Francisco, Secretary  
Elizabeth Garst  
Tammi Kircher, Vice-Chairperson  
Dennis Schemmel  
Margo Underwood  
Janelle Rettig

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

- None

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA (\*INDICATES PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA ITEM)**

- \*7.2 - Pine Lake State Park, Hardin County – Roofing and Building Repairs
- \*9.1 - Boone Wildlife Research Station – Boone Co. – Xenia Rural Water District
- \*13 - Concession Contract Renewal – Rock Creek State Park
- \*17 - Natural Resource Based Business Opportunities Grant Program

**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Kircher  
**Decision** – Approved as Presented

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2010**

**Motion** – Commissioner Underwood moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2010.  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Schemmel  
**Decision** – Approved as Amended by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

### 3. INTERIM DIRECTOR REMARKS

- Introduction of Director Lande
- Introduction of new Engineering Bureau Chief Gabe Lee
- Budget Update
  - Current budget – our share of the \$84M statewide budget cut totaled \$2.1M, backfilled \$1M – so about where expected for this fiscal year. However, this gives a new base that is \$900k less than anticipated for FY12. DNR Management is looking closely at what remaining positions may be filled – both overall, and particularly out of the general fund.
  - Delhi Dam Funding, using lakes funding for now, but anticipate FEMA reimbursement
- IWill Rulemaking

A small group will be convened to begin looking at the initial issues around rulemaking and establish a method for broad stakeholder involvement as the rulemaking progresses.
- LEAN Government Kaizen's:
  - Conservation Easements the following week January 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
  - Dock Permitting on February 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Engineering on February 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Executive Committee Meeting

Deputy Director Boddy recently participated in an AFWA Executive Committee Meeting teleconference in which it was voted on whether or not to participate in the lawsuit against EPA for failure to enforce lead standards on ammunition and sinkers. AFWA voted to support the EPA's position to deny the petition to ban lead in ammunition and sinkers. Deputy Director Boddy was the lone vote against banning. AFWA will be filing an amicus brief in support of EPA. AFWA believes this is a states' rights issue and should be handled state by state.
- Legislative Breakfast: January 19, 7:30-9 a.m., Room #116
  - Followed by an optional EPC/NRC Commission Information Update Session:

Discussion Topics to include:

    - Iowa Bluff Lands Summary
      - Unique Natural Resource
      - Community Economics
      - Law & Policy Questions
    - Agricultural Drainage Updates
      - Iowa agricultural drainage law
      - Study summary
    - Lunch & Presentations
      - Natural Resources Polling Summary
- Kudos to Commissioner Kircher

Deputy Director Boddy recognized Commissioner Kircher for facilitating the resolution of the combined sewer overflow issue in Keokuk. Commissioner Kircher met with the mayor and public works to understand what the city could live with. She then met with Environmental Services Division (ESD) Administrator Wayne Gieselman and ESD Legislative Liaison Sharon Tahtinen and after the conclusion of that meeting a call was made to EPA in Kansas City and an agreement was signed with Keokuk that allows them 20 years to comply with federal demands. EPA had been demanding 17 years.

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Rick Reed – Property line issue

**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco motioned to adopt a policy that the public participation time should be approximately 30 minutes after the beginning of a meeting.

**Seconded** – Commissioner Garst

**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

#### 5. HONEY CREEK DESTINATION RESORT STATE PARK – MONTHLY UPDATE

- Andy Woodrick, Honey Creek State Park Resort General Manager and Linda Caird, Central Group Management reviewed with the commission the following:
  - December Actual vs. Flash
  - Strategic Initiatives / Progress
  - Honey Creek Financial Performance
  - Operating Metrics
  - STR Market Data
  - Guest Satisfaction
  - Golf Update
  - Sales and Marketing Update
  - 90-Day Forecast

#### Discussion:

- Commissioner Rettig stated that the teleconference meeting mentioned by Central Group Companies held the previous week with the Asset Manager did not meet the contractual requirements agreed upon. She stated that as she recalled; per the contract agreement the Asset Manager would make on site visits once per month for the first 6 months.
- Later during General Discussion Deputy Director Boddy explained that during a break she had reviewed the asset manager contract and Commissioner Rettig was correct in that the contract did state the Asset Manager would be required to make maonthly site visits to the resort by the end of the third week of the each month and presentations to the NRC on a quarterly basis. She explained that the Asset Manager had previously coordinated site visits to coincide with NRC meeting dates over the last several months, so they in partnership with the managing company, could present the monthly update information to the commission. The Asset Manager is scheduled to be on site next week (the third week of January).

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

## 6. NRC LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE

- The primary writers gave an update on progress made towards drafting the proposed legislative report with the following topics:
  - Lead – Commissioner Underwood
  - Communication / Outreach – Commissioner Underwood
  - State Parks – Commissioner Garst
  - Forest Health – Commissioner Garst
  - Value of Economic Development – Commissioner Francisco
    - Increase the number of non-resident deer licenses
    - Change the mourning dove classification from a songbird to game bird to allow for the establishment of a dove hunting season.
    - Revitalization of Iowa’s fishing & hunting heritage

**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco moved to approve the report and send to the legislature.

**Seconded** – Commissioner Garst

**Discussion** – Commissioner Underwood asked if it would be possible to attach the information from the Trust Fund Forum meetings into the NRC legislative report. Diane Ford, Conservation & Recreation Interim Division Administrator explained that a full presentation on the trust fund would be made to the Natural Resource Legislative Committee so with that in mind suggested having the information available on talking point posters at the legislative breakfast. Commissioner Francisco commended Chairperson Drees for his work on the editing the report. Commissioner Kircher suggested adding to next year’s report a piece on what the NRC “heard over the year and what did we do about it”. Commissioner Rettig again reiterated that she would not sign a report containing the recommendation of a state dove season.

**Decision** – Approved 6 – Aye’s 1-Nay (Rettig)

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

## 7. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

### 7.1 LITTLE STORM LAKE, BUENA VISTA COUNTY – LAKE RESTORATION

This project was designed by Ducks Unlimited, in cooperation with the Iowa DNR, and consists of the restoration of a site adjacent to Little Storm Lake and incidental work as required by the Plans and the D.U. Construction Inspector. NOTE: Embankment portions of this work are to be performed in the winter due to unstable subsoil conditions at the site. The design includes restoration of several sites surrounding Little Storm Lake, which will allow more control of water quality within the lake and better opportunities for anglers.

This project was designed by Roger Smith, P.E., (Ducks Unlimited) and will be inspected by Jeff Felts, P.E., DNR District Inspector and Ducks Unlimited (consultant). Ducks Unlimited estimate is \$710,000. Funding source is Lake Water Quality Fund and WIRB Grant Lake Preservation Association (Capital Links 94 & 95). 21 sets of plans were issued and 3 bids were received.

Lessard Contracting Inc.	Sergeant Bluff, IA	\$789,245.35
Landwehr Construction Inc.	St. Cloud, MN	\$866,357.64
Merryman Excavation Inc.	Woodstock, IL	\$1,187,871.00

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, Lessard Contracting Inc.

**Motion** – Commissioner Kircher  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Francisco  
**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**\*7.2 PINE LAKE STATE PARK, HARDIN COUNTY – ROOFING AND BUILDING REPAIRS**

This project consists of replacement of asphalt shingled roofs and miscellaneous building repairs at Pine Lake State Park as required by the project manual and the DNR Construction Inspector.

This project was designed by Mike Broderick, DNR Engineer, and will be inspected by Don Labate, DNR District Inspector. DNR estimate is \$140,000. Funding source is Executive Council (No Capital Link). 3 sets of plans were issued and 3 bids were received.

Smith-Gehrls Inc.	Iowa Falls, IA	\$116,000.00
Jensen Builders LTD	Fort Dodge, IA	\$131,400.00
VIS Ltd	Marshalltown, IA	\$145,325.00

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, Smith-Gehrls Inc.

**APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENSUS**

**7.3 CLEAR LAKE MCINTOSH WOODS STATE PARK, CERRO GORDO COUNTY – SHORELINE STABILIZATION**

This project consists of the stabilization of 1550 lineal feet of critical areas of the Clear Lake shoreline using engineered fabric and armoring with native fieldstone revetment. 850 lineal feet will be constructed from the lake side due to cultural resources and high wooded banks along one section of the project, using approximately one half of the needed 1854 tons of revetment.

Clear Lake is one of the 35 lakes prioritized by the Lakes Program for Restoration. Current activities include the recently completed dredging of 2.3 million cubic yards of sediment from the Little Lake portion of Clear Lake and planning with the Corps of Engineers for a \$2.5 million dollar restoration of Ventura Marsh. Control of sediment to Clear Lake, by shoreline stabilization, is an important component of overall restoration efforts.

This project was designed by Mel Pacovsky, DNR District Inspector and Troy Duff, DNR Designer, and will be inspected by Mel Pacovsky, DNR District Inspector. DNR estimate is \$80,000. Funding source is Lake Water Quality Fund and Hancock SWCD (Capital Link 78).

8 sets of plans were issued and 4 bids were received.

Cole Excavating	Greene, IA	\$60,591.50
TK Concrete, Inc.	Pella, IA	\$64,660.00
Nate Moeller Construction LLC	Tripoli, IA	\$132,507.00
Godby Land Improvements LLC	Albia, IA	\$313,985.48

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, Cole Excavating.

**Motion** – Commissioner Underwood  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Francisco  
**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**8. SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONTRACTS**

The following projects have been let utilizing the Competitive Quotation process for projects \$100,000 or less:

BID DATE	PROJECT	COUNTY	AREA	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE	BIDS
12/2/10	10-05-91-02	Warren	Banner Shooting Range	Dike Construction/tile investigation	\$35,000.00	\$14,284.50
						<b>\$14,825.00</b>
						<b>\$15,460.00</b>
						<b>\$47,750.00</b>
12/16/10	10-05-50-03	Jasper	Rock Creek State Park	FEMA Flood Repairs	\$15,000.00	\$9,759.82
						<b>\$10,951.00</b>
						<b>\$44,670.00</b>

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

## **9. LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

### **\*9.1 BOONE WILDLIFE RESEARCH STATION – BOONE CO. – XENIA RURAL WATER DISTRICT**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve issuance of a permanent water line easement to Xenia Rural Water District to construct and maintain a water main and meter pit. The water main and pit are part of a project to provide water service to the Boone Wildlife Research Station. A small section of water main and the meter pit will sit just outside of the public road right of way. The easement would be 30 feet in width and approximately 50 feet in length.

There will be no compensation for this easement due to the fact that the sole purpose of the easement is to allow water service to the Department's property. Construction of the main would likely take place early in 2011.

Staff recommends the easement issuance.

**APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENSUS**

## **10. LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

### **10.1 RINGGOLD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA – RINGGOLD CO. – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a tract of land located in Ringgold County. This 192-acre tract is offered by The Nature Conservancy for the appraised value of \$314,000.00. TNC purchased the property in 2008 for \$346,000.00. Sellers have stipulated a 2-year reservation of grazing rights.

The appraisal was submitted by licensed appraiser, Gary Thien, Thien Farm Management, Inc., Council Bluffs, Iowa. The purchase agreement was negotiated by Jerry Gibson.

The property is located approximately 9 miles south and 2½ miles east of Mount Ayr adjacent to the Iowa/Missouri boundary. The tract is accessible from 320th Street on the north, and 260th Avenue on the east. The property consists of 152 acres of pasture; 20 acres of native prairie; 10 acres of timber; 3.5 acres of open water, and 6.5 acres of road right-of-way and waste. There is one dilapidated building on the property. The average Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) is 35.4. Development/management after acquisition will result in 152 acres of seeded/restored native prairie; 20 acres of native prairie; 10 acres of timber; 3.5 acres of open water (pond); and 6.5 acres of road ROW and waste.

Acquisition of this parcel will continue the development of prairie remnants and grassland management. The property will be managed by the Wildlife Bureau. No fencing or surveying costs are anticipated.

Acquisition funding will be \$190,000.00 from REAP License Plate, and \$124,000.00 from the federal State Wildlife Grant. The property will remain on the property tax roll. Incidental closing costs are the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco

**Seconded** – Commissioner Garst

**Discussion** – Commissioner Underwood asked about the removal of the buildings on the site. Travis Baker explained the department policy would be utilized to either sell and have moved or sell for salvage. If no interest the department would go through the state historical and OSHA procedures and remove the structure(s). Commissioner Francisco suggested the department incorporate information about the area land management plan goals to future land acquisition item briefs for reference.

**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

~~**10.2 MAQUOKETA RIVER – CLAYTON CO. – SCHUCHMANN CENTENNIAL FARMS, LLC**~~

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**10.3 PINE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – INHF**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent south of Pine Creek Wildlife Management Area. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation offers this 35-acre tract for the appraised price of \$122,500.

Joel Klemish, Licensed Appraiser of Strawberry Point, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This triangular-shaped property is located 9 miles northwest of Waukon in northwestern Allamakee County. This moderately sloping to steep tract contains 20 acres of saddle-ridged cropland and 15 acres of maturing oak-hickory forest. The average corn suitability rating of the cropland is 57. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by county gravel-base roads; Ellingson Bridge Drive along the south, and Balsam Avenue along the east.

This tract will provide for wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. In addition, this acquisition will now allow for improved public access to the Pine Creek WMA. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be 75% from Pittman-Robertson and 25% from REAP, Open Spaces. The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. The Department will pay for a land survey as required for transfer. No fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

**Motion** – Commissioner Kircher  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Schemmel  
**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

#### **10.4 LAKE SUGEMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - VAN BUREN CO. – CORDA LIVESAY ESTATE**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Van Buren County, part adjacent northeast of Lake Sugema Wildlife Management Area, and part adjacent Shimek State Forest. The Corda Livesay Estate offers this 116-acre tract for the appraised price of \$245,000. The seller will reserve the right to retain the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payment on 42.9 acres through September 30, 2013.

Alan Janssen, Licensed Appraiser of Bloomfield, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located 5 miles southwest of Keosauqua in south central Van Buren County. The parcel is split into two tracts by a county, gravel-base road (235th St.). The north 40 acre tract reflects maturing forested land of strongly rolling to steep topography. The south 76 acre tract reflects 42.9 acres of established CRP and balance in pasture with forested ravines of moderately sloping to strongly rolling topography. There are no building improvements.

This acquisition represents a rare opportunity to add a key property adjacent to over 6,200 acres of public lands. The south tract is also a known nesting site for the Henslow's sparrow. The acquisition will provide for wildlife habitat, protection of the Lake Sugema watershed, and enhance public recreation to this area. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the south 76 acre tract, while the Forestry Bureau will manage the north 40 acre tract, both in accord with their respective area management plans.

Acquisition funding will be \$122,500 from REAP Open Spaces, \$61,250 from REAP License Plate, and \$61,250 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp. The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. No survey or fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

**Motion** – Commissioner Underwood

**Seconded** – Commissioner Rettig

**Discussion** – Commissioner Underwood asked if the two bureaus area land management plans would be compared for common objectives. Deputy Director Boddy explained that the department is working on improving those collaborations in the future.

**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

## **11. BLUFFLANDS PROTECTION, REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROJECT**

The Blufflands Protection Program and Revolving Loan Fund were established in 1999 to provide assistance to private conservation organizations in the acquisition and protection of significant blufflands along the Iowa side of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Loans are for a maximum of five years with simple interest of 4.0 percent. Interest is waived at such time as an approved conservation easement is placed on the property or if the property is transferred in fee title to the State of Iowa. Where practicable, lands purchased with loan funds shall be available for public use under terms and conditions stated in the loan agreement.

One application was received and reviewed, with a loan request totaling \$250,000. The amount available for loans is \$250,000. A loan in the amount of \$250,000 to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has been approved.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation secured the property at auction for \$944,000 on October 26, 2010. The property has 191 acres of oak savanna, riparian bottomland, remnant prairie, and pasture. The property has several wooded ravines and an intermittent stream running through the eastern portion. The entire 320-acre property is within the watershed for the West Branch of French Creek, one of the premier cold water trout streams in Iowa. French Creek is one of only four cold water trout streams in Iowa with naturally reproducing brook trout.

A portion of the property will be acquired by the Iowa DNR and become part of French Creek Wildlife Management Area.

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

## 12. NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION – CHAPTER 14 “CONCESSIONS”

The Departments requests Commission approval for publication of a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 14 “Concessions”. The proposed amendments:

1. Update date the definition of concession operations by removing the reference to firewood sales. Update the definition of friends groups to include those groups whose purpose may be to promote and enhance the Iowa state park system.
2. Rescind the rule regarding advertising and adopt a new rule that establishes the new process to advertise for new concession operations and the process to renew concession contracts.
3. Rescind the rule regarding the bid process and adopt a new rule that establishes the new process for bidding new concession operations, placement of vending machines, selling of firewood only, and concession operations run by friends groups.
4. Rescind the rule regarding selection of the concessionaire and adopt a new rule that establishes the criteria which will be used to evaluate concession proposals.
5. Establish a new provision that allows the department to have other vendors provide certain concession services if the service is not under contract with the current concessionaire and the current concessionaire declines to provide the service.
6. Clarify when a temporary letter of authorization is necessary if commission approval is required by statute.
7. Update language to reflect “park staff” instead of “park ranger” since there are other classifications of permanent park staff that may be involved with concession operations.

**Motion** – Commissioner Garst

**Seconded** – Commissioner Francisco

**Discussion** – Commissioner Rettig asked about the advertising requirement in the rule; and wanted to know if other advertising avenues were being considered to keep costs down. Kevin Szcodronski explained that the target for these concessionaire contracts were more localized. Commissioner Francisco suggested an area of the website be devoted to ‘small business opportunities’ and within that concessionaire contracts be included. Tamara Mullen, DNR Attorney recommended to approve the NOIA and work on language for the final rule. Commissioner Underwood asked how many vending machines would be allowed in state parks and if they would be required to support the healthy food initiative. Kevin Szcodronski explained that there are very few vending machine companies and typically there are only a couple vending machines per park, the department provides the pad in which they are placed. Kevin Szcodronski also explained that the Department of Health recently applied for and received a grant for a project working with vending companies to provide healthier food alternatives and they wanted to involve state parks so he wrote a letter of support pledging to work on the issue with them.

**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**\*13. CONCESSION CONTRACT RENEWAL – ROCK CREEK STATE PARK**

The Department requests Commission approval for the renewal of the Rock Creek State Park concession contract to Sue Yeager dba Rock Creek Marina.

Staff received the request for renewal of the concession contract Rock Creek State Park near Kellogg in Jasper County as permitted under Chapter 571 - 14 of the Administrative Code. Notice of intent to renew was published in the statewide edition of the Des Moines Register on November 27, 2010 and in the Newton Daily News on November 27, 2010. No comments were received regarding the renewal request. The following is the current contract provisions and proposed stipulations for the renewal.

The operation is a full service concession offering snack-type food service, convenience store items, bait sales, boat and motor rentals, and firewood sales.

The concessionaire will pay the following fees to the State for the concession operation:

- 2011 – \$1,700
- 2012 – \$2,000
- 2013 – \$2,300
- 2014 – \$2,600
- 2015 -- \$2,600

This renewal will extend the concession contract through December 31, 2015.

**APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENSUS**

**14. BRUSHY CREEK TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following recommended appointments to the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board. The Trails Advisory Board advises the Department and the Natural Resource Commission regarding issues and recommendations relating to the development and maintenance of trails and related activities at or adjacent to the Brushy Creek Recreation Area.

As outlined in Iowa Code 455A.8, the Board is composed of 10 members: the Director or his designee, a member from the State Preserves Board, the park employee responsible for Brushy Creek Recreation Area, and 7 members recommended by the Director and appointed by the Natural Resource Commission. Board members must actively participate in recreational trail activities such as hiking, bicycling, an equestrian sport, or a winter sport at the Brushy Creek Recreation Area.

The following recommendations are based on average scores (in parentheses) and include consideration for gender balance, term length in cooperation with the staggered term system, and spouses not serving on the board at the same time. The scoring was conducted by DNR staff John Pearson, Daryl Howell, Jim Lawson, Amber O’Neill, Kelly Poole, and Greg Van Fosson.

The NRC is requested to appoint the following two applicants for three year terms:

**Mike Tinkham (35.5) – 3 years**

Mike Tinkam lives in Maxwell and works for Harold Pikes Construction in Ames. Mike has been a BCTAB member for 14 years and has been a great advocate for trails and the Brushy Creek area. Mike is an avid equestrian trail rider and also loves to camp. Mike has been a great spokesperson for all park users of Brushy Creek.

**Dan Hansen (26.3) - 3 years**

Dan Hansen lives in Dayton and owns and operates his own land improvement business and is also a NRCS Commissioner for Webster County. Dan has served on the SWG School board for 14 years. Dan is an avid outdoors person who loves to camp, fish, hike, canoe and kayak. His family is an avid user of the all parks including Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, Dolliver State Park, and Webster County Conservation Parks to name a few. Because of his business he is very familiar with the equipment typically used in parks and on trails.

The following is the average score for the third applicant:

**Beth Aswegan (25.6)**

Beth Aswegan lives in Elkhart and works in Des Moines. She works for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. She has been a BCTAB member for 3 years, currently a board member for the Iowa Trail Riders Association, currently a board member for Region 6 of the North American Trail Riders Association and a former member of the Iowa Equestrian Trail Council. She has been visiting Brushy Creek for 25 years.

The two appointed members will join the 5 standing members (Donna Christensen, Linda Jenny, Lori Lange, Pat Reed, and Ron Jacobson), Deb Lewis (Preserves Board designee), Chad Kelchen (Park Manager), and Kevin Szcodronski (DNR Director Designee) to make up the 10 member board.

**Amendment** – For gender balance the recommendation is to appoint Mike Tinkham and Beth Aswegan  
**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco moved to approve as amended  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Kircher  
**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

## **15. BRUSHY CREEK TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

Pat Reed, Chairperson of the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board, presented the 2010 Annual Report. Mr. Reed showed photos and maps during the presentation to allow commissioners and attendees to better visualize the Board's activities.

### **Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board 2010 Annual Report Presented to the IA DNR Natural Resource Commission – 01/13/11**

- ◆ With the completion of the 2009 calendar year two BCTAB positions needed to be filled. Board members Mike Tinkham and Ron Jacobson's terms expired and after posting these vacancies to the public Lori Lange and Ron Jacobson were selected to serve 3 year terms. In April Kelly Keller decided to resign from her position on the board and Mike Tinkham was chosen to finish out the final year of her term. In April park staff gave a tour of the Southeast river trails where there was heavy flood damage that spring from extremely high Des Moines River levels. At the very south end the entire trail fell into the river. The board recommended moving it over, even though the other trail that makes it a loop is only about 50 feet away. Another trail became a swamp and was holding water even longer than normal. Park staff posed the question to the TAB whether to abandon the trail completely because it is a recurring problem area that does stay closed quite often but they elected to wait and see how it dried up during the summer.
- ◆ This year the I-Jobs program funded a concrete pit vault toilet and restroom/shower house in the North Equestrian Campground. Four new cabins (2 equestrian, 2 non equestrian) are on schedule to be built in Fiscal Year 2011.
- ◆ Webster County Conservation Board donated 40 acres of property to the south of Brushy Creek SRA's southeast border. They had no easy access to it for management because it was land-locked. It is mostly flood-prone river bottom that may or may not be suitable for trails.
- ◆ Chairperson Pat Reed proposed having an extra 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in July because he liked the idea of getting mid-summer updates and being able to discuss issues in the middle of the recreation season instead of just the beginning and end. At this July meeting Pat, Donna, Beth and Kevin S. met with the Webster County Road Department Engineer to investigate the possibility of putting a culvert under the road north of the South Camp for a trail connection and what options there were for doing an at-grade trail crossing on CR D-46. He said he would get back to the group after some consideration and investigation. The DNR is particularly concerned with the liability of having horses cross a 55 mph roadway. As of the October meeting the engineer had not made any contact with the group.
- ◆ In July another heavy rain caused a lot of damage on the all-weather rock trail and other areas, including taking out a large section of creek bank below the spillway. The trail had to be moved further downstream to avoid a deep hole in the creek crossing.
- ◆ Mike brought up a complaint made to him about a lot of non-equestrians camping in the equestrian campgrounds. This does happen, but they are required to pay the equestrian fee. Chad explained what some people don't realize is sometimes equestrians have extra friends and family that are camping with them but don't have horses of their own. Or it may be older folks that used to have horses that can no longer ride but still enjoy being around them. To date, we have never had to turn an equestrian rider away since the end of "overflow" camping. There are 217 equestrian campsites and 47 non-equestrian campsites.

- ◆ Webster and Hamilton Counties were awarded a “Great Places” designation for a development idea that includes the Webster Co. Conservation Board building an environmental education center at Brushy Creek. Placing it at Brushy would offer trails and several educational habitat components, and foster an ongoing cooperative effort between WCCB and the DNR to offer a great attraction for park users. It is hoped that this will assist leaders with finding funding sources to execute the plan.
- ◆ Two board positions are up for election this year, that of Mike Tinkham and Beth Aswegan.
- ◆ Flood damage was once again a topic at the October meeting. In August about 5” of rain fell on already saturated ground causing culvert washouts, landslides, and major gullies on both rock and dirt trails. For the first time even the all-weather trail had to be closed due to unsafe conditions. It was back open in about a week and in about another week the other trails were open with a detour around the south camp landslides. All trails were open for Labor Day Weekend. And then we had a beautiful DRY October with high camping revenue. The August flood was declared a FEMA disaster so funding will be available for repairs.

<b>INFORMATIONAL ONLY</b>
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## **16. CONTRACT WITH INCORPORATED CITY OF SIOUX CENTER AND SIOUX CENTER MULTI SPORT COMPLEX BOARD FOR SIOUX CENTER MULTI SPORT RECREATIONAL COMPLEX**

### **Recommendations:**

Commission approval is requested for a 25 year-service contract with Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Incorporated City of Sioux Center and Sioux Center Multi Sport Complex Board. The contract will begin on January 13, 2011 and terminate on January 13, 2026. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$100,000 for FY11.

### **Funding Source:**

The DNR, to the extent feasible by available funds and budget, and subject to the Termination Rights described in General Conditions Section 2, shall provide financial assistance through its Capital Range Development Project, and any Federal or State grants. The City and the Board shall, to the best of their ability, acquire funds through grants, fundraising, donations, and budget appropriations.

### **Background:**

The City of Sioux Center owns a former golf course that is a prime location for a multi-sport outdoor recreation center and camp ground. The City of Sioux Center, the DNR, and the Board are partnering together to create a multi-sport complex at this location that will have shooting sport facilities, an all-terrain vehicle trail course, fishing, a social meeting center, and a campground. This complex will provide excellent outdoor recreation opportunities for the entire state.

**Purpose:**

The DNR’s purpose in entering into this Cooperative Agreement is to develop and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, especially shooting sports, off-highway vehicle sports, fishing, and camping in the State of Iowa by partnering with the City and the Board to turn a former golf course into a multi-sport complex.

The City’s purpose in entering into this Cooperative Agreement is to promote and develop recreational opportunities for the citizens of Sioux Center and residents of Sioux County in the form of shooting sports, archery, camping, fishing, and all-terrain vehicle trails.

The Board’s purpose in entering into this Cooperative Agreement is to develop an area for recreational use for shooting sports, archery, camping, fishing, and all-terrain vehicle trail riding.

**Contractor Selection Process:**

28E Agreement with the City of Sioux Center and Sioux Center Multi Sport Complex Board.

**Motion** – Commissioner Francisco

**Seconded** – Commissioner Schemmel

**Discussion** – Commissioner Underwood asked if there were detailed plans as to what would be done with the \$100k. Bob Garrison explained that department project contact Megan Wisecup had the detailed plans and he would request she bring those at a later date to share with the Commission. Commissioner Underwood asked what the partner match would be. Bob Garrison explained that they would be contributing the land, and funds whenever possible. Tamara Mullen explained that the 28E Agreement identifies each partner, and what their specific roles are in the project (i.e., it establishes the overall framework of the project), and contains lots of reasons for early termination should the DNR be unable to contribute funding, staff time, or resources in the future. Commissioner Underwood stated that in future requests of this nature she would like to see the partnership responsibilities included in the item brief.

**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**\*17. NATURAL RESOURCE BASED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

A change is being requested to the Natural Resource Based Business Opportunities Grant (NRBBOG) Program. Since this brief was first made, Carroll Community Market Coop withdrew, so there is now enough money available to fully fund Walking Stick Adventurers. After all awards, there is a remaining balance of \$5,151.

Commission approval is requested for the Natural Resource Based Business Opportunities Grant (NRBBOG) Program. A total of \$142,500 was appropriated from the DNR Environment First Fund for the development of projects related to natural resource-based business opportunities; an additional \$7,500 was made available to the Department to administer the program, for a total appropriation of \$150,000. Another \$24,065 of undistributed funds from the last grant cycle is also available (undistributed funds declined by the RC&D are due to incompleteness of their project

within the two-year project period). Total dollars available for awards, therefore, is \$166,565. Local Resource Conservation and Development boards (RC&D) sponsored by county governments or Soil and Water Conservation Districts were eligible to receive funding on a dollar-to-dollar or in-kind match basis.

The NRBBOG Review Committee consisting of Jim Gillespie of IDALS Division of Soil Conservation, and Iowa League of RC&Ds Executive Committee Members Warren Johnson, Jim Frederick, Duane McFadden, Rick Juchems, and Dennis Schwab convened on September 7, 2010 to review 18 RC&D projects requesting \$327,346 in funding. Based upon a competitive scoring system that considers whether businesses use natural resources in a sustainable way, the Department requests approval of the grants listed below (see attached summary description for each project). The Department recommends fully funding the top eight ranked projects:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Award</b>
Chariton Valley RC&D	Enviro Logs	\$25,000	\$25,000
Northeast Iowa RC&D	The Chairshop: A Revival of Skilled Craftsmanship	\$25,000	\$25,000
Northeast Iowa RC&D	Upper Iowa Organics	\$25,000	\$25,000
Prairie Rivers RC&D	Value Added Products Rescue Small Rural Businesses	\$25,000	\$25,000
Golden Hills RC&D	Loess Hills CSA	\$5,214	\$5,214
Limestone Bluffs RC&D	Knot Enough Thyme Expansion Project	\$6,200	\$6,200
Prairie Winds RC&D	Standard Exchange: Outdoor Equipment Repair and Rentals	\$25,000	\$25,000
Iowa Valley RC&D	Walking Stick Adventures	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$161,414</b>

The projects described in the table below represent the unsuccessful grant applicants. They are provided for the Commission’s information but are not recommended for funding at this time.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>
Iowa Heartland RC&D	Strengthening 16 Small Farm Businesses	\$15,000
Golden Hills RC&D	Rubber Duck Outfitters	\$18,397
Prairie Partners RC&D	Iowa Interpretative Services-Interpreting Iowa's Resources	\$12,000
Cedar Valley RC&D	Upper Wapsi Nature Resource Business Development	\$24,000
Northeast Iowa RC&D	A Great Website Worth a Million Visitors	\$25,000
Southern Iowa RC&D	Facilitating Creation of Entrepreneurial NR Based Businesses	\$25,000
Iowa Valley RC&D	Amana Colonies Historic Cabins Project	\$10,035
Golden Hills RC&D	Archeological Survey at the Glenwood Resource Center	\$7,500
Iowa Lakes RC&D	Simple Solutions Supporting Rural Communities	\$12,500

**APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENSUS**

**18. DONATIONS**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

<b>Donation to:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Donation Provided by:</b>
Green Valley State Park	\$5,554.50	Labor donation toward the construction of playground equipment in memory of Greg Haley	Relatives and friends of Greg Haley
Brushy Creek Recreation Area	\$5,000.00	Funds toward the purchase of playground equipment for the south campground	Deardorff Foundation
Brushy Creek Recreation Area	\$250.00	Funds toward the purchase of playground equipment for the south campground	Three Rivers Saddle Club
Stephens State Forest Campground	\$720.00	Four fire rings with grills	Joe Morrett, Scout Troop 149
Red Haw State Park	\$582.30	24 x 60 waist high grill for shelter	Scout Troop 149
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park	\$180.00	Fabricate fork lift tongs for tractor	McQuoid Welding
Pine lake State Park	\$299.95	New chainsaw & accessories to assist with hailstorm clean-up	Paul Primus, Lazy P Ranch
Lake Macbride State Park	\$1,500.00	Funds toward improvements to Lake Macbride State Park	Solon Beef Days Committee
Lake Darling State Park	\$1,999.00	Snow blower and salt spreader	Friends of Lake Darling
Saylorville Wildlife Unit	\$300.00	Appraisal service regarding land in Guthrie County next to Lakin Slough	Johnson Appraisal Services
DNR- State Fair Building	\$216.65	Park bench made from recycled plastic milk jugs the DNR collected for a recycling event	Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$2,383.35	Constructed and installed 12 foot benches by canoe launch for amphitheater /programs, and made four benches out of 4"x6" lumber and 8"x8" posts for an Eagle Scout project. These will be used for programs in the park.	Ryan Kass
Lake Macbride State Park	\$650.00	Funds for a bench in Lake Macbride State Park in memory of Phyllis Pelland	Family of Phyllis Pelland

**Motion** – Commissioner Kircher motioned to approve the donations with Thanks & Gratitude.  
**Seconded** – Commissioner Underwood  
**Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioner Rettig
  - Letter from Iowa OHV
- Commissioner Schemmel
  - Thanked staff for the informational presentations
- Commissioner Garst
  - Amending deer hunting NOIA to move boundary from highway to property line
- Commissioner Kircher
  - Thanked staff for the informational presentations
  - NRC monthly tours – how valuable they were
- Commissioner Underwood
  - Thanked staff for the informational presentations
- Commissioner Francisco
  - Thanked staff for the informational presentations
  - Asked for the following:
    - SPAB board Minutes
    - Updated department organization chart
- Commissioner Drees
  - Thanked staff for the informational presentations
  - NRC monthly tours – how valuable they were

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- Amending deer hunting NOIA to move boundary from highway to property line
- EAB – what are communities doing? Education efforts?
- Lead Action Plan update

**UPCOMING NRC MEETING DATES:**

- 1/19/11 – 7:30am – 9:00am, Legislative Breakfast, Des Moines, State Capitol (optional)
- 1/19/11 – 10:00am – 1:00pm, Commission Informational Update,  
Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines (optional)
- 2/10/11 – 9:30am, Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines
- 3/10/11 – 9:30am, Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Rettig. Approved by Unanimous Vote. With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Chairperson Gregory Drees adjourned the meeting on January 13, 2011 at 1:15p.m.*

**APPROVED – MEETING ADJOURNED**

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