

MINUTES
OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2012

HELD AT:

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

For Office Use Only

Date Minutes Approved By NRC: 2/9/12

Director's Signature: *Roger L. Lande*

Roger L. Lande
Director

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NRC MINUTES

Sender's initials: KR

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Vice Chair, Margo Underwood, on 01/17/12 at 1:01 p.m.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Present

- Conrad Clement
- Richard (Kim) Francisco
- Dr. Sally Prickett
- Janelle Rettig
- Dennis Schemmel, Secretary
- Margo Underwood, Vice-Chair

Absent

- Gregory Drees, Chairperson

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion – Commissioner Clement
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF 12/08/11 NRC PUBLIC MEETING

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
Decision – Approved, Commissioner Rettig abstained

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

3. DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

No remarks.

4. HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK UPDATE

Geoff Baekey, CHM Central Group Companies Vice President, and Andy Woodrick, Honey Creek Resort General Manager, presented information on budget, marketing, and public relations.

Discussion: Commissioner Underwood requested presentation next month on the Resort’s strategic initiatives for 2012.

INFORMATION ONLY

***5. CONTRACT WITH MARJORY RANDOL, IOWA HABITAT AND ACCESS PROGRAM PROJECT**

Commission approval is requested for a 2 year-service contract with Marjory Randol of Weldon, IA. The contract would begin on January 20, 2012, and terminate on July 30, 2013. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$34,790. DNR shall have the option to renew this contract as long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period. Marjory Randol enrolled 215 acres into the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP). Along with 215 acres of access, enrollment allows for a service contract between the landowner and DNR to complete habitat work on 165 of those acres. This work will complement the resources the landowner has received through the federal Conservation Reserve Program. The contract cost was determined using

standardized “Not to Exceed” rates that have been developed for each practice that is eligible for IHAP funding. This contract will be funded through Iowa Code section 483A.3B(3)/Iowa Habitat and Access Program.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***6. DONATIONS**

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$10.00	Funds for natural resource management	Shellsburg Homemakers Ladies group
Stephens State Forest Campground	\$12.95	Remaining funds after Eagle Scout project at Stephens State Forest	Joe Morrett, Scout Troop 149
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery	\$25.00	In memory of Tim Van Meter, who was an outdoorsman and loved to go fishing	Jeff Johnston
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$60.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Kathy Simon
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park	\$61.00	Repair brush cutter wheel	David McQuoid, McQuoid Welding
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$165.00	Fill sand	Wendling Quarries C/O Doug Martin
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$500.00	Two manhole covers and one riser	Gee Grading and Excavating
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$750.00	Printing of hunting season posters and wallet cards for Scott County vendor use	Wade Webster, Waterfowl USA, Miss Valley Chapter
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$1,000.00	Funds for natural resource management	Linn Co. Pheasants Forever
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$1,000.00	Labor and equipment for cleaning the beach, beach parking lot, and beach restrooms once a day, 3 days per week.	Les and Mary Van Fossen
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$1,000.00	Funds for natural resource management and park operations	JMS Racing Services
Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	\$3,500.00	Labor, equipment, and fuel for custom mowing of prairies, trails and outlying parking areas	Kyle Schminke

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

7. 2011 REAP CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Annually, the first \$350,000 of the REAP appropriation is dedicated to conservation education. A conservation education board of five representatives of the following organizations determines how those funds are expended, under the REAP Act and administrative rules: DNR, Dept. of Education, Association of County Conservation Boards, Iowa Association of Naturalists, and the Iowa Conservation Education Council. A total of 23 conservation education grants were awarded for the May and November 2011 grant rounds, with awards totaling \$361,231. Approximately \$422,023 was leveraged through in cash and in-kind matches through these projects. Another \$31,500 was awarded to the University of Northern Iowa to assist and monitor implementation of CEP grants. A total of 10 projects requesting \$253,974 were not funded, and another project was funded at about one-third of request. The Conservation Education Program Board has awarded grants to all the projects listed below. The scope of work in each grant agreement will be to complete the grant project as described below. In its 20-

year history, that board has issued over \$8 million in grants to Iowa educators and education institutions. An explanation of grants in recent years and a full explanation of the program can be found at: www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/ConservationEducation.aspx.

Perpetuate a Good Idea Grants

Exploring Outdoors to Teach the Core--\$4,728; Guthrie Center Elementary School (REAP CEP#12-02)

Project funded: June 2011; The project's goal is to use available resources such as an outdoor classroom to provide conservation education opportunities for pre-K-6 grade students. A second goal is to demonstrate to educators and administrators how comprehensive, site-based conservation education supports the Iowa Core.

GreenArts--\$5,000; Metro Arts Alliance, Des Moines (REAP CEP #12-11); Project funded: November 2011

Metro Arts Alliance (MAA) will adapt and build upon a GreenArts CEP grant, awarded one year ago, to connect people to nature and build conservation awareness through the arts. With this project, MAA will provide more in-depth education to support long-term learning and exposure; and will perform a more robust evaluation to improve the program and attract new partners. The program is expected to provide 100 hours of community and school-based conservation arts activities, impacting up to 1,000 community members.

Trees Forever GreenForce--\$5,000; Trees Forever, Marion (REAP CEP #12-12); Project funded: November 2011; Trees Forever will work with six to 10 affiliated groups that haven't previously participated in GreenForce youth involvement training. Trees Forever also plans to reach an additional 25 high school and college clubs to let them know about opportunities with Trees Forever. Through this program, they expect to work with 150 youth and 60 adults, and have the youth become aware of environmental volunteer opportunities. They expect some to become regular volunteers.

REAP CEP Grant Agreements

Education for Cedar River Watershed: We're all in this Watershed Together--\$49,600; Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (REAP CEP #12-15); Project funded: November 2011; Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards will coordinate an educational effort throughout the Cedar River Watershed, drawing on 20 county conservation boards (CCB) to accomplish their education goals. Their goal is for citizens to understand and advocate for the value of natural areas for flood mitigation and to improve water quality. The project will develop tools such as signs, displays, a presentation, news articles, and short videos using unified themes and messages.

Green Holidays: Training Trainers to Create Socio-Cultural-Environmental Change--\$36,746; University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education (REAP CEP #12-14); Project funded: November 2011; Green Holidays will be targeted to non-formal educators/trainers. UNI CEEE plans to serve 125 new educators/trainers and continue to engage more than 100 existing trainers. A number of educational tools are available at www.reclaimyourholidays.org, and this project will allow creation of more tools, and coordination of train-the-trainer workshops. A needs assessment for K-12 will also be conducted. UNI expects educators to create more environmentally friendly holidays, and educate others about how to do this as well.

Using Consumption and Waste to Teach for Deeper Understanding--\$30,439; University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education (REAP CEP #12-04); Project funded: June 2011; UNI CEEE will conduct three graduate credit courses to provide 80 educators with a deeper content understanding of global consumption and waste issues. UNI will also introduce lesson plans to Pre-K-12 grade educators and future educators at conference sessions. UNI expects participants to know they are globally connected through the decisions they make and the products they buy. UNI also expects that teachers in the professional development course will be able to teach mini-units about consumption/waste.

Rainscaping Loess Soils--\$29,513; West Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District (REAP CEP (#12-06); Project funded: June 2011; Rainscaping Loess Soils education will be offered to 520 professionals such as nursery/garden center owners, the general public, and college students. Goals are for participants to achieve an

understanding of the capabilities and limitations of loess soils; learn effective rainscaping strategies; and incorporate this knowledge into the planning, design, installation and maintenance of Best Management Practices.

Managing Wildlife: Outreach for Women Landowners--\$28,499; Women, Food and Agriculture Network (REAP CEP #12-21); Project funded: November 2011; Women, Food and Agriculture Network's goal is to increase and improve wildlife and hunting management practices on Iowa's private land by creating an outreach program targeting women landowners. They will hold peer-to-peer meetings with landowners in three locations, both to increase participants' knowledge of wildlife and hunting management practices, and to collect data to inform development of a communication piece directed at women landowners.

Tallgrass Prairie Center Educational Shorts Film Series--\$25,080; University of Northern Iowa (REAP CEP #12-17); Project funded: November 2011; The University will develop, write, shoot and edit a series of 10 educational short films. The overall theme will be "How to plant and establish a prairie reconstruction." Each film will be five to 10 minutes long and provide techniques and basic information to achieve a successful tallgrass prairie reconstruction. The shorts will be used by the Tallgrass Prairie Center and also via streaming from the TPC website.

Master River Stewards: Ensuring a Legacy of River Restoration--\$22,690; Iowa Rivers Revival (REAP CEP #12-09); Project funded: June 2011; Master River Stewards provides hands-on classroom and field-based training for adults interested in knowing more about Iowa's river systems and using that knowledge to develop river protection and restoration projects. The project staff will develop curriculum that will be used to create a Master River Steward program, and to pilot the program with 25 adults from five watershed groups. Master River Stewards extends the models used in the Master Conservationist/Gardener programs, but focuses on rivers. The program is an eight-week course (four-hour sessions) that culminates in a volunteer project.

Iowa Outdoors: Science Segments--\$18,172; Iowa Public Broadcasting Board, Des Moines (REAP CEP #12-19); Project funded: November 2011; Iowa Public Broadcasting Board will produce season two of the Iowa Outdoors television series. REAP CEP funding will assist with production of video segments highlighting environmental sciences, and this new feature will be added to the Iowa Outdoors series. The goal is for TV viewers and web users to be more knowledgeable and interested in conservation issues. It is hoped that this, in turn, will result in viewers making greater use of Iowa's state and county parks and other natural resources to observe phenomena explored in the programs.

National Association for Interpretation: National Workshop--\$17,560; Iowa Association of Naturalists (#12-05); Project funded: June 2011; Funds will be used to award scholarships to members of the Iowa Association of Naturalists to attend the National Association for Interpretation conference in St. Paul in November, 2011. Funding will provide scholarships to 56 IAN members.

Reiman Garden Butterfly Conservation Awareness and Education Application--\$13,400; Reiman Gardens (REAP CEP #12-16); Project funded: November 2011; Reiman Gardens will develop software and will provide on-site and remote interactive technology to further engage visitors in the Garden's butterfly wing. The project's goals are also to enhance educational programming, provide a needed support service to volunteers, and provide new interactive educational tools for schools, field research and butterfly enthusiasts throughout Iowa. REAP CEP funds will be used to establish a database with a user interface to help users identify butterfly species and access species-specific data.

Expanding Professional Networks at Winter Solstice 2012--\$13,200; Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (#12-08); Project funded: June 2011; Participants in this project will be able to integrate new knowledge and skills gained, access new resources and contribute to a support network to encourage quality environmental education. The project includes awarding 30 scholarships to participants to attend Winter Solstice, conducting reflection groups to help scholarship recipients explore ways to apply what they learn at the conference, developing electronic tools to enable recipients to continue networking, and evaluating impact of program efforts.

Project WET Generation II Preservice Workshops--\$11,122; Iowa Academy of Science, Cedar Falls (REAP CEP #12-18); Project funded: November 2011; The Iowa Academy of Science will provide professional development workshops for Iowa preservice educators using Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). The goal is for at least 100 new preservice educators to be reached, and that they will be able to implement WET activities in future classrooms.

Project Archaeology: Investigating Culture and History--\$9,664; Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (REAP CEP #12-20); Project funded: November 2011; Golden Hills RC&D will conduct a workshop for up to 35 educators. One of the goals is for participants, at workshop's end, to be knowledgeable about the Glenwood Culture and history. Teachers will visit a reconstructed Glenwood Culture Earthlodge and see the work of an archaeological dig hosted by the Glenwood Museum. Another goal is for attendees to leave the workshop with the needed tools to develop their own lesson plans for indoor or outdoor classrooms.

Watershed Steward Eco-Team Program--\$8,824; Iowa Stormwater Education Program (REAP CEP #12-22) Project funded: November 2011; Iowa Stormwater Education Program's goal is to improve and protect Iowa's water resources by working directly with urban neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids. In this pilot project, volunteers will create eco-teams in Cedar Rapids neighborhoods. These teams will hold eight meetings and work together to make meaningful changes to improve and protect Iowa water quality.

Frog Watch: Expanding Citizen Science in Iowa--\$8,219; Dubuque County Historical Society (#12-07) Project funded: June 2011; The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will provide training to a projected 70 volunteers participating in the American Zoo Association Citizen Science program, Frog Watch. Volunteers will be trained to recognize species by sound. They will also be able to accurately collect and upload data to the Frog Watch website and the Iowa North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. An estimated 300 schoolchildren will be introduced to Citizen Science and amphibians.

Gladys Black Eagle Nest Cam--\$8,000; Red Rock Lake Association (REAP CEP #12-24); Project funded: November 2011; Red Rock Lake Association will provide eagle education for K-16 students as well as the general public. Videos will be developed as part of the project, and placed on the web. The goals are for the targeted audience to develop empathy for raptors, and for those reached to subsequently improve conservation practices and improve voluntary participation in nature.

Salute to Songbirds Traveling Exhibit--\$5,000; Friends of Hartman Reserve (REAP CEP #12-03); Project funded: June 2011; Funds will be used to ship the Salute to Songbirds traveling exhibit back to California at the end of its traveling exhibit time period.

Burn Association and Prescribed Fire Education--\$4,975; Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance (REAP CEP #12-10); Project funded: June 2011; The Alliance will educate landowners in the southern Iowa region about the use of prescribed fire as a land management tool. In addition, they will help establish a private prescribed burn association aimed at ameliorating avenues of communication between landowners so they may help each other plan and execute prescribed burns on each others' property. The fundamental goal is to increase the amount of prescribed fire conducted in Iowa for land management purposes.

Smart TrailSM--\$3,300; Harrison County Conservation Board (REAP CEP # 12-13); Project funded: November 2011; Harrison County Conservation Board will develop Smart TrailsSM, which incorporate quick response codes (QR) that allow for interactive interpretation. The Smart TrailsSM will bring interpretation to hiking trails in three county parks. A code will be scan-able by a mobile device to see or hear audio or visual interpretation using a URL address. Goals are for hikers to become more knowledgeable of Iowa's natural resources and the Loess Hills, thereby increasing environmental literacy.

Kellerton Grasslands Prairie Chicken Education--\$2,500; Ringgold County Conservation Board (REAP CEP #12-23); Project funded: November 2011; Ringgold County Conservation Board will develop an educational

kiosk to educate the public about protecting the prairie chicken and other species. The goal, in part, is for visitors and others they talk with to become better stewards of the land.

Applications that did not receive funding:

LaCIM	Writing to Wholeness	\$ 5,550.00
Villages Folk School	Nature Conservation Education program	\$ 4,600.00
Science Center of Iowa	iEARTH Summer Camp	\$ 36,373.00
Nahant Marsh Education Center	Nahant Marsh Field Station Educator	\$ 30,000.00

Discussion: Staff reported that the applications were down 10-20% likely due to the need for matching funds and potential applicants are under budget constraints.

INFORMATION ONLY

8. APPEAL OF CONTESTED CASE DECISION ON RESIDENCY DETERMINATION: KEITH HUGHES

This matter comes before the Natural Resource Commission on appeal of a Decision issued by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. Pursuant to rule 561 Iowa Administrative Code (I.A.C.) 7.17(5), as adopted by reference in 571 IAC 7.1, a party may appeal the decision of the ALJ to the Natural Resource Commission. In this case, the ALJ determined that the Appellant is not an Iowa resident for purposes of obtaining hunting and fishing licenses pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 483A. The Commission is being presented with the Decision of the ALJ, Mr. Hughes' Appeal, and Appeal Briefs of both parties. The entire record on appeal is available for review of the Commission. The record created in this contested case shall be the record relied upon by the Commission in reaching its Decision, which constitutes final agency action. The parties shall be allowed oral arguments pursuant to rule 561 I.A.C. 7.17(5)(f).

Keith Hughes presented his position by phone conference and Tamara Mullen, DNR Attorney, presented the Department's position.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig – moved to uphold the ALJ's decision

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Discussion: Commissioner Rettig commented that the Commission will need to rule based on the facts presented to the ALJ and she does not believe Mr. Hughes has made the case of his residency at that time and encouraged Mr. Hughes to continue his efforts toward Iowa residency.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9. LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

9.1 ODESSA WMA – LOUISA CO. – SCHAFFER

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a tract of land located 4 miles Northeast of Wapello, Iowa. This 2.31-acre parcel is offered by Harlan and Linda Schaffer for \$12,500.00. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement in compliance with Title 49 CFR Part 24 which allows the acquisition agent to negotiate without an appraisal from a value of \$10,000 to \$25,000 with the landowners waiving an appraisal. The property consists of 0.5 acres of grass/pasture/road frontage; 1.5 acres of timber on a steep slope; and 0.31 acres of road right-of-way. The tract is immediately adjacent to the Odessa Wildlife Management Unit headquarters, and can facilitate future expansion of the headquarters facilities. The area provides a beautiful vista of the Mississippi River, and has been sought after as a rural residential site. There are no buildings. Acquisition funding will be Wildlife Habitat Stamp. Minimal surveying costs are anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco

Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.2 GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK – BLACK HAWK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to accept the donation of 39.71 acres of land surrounded by George Wyth State Park in Waterloo. This donation is offered by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board/Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. The donation is being facilitated by Jerry Gibson. The property is located within the boundaries of George Wyth State Park adjacent to the Cedar River, and was previously leased to the Iowa DNR for management starting in 1981. The tract is locally known as Canfield Park. No survey costs are anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel
Seconded – Commissioner Clement
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.3 LAKE GEORGE WMA – HANCOCK CO. – LOGEMANN

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a permanent easement on a tract of land located in Hancock County adjacent to state-owned and managed Lake George Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Duane Logemann offers this 61.8-acre easement for \$47,814. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has purchased a 30-year Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement on this tract for \$143,441 (75% of the value of a permanent easement). Funding was provided under the Iowa-Cedar Headwaters Wetland Initiative, a partnership agreement established on April 5, 2011 between the DNR and NRCS through provisions of the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Eligibility for the 30-year WRP easement was conditional on the landowner agreeing to sell a permanent water quality protection easement to the State of Iowa for 25% of the value of the permanent easement. Under the WREP program, DNR submitted a proposal to address priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement in the Upper Reaches of the Iowa and Cedar River Watersheds. WREP is a voluntary conservation program designed to foster coordination with eligible partners and to encourage eligible landowners to enroll their property into perpetual and 30-year conservation easements for the purposes of restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetland and associated grassland and woodland habitats. The project proposes to work with 14 landowners to place 1,173 acres under a combination of permanent and 30-year WRP easements. The Project further proposes that state monies will be used to purchase permanent easements in tandem with the 30-year WRP easements from 7 landowners on 534 acres. NRCS WRP compensation methodology for a permanent easement is the lesser of 1) fair area-wide market survey analysis, 2) approved Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC), or 3) offer made by the landowner. The GARC includes a 20% reduction in value to account for the residual value of the property after the easement is in place. The landowner has also signed up to enroll the property in the Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP), and the property will be open to public hunting for a period of 5 years once the wetland and other habitat restoration has been completed. Acquisition funding will be \$47,814 from State Revolving Fund non-program income under the General Nonpoint Source Program. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the permanent easement acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Rettig
Discussion: Staff responded this easement will remain private property and the landowner is not required to allow public hunting but has agreed to that use.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.4 BIG MARSH WMA – BUTLER CO. – ULFERS

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a permanent easement on a tract of land located in Butler County near the state-owned and managed Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Milton Ulfers offers this 45.4-acre easement for the price of \$50,895. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has purchased a 30-year Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement on this tract for \$152,685 (75% of the value of a permanent easement). Funding was provided under the Iowa-Cedar Headwaters Wetland Initiative, a partnership agreement established on April 5, 2011 between the DNR and NRCS through provisions of the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Eligibility for the 30-year WRP easement was conditional on the landowner agreeing to sell a permanent water quality protection easement to the State of Iowa for 25% of the value of the permanent easement.

Under the WREP program, DNR submitted a proposal to address priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement in the Upper Reaches of the Iowa and Cedar River Watersheds. WREP is a voluntary conservation program designed to foster coordination with eligible partners and to encourage eligible landowners to enroll their property into perpetual and 30-year conservation easements for the purposes of restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetland and associated grassland and woodland habitats. The project proposes to work with 14 landowners to place 1,173 acres under a combination of permanent and 30-year WRP easements. The Project further proposes that state monies will be used to purchase permanent easements in tandem with the 30-year WRP easements from 7 landowners on 534 acres. NRCS WRP compensation methodology for a permanent easement is the lesser of 1) fair area-wide market survey analysis, 2) approved Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC), or 3) offer made by the landowner. The GARC includes a 20% reduction in value to account for the residual value of the property after the easement is in place. The landowner has also signed up to enroll the property in the Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP), and the property will be open to public hunting for a period of 5 years once the wetland and other habitat restoration has been completed. Acquisition funding will be \$50,895 from State Revolving Fund non-program income under the General Nonpoint Source Program. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the permanent easement acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Clement

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
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Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote
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CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.5 WEST FORK WMA – FRANKLIN CO. – KIBURZ

The Natural Resource Commission approval is requested to purchase a permanent easement on a tract of land located in Franklin County adjacent to the state-owned West Fork Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This 140-acre easement is offered by Kent Kiburz for \$145,012.00. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has purchased a 30-year Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement on this tract for \$435,037 (75% of the value of a permanent easement). Funding was provided under the Iowa-Cedar Headwaters Wetland Initiative, a partnership agreement established on April 5, 2011 between the DNR and NRCS through provisions of the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Eligibility for the 30-year WRP easement was conditional on the landowner agreeing to sell a permanent water quality protection easement to the State of Iowa for 25% of the value of the permanent easement. Under the WREP program, DNR submitted a proposal to address priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement in the Upper Reaches of the Iowa and Cedar River Watersheds. WREP is a voluntary conservation program designed to foster coordination with eligible partners and to encourage eligible landowners to enroll their property into perpetual and 30-year conservation easements for the purposes of restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetland and associated grassland and woodland habitats. The project proposes to work with 14 landowners to place 1,173 acres under a combination of permanent and 30-year WRP easements. The Project further proposes that state monies will be used to purchase permanent easements in tandem with the 30-year WRP easements from 7 landowners on 534 acres. NRCS WRP compensation methodology for a permanent easement is the lesser of 1) fair area-wide market survey analysis, 2) approved

Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC), or 3) offer made by the landowner. The GARC includes a 20% reduction in value to account for the residual value of the property after the easement is in place. Acquisition funding will be \$145,012 from State Revolving Fund non-program income under the General Nonpoint Source Program. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the permanent easement acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig
Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.6 WHITE HORSE ACCESS WMA—SAC COUNTY -- MELVIN J. FORWARD ESTATE

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to accept the donation by devise of approximately 100 acres in Sac County, Iowa. This 100-acre donation is offered by Melvin J. Forward in his last will and testament. The donation is subject to the life estate of Carlotta S. Buse. The donation is being facilitated by Jerry Gibson. The property is located three miles North of Auburn, and 7 miles East of Lake View adjacent to the west boundary of the White Horse Access WMA. The subject tract contains approximately 75 acres of cropland, and 25 acres of timber/brush adjacent to the North Raccoon River. The tract is utilized by songbirds, fur bearers, deer, wild turkey, and pheasants. The attorney for the estate said that Mr. Forward wanted to continue the growth of the wildlife area started by the Patton acquisition in 1983. The value of the land can be used as cost share “match” for federal funding on future acquisitions. No fencing or survey costs are anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
 Discussion: Staff responded that the land will managed as Carlotta determines until it is under the Department. Then it will be in the White Horse Access WMA. To determine property value for grant writing match opportunities, the land will be appraised.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

***10. LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

***10.1 MISSISSIPPI RIVER – DES MOINES COUNTY – CH. 17 BARGE FLEETING LEASE**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease No. 60-R with Matteson Marine Service, Inc. of Burlington, Iowa. The leased area is 150 feet in depth along 800 feet of frontage at Mississippi River Mile 405.8 adjacent to Baby Rush Island near the City of Burlington in Section 27, Township 70 North, Range 2 West of the 5th P.M., Des Moines County, Iowa. Barges are tied to deadmen installed on the Island, permitted by the DNR in 1992. This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988. A Public Notice was published. No comments were received. The annual fee is \$4,220.66 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years. Staff recommends approval of the lease agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***10.2 MISSISSIPPI RIVER – SCOTT COUNTY – CH. 17 BARGE FLEETING LEASE**

The Natural Resources Commission is requested to approve the Chapter 17 Lease 110-N with Blackhawk Fleet, LLC (wholly owned subsidiary of Marquette Transportation Company, LLC). Marquette Transportation purchased the area from Blackhawk Fleet Inc. in Buffalo, Iowa, in September 2011. The areas consist of the following locations and configurations: Area 3: is located at Mississippi River Mile 470 (Section 21, Township 77 North, Range 2 East of the 5th P.M., Scott County, Iowa). It has a capacity to 34 barges anchored in two

groups with one anchor barge each. Barges will be moored 9 wide by 2 long (approximately 315 feet of depth by 400 feet of frontage for each group). The annual fee would be \$8,448.46. Area 8: is located at Mississippi River Mile 472 (Section 19, Township 77 North, Range 2 East of the 5th P.M., Scott County, Iowa). It has a capacity of 17 barges anchored with 1 anchor barge. Barges will be moored 6 wide by 3 long (approximately 210 feet of depth by 600 feet of frontage). Barges may not be floated or other moored at Area 8 from May 1 through September 30. These floating areas support current operation in Pool 16. Floating operation serves several industries between Muscatine and Davenport, including grain elevators, quarries, power generation, agricultural chemicals, and oil, as well as asphalt and coal suppliers. This area has been under a barge floating lease since 2001. Marquette Transportation will make no changes to the operation of the terminal. A Public Notice was printed in local newspapers. No comments were received. The total annual fee for both areas would be \$10,982.59. The annual fees will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years. Staff recommends approval of the lease agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***10.3 JESSE R. FURROW, SR. ACCESS – MARSHALL COUNTY – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the renewal of a management agreement with the Marshall County Conservation Board and the DNR. This agreement authorizes the Marshall County Conservation Board to manage the Jesse R. Furrow, Sr., Access through 2036. This area was donated to the DNR in August of 1985 to be used as a river access site to the Iowa River. The Marshall County Conservation Board already manages two river access sites within seven miles and their headquarters is located within five miles of the Jesse R. Furrow, Sr., Access. They will be able to more efficiently manage and maintain this facility because of their proximity. The county desires to continue the agreement. Staff recommends approval of the management agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***10.4 HELMKE WMA – WRIGHT COUNTY – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a renewal of a management agreement between the Wright County Conservation Board and the DNR to authorize County management of Helmke Wildlife Management Area through December 31, 2035. Helmke Wildlife Area is a 50 acre area located 3 miles northeast of Renwick along the Boone River in northwestern Wright County. The area is primarily timber along the Boone River. A small parking area is provided on the south end for public access. Hunting and fishing are allowed. Marshall County desires to continue its management. Staff recommends approval of the management agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

11. CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CONSERVATION CORPS AND IA DNR RIVERS PROGRAM

Commission approval is requested to extend the Conservation Corps contract for three additional years with \$320,000 of new scope for additional projects. The original contract was a 2-year, \$210,000 contract with Conservation Corps, Inc., Maplewood, MN, which expires Jan. 31. State and federal recreational trails grant funding will allow the Department to continue projects that are constructed and maintained in support of state designated water trails, Department-owned dam warning signage hazard system maintenance and eroding hiking trail systems in state parks. To date, the contract accomplished the following, primarily in support of water trails:

- constructed three hiking trail segments and seven portage trails around dams
- designed plans for and installed hazard warning signage systems at seven dams
- cut passage through two major river snags
- installed two riverbank native restoration plantings in lieu of expensive riprap
- built a paddle-in campground at a USACE-managed area on Red Rock Lake
- constructed five water accesses
- built one water access parking lot

Conservation Corps provides vehicles and crew equipped with chainsaws and tools sufficient for many types of projects. Field assistants are project management liaisons with Iowa DNR staff so that proper materials and equipment are stationed at project sites when the crew will arrive, assist with project development, and help supervise the crew's work in the field. Conservation Corps members are 18 to 24 years old can work in locations that would be difficult for standard contractors to access. In most cases, they camp at the project site. They have hung hazard warning signs, fine-tuned grades, built stone stairs cases, planted native species, removed invasive species, rocked trails and constructed rolling dip trails at state parks and for portages around dams. Projects are scored, prioritized, determined and planned by Iowa DNR staff during winter months. They are prioritized by competitive assistance applications for non-state public land managers on water trails, and by priority selection for state-managed lands both on water trails and at state parks. Projects are then designed and permitted with specialized assistance from rivers team and state parks trail staff. A projects calendar is developed, and the crew is scheduled only when needed. Funding the addendum projects will derive from several revenue sources, including state recreational trails grants, federal recreational trails grants, REAP land management, marine fuel tax, and Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund. Minnesota Conservation Corps is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity that contracts for hire to public agencies. Approximately \$180,000 in this contract will be used for water trails projects, and approximately \$140,000 will be used for state park trail projects.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Clement
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

12. 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
12/1/2011	12-02-40-02	Wright	White Fox Creek WMA	Oxbow Lake	\$15,000	\$28,550.00
						\$19,300.00
12/8/2011	11-05-91-05	Warren	Lake Ahquabi State Park	Trail Repairs	\$60,000	\$56,204.00
						\$54,780.60
						\$54,473.40
						\$44,606.00

INFORMATION ONLY

13. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, SITE SURVEY FOR BACKBONE STATE PARK CABIN IMPROVEMENTS

The Department requests Commission approval of a delivery order for professional services of WHKS of Mason City, Iowa, a consulting engineer. Site survey services are needed from this consulting engineer. The Department has decided to restore eight CCC cabins located in Backbone State Park. The cabin's substructures are in excellent condition while the exterior and interior finishes (renovated in 1997) are worn and in need of replacement. These cabins will be taken off the current wooden post foundations, placed on a continuous concrete foundation wall and have a floating-slab floor inside of the foundation walls. They will also be raised an average of three feet via the new foundation walls to allow flood water to pass by without detrimental effects. To allow the DNR to finish this project, the Department will need to contract a consultant to establish a survey and locate all utilities. The WHKS will be completing a survey of the CCC cabins and the surrounding area at Backbone State Park. The survey will need to include all existing utilities (sewer, water, electric and other found in the area). The survey will provide topographical information (grading) and utilities in a usable digital file; area to be surveyed will be the cleared area around the cabins. The survey will also show all existing finish floors of cabins (spot elevation) and all points of contact with existing grade. Compensation for the services provided under this Delivery Order are not exceed \$7,950.00. The funding source is REAP Land Management 100% (Capital Link #162).

Motion – Commissioner Rettig Seconded – Commissioner Francisco Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

14.1 CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK - CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS & SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION

Project Summary: This project consists of upgrading eight of the existing campsites (No. 95 – 101 and Host site) to full hookup sites, building two new dump stations & rehabilitating the existing wastewater collection system. The sewer line will be rehabilitated by in-situ lining of the pipe, the leaking manholes will be repaired by grouting, readjusting the frames or in some cases replacing the manholes. **Function of the Project:** The eight new full hookup sites and two new dump stations will be an improvement to the campground. Currently, the 176-site campground has only one dump station; the limited number dump station has cause traffic congestions and is an inconvenience for campers. The sewer collection system has infiltration and inflow of ground water. Under dry conditions, the leaking sewers can introduce raw sewage into ground water. However, under high water table conditions, groundwater can be introduced into the sewers and overload the wastewater treatment system. The sewers and manholes are to be rehabilitated by lining and/or grouting under this construction project. **Construction Needed:** Construction includes 906 linear feet of 6” sewer relining, 230 linear feet of 4” sewer for hookups, 415 linear feet of 2” water main, 150 linear feet of water service, granular surfacing of campsites and concrete pavement for host site. Other items include miscellaneous point repairs of sewers; and electrical modifications.

DNR Project Manager:	Shahid “Mike” Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau
Designer:	Nathan Anderson, PE; WHKS & CO
DNR Inspector:	Mel Pacovsky; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau:	Parks
Funding Source:	100% IJOBS #1 (Cap Link 214)
Cost Estimate:	\$151,000
Plans Issue Date:	11/23/2011
Bid Letting Date:	12/15/2011
Plan Holders:	13
Number of Bids Received:	3

Bidders

Dean Snyder Construction Co.	Clear Lake, IA	\$166,128.00
GM Contracting Inc.	Lake Crystal MN	\$238,978.05
Municipal Pipe Tool Co	Hudson, IA	\$275,665.40

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Dean Snyder Construction Co.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco Seconded – Commissioner Clement Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote
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CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.2 BEEDS LAKE - SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION

Project Summary: This project consists of rehabilitating the existing wastewater collection system at Beeds Lake State Park. The scope of the project includes in-situ lining of the collection pipe, rehabilitation of the manholes by either grouting, readjusting the frames or in some cases replacing the manholes. **Function of the Project:** The sewer collection system at Beeds Lake has lot of infiltration and inflow of ground water. The leaking sewers, during dry conditions, can introduce raw sewage into ground water; and under high water table, can overload the wastewater treatment system by allowing clean water into the system. The main purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the sewer lines and manholes by lining and grouting, respectively. **Construction**

Needed: Construction includes 3,127 linear feet and 332 linear feet of 8” sewer and 6” sewer relining, respectively. Other items include miscellaneous point repairs and grouting of sewers and manholes.

DNR Project Manager: Shahid “Mike” Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau
Designer: Nathan Anderson, PE; WHKS & CO
DNR Inspector: Don Labate, PE; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% IJOBS #1 (Cap Link 214)
Cost Estimate: \$157,000
Plans Issue Date: 11/23/2011
Bid Letting Date: 12/15/2011
Plan Holders: 9
Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

VISU-Sewer Inc.	Pewaukee, WI	\$162,596.25
Municipal Pipe Tool Co	Hudson, IA	\$173,679.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to VISU-Sewer Inc

Motion – Commissioner Clement
Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
 Discussion – Staff responded that there is no known reason to believe that the recommended bidder is not a responsible company. Also, most of the parks projects will be completed before the camping season opens but if not, the work is not very invasive and the area can be segregated off.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.3 VIRGIN LAKE - NEW OUTLET STRUCTURE AND CHANNELS

Project Summary: This project is for refurbishment of the outlet at Virgin Lake. Virgin Lake is seriously degraded and needs new, additional facilities for proper management. The new outlet structure will provide for easier adjustment of lake levels and incorporate a carp barrier. This project was rebid. The original bid came in high. After original bid opening, some bidders have indicated that they were busy during original bidding and construction period. Project was rebid with a later construction period and has resulted in a lower bid price.

Function of the Project: To provide for improved drainage and lake level management by incorporating a new drainage structure that is also designed to curb carp migration via the outlet channel. **Construction Needed:** The Virgin Lake project shall consist of replacing the existing 12-foot wide concrete spillway with twin 8-foot wide, 48-foot long precast reinforced concrete box culverts (RCBC) with stop log bays installed in each barrel. The lake will be drained by excavating a 1700-foot long channel into the lake from the existing spillway location. The outlet channel shall also be excavated to accommodate a new water control structure (WCS). The WCS includes a steel catwalk, an aluminum fish barrier, stop logs, and chain link fencing. A 100-foot long emergency spillway will also be constructed, consisting of an earthen berm armored with geotextile and revetment stone. The project also consists of installing corrugated metal pipe culverts and a 6-foot by 4-foot precast RCBC culvert for field accesses over the discharge channel.

DNR Project Manager: Mike Broderick, PE; Engineering Bureau
Designer: Brent Johnson, PE; McClure Engineering Co.
DNR Inspector: Jeff Felts, PE; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Wildlife
Funding Source: Duck Stamp Funds (Cap Link 12)
Cost Estimate: \$211,265.00
Plans Issue Date: 11/23/11
Bid Letting Date: 12/15/11
Plan Holders: 17
Number of Bids Received: 6

Bidders

Landwehr Construction Inc.	St Cloud, MN	\$229,870.85
Lessard Contracting Inc	Sergeant Bluff, IA	\$289,449.00
Reilly Construction	Ossian, IA	\$304,381.00
Valley Contracting Inc	Estherville, IA	\$308,212.00
Vaughn Deloss Construction	Spencer, IA	\$314,075.00
Redings Gravel & Excavating	Algona, IA	\$3,622,711.80

IDNR recommends awarding the bid to Landwehr Construction Inc.

Motion – Commissioner Clement

Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel

Discussion – Staff responded the rebid saved the Department approximately \$60,000. Also, there is no known reason to believe that the recommended bidder is not a responsible company. **Decision** – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.4 MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK - WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM UPGRADE

Project Summary: This project consists of installing a new water distribution system from an existing well to meet the water needs of the park. Currently, the Park is served by four different wells, three of these wells have issues and environmental concerns; these wells will be capped and abandoned. **Function of the Project:** The purpose of the project is to address the issues and concerns that have been brought up by IDNR Environmental Services Division. A centralized well will also save Park Staff time by maintaining only a single well instead of four wells spread all over the park. **Construction Needed:** Construction includes installation of 4,900 linear feet of 3” water mains, disinfection system-and miscellaneous hydrants and appurtenances.

DNR Project Manager: Shahid “Mike” Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau

Designer: Shahid “Mike” Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau

DNR Inspector: Dave Heer, PE; Engineering Bureau

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: 100% IJOBS #1 (Cap Link 214)

Cost Estimate: \$75,000

Plans Issue Date: 11/28/2011

Bid Letting Date: 12/15/2011

Plan Holders: 7

Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

Arensdorf Excavating & Trucking Inc	Anamosa, IA	\$74,683.00
Connolly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	\$108,191.00
Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC	Cascade, IA	\$151,040.00
F L Krapfl Company Inc	Dyersville, IA	\$153,762.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Arensdorf Excavating & Trucking Inc

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel

Seconded – Commissioner Rettig

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.5 LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK - SEWER REHAB

Project Summary: The scope of this project involves the construction of repairs and improvements to the existing Lake Keomah sanitary sewer system. **Function of the Project:** Lake Keomah has an existing sanitary sewer collection system that is in need of repair. The sewers and manholes have deteriorated and as a result, appreciable ground water is entering the system. The extraneous flows overload the treatment system and have potential to contaminate the ground water in the park. **Construction Needed:** Construction will include various

sanitary sewer rehab work including pipe lining, joint grouting, manhole lining, and reconstruction. In addition, the existing pump station has deteriorated and is near the end of its useful life. The equipment will be replaced. Finally, an inverted siphon that runs under the lake is suspected to be failing. The gravity flow siphon will be removed and a pump station and force main will be constructed to replace the siphon. Construction items are 1,925 linear feet of 6" sewer, 330 linear feet of 8" sewer, 1,200 linear feet of grouting, rehab work on the South System's lift station, new package lift station for the North System, 820 linear feet of 2" force main, and miscellaneous repair work of manholes.

Bidders

DNR Project Manager: Butch Doorenbos; Engineering Bureau
Designer: Butch Doorenbos; Engineering Bureau
DNR Inspector: Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% IJOBS #1 (Cap Link 214)
Cost Estimate: \$199,000.00
Plans Issue Date: 12/20/2011
Bid Letting Date: 01/05/2012
Plan Holders: 10
Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Wendler Engineering & Construction Inc	South Amana, IA	\$222,544.60
Synergy Contracting LLC	Bondurant, IA	\$312,960.00
Hagerty Earthworks LLC	Muscataine, IA	\$373,898.50

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Wendler Engineering & Construction Inc

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Rettig
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.6 LACEY KEOSAUQUA STATE PARK - SEWER REHAB

Project Summary: The scope of this project involves the construction of repairs and improvements to the existing Lacey-Keosauqua State Park sanitary sewer system. **Function of the Project:** Lacey-Keo State Park has an existing sanitary sewer collection system that is in need of repair. Over time, sewer pipes and manholes have deteriorated and as a result, appreciable ground water is entering the system. The extraneous flows overload the treatment system and have potential to contaminate the ground water in the park. **Construction Needed:** The scope of the project includes in-situ lining of the sewer collection pipe, digging, and point repairing the pipe at several places where pipe has collapsed and cannot be lined and rehabilitation of the manholes by either grouting, readjusting the frames or in some cases replacing the manholes. Work includes 1,049' linear foot of sewer pipe relining, miscellaneous sewer point and manhole repairs.

DNR Project Manager: Shahid "Mike" Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau
Designer: Shahid "Mike" Hameed, PE; Engineering Bureau
DNR Inspector: Dave Heer, PE; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% IJOBS #1 (Cap Link 214)
Cost Estimate: \$97,000.00
Plans Issue Date: 12/16/2011
Bid Letting Date: 01/05/2012
Plan Holders: 5
Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Hagerty Earthworks, LLC	Muscatine, IA	\$108,160.00
Municipal Pipe tool Co. LLC	Hudson, IA	\$108,543.00
Ellingson Drainage Companies	West Concord, MN	\$121,590.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Hagerty Earthworks, LLC

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14.7 SNYDER BEND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - SNYDER BEND WATER SUPPLY CHANNEL EXCAVATION

Project Summary: The Missouri River Floods of 2011 have completely filled the wetland areas and water supply channel above Snyder Bend Lake with silt and sediment. The scope of this project involves excavation of 3,600 feet of open channel to re-establish the water supply to Snyder Bend Lake in Woodbury County. This supply channel connects cooling water from Mid-American Energy to the Snyder Bend wetland complex. **Function of the Project:** Because the water supply to Snyder Bend Lake has been completely cut off with the exception of some very localized runoff. The lack of a fresh water combined with siltation issues, and low water levels in the lake have raised concerns over the possibility of a winter fish kill when full ice conditions develop on the lake. This project will re-establish the water supply and the incoming water will prevent full ice over conditions on the lake. A secondary benefit (at this time) is being able to maintain normal water levels through next year’s recreational season. In addition, this channel also provides water supply for wetlands downstream throughout the year. **Construction Needed:** Work under this project involves excavating 3,600 feet of 10’ wide channel from the water supply pipe at the Missouri River to the north end of Snyder Bend Lake. The total estimated material that will be removed is 19,900 Cubic Yards, which is to be side-cast, smoothed and used in the future for reconstruction of an adjacent settling pond.

- DNR Project Manager:** Jeff Felts, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Jeff Felts, PE; Engineering Bureau
- DNR Inspector:** Jeff Felts, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Operating Bureau:** Wildlife
- Funding Source:** 75% FEMA (Cap Link 03), 25% Snyder Bend Corp of Engineers Account; (Cap Link 63)
- Cost Estimate:** \$69,750.00
- Plans Issue Date:** 12/15/11
- Bid Letting Date:** 01/05/12

IDNR will make bid recommendation at the NRC January 17 meeting.

IDNR requests this project to be remove from NRC January 17, 2012 meeting as an item needing NRC’s decision. The low bid came in as \$27, 977.00, not needing NRC action. This item will be presented as an information item in the NRC’s February meeting. Bids were opened on January 5, 2012.

ITEM REMOVED AS DECISION ITEM DUE TO AMOUNT

14.8 HONEY CREEK RESORT - KIOSK INSTALLATION

Project Summary: The scope of this project involves the construction of a kiosk, pavement of sidewalks and stone facing of the activity center foundation at Honey Creek Resort, Appanoose County, Iowa. **Function of the Project:** The kiosk will house interpretive panels for educating the public about renewable energy and the examples of renewable energy in the park. **Construction Needed:** The interpretive kiosk will consist of a concrete core structure finished with stone veneer. DNR staff is designing and building the interpretive panels.

- DNR Project Manager:** Ryan Richey; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Ryan Richey; Engineering Bureau
- DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, PE; District Inspector
- Operating Bureau:** Parks

Funding Source: OEI Interpretive/Education Grant and FY12 Special Appropriation
 (Cap Link 194)
Cost Estimate: \$45,000.00
Plans Issue Date: 12/16/11
Bid Letting Date: 01/05/12
Plan Holders: Unknown
Number of Bids Received: Unknown

IDNR will make bid recommendation at the NRC January 17 meeting.

IDNR requests this project to be remove from NRC January 17, 2012 meeting as an item needing NRC's decision. The low bid came in as \$38,100.00, not needing NRC action. This item will be presented as an information item in the NRC's February meeting. Bids were opened on January 5, 2012.

ITEM REMOVED AS DECISION ITEM DUE TO AMOUNT

15. CONTRACT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR URBAN FISHING ASSESSMENT AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department requests Commission approval of a thirteen-month service contract with Iowa State University of Ames, Iowa. The contract will begin on February 1, 2012, and terminate on March 31, 2014. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$126,060. This contract will be funded through the Aquatic Education Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration Grant 125E. Over the past three years DNR has worked cooperatively with Iowa State University Extension and City of Des Moines staff completed review of water bodies to determine feasibility of developing urban fisheries. We developed recommendations for four promising sites and continue to work with the City to garner support and funds for improvements needed to provide quality urban fisheries. Based on this work, and initial response from other incorporated cities in central Iowa, we recognize potential for creating several smaller fisheries that are more accessible to a larger segment of our customers, especially urban and suburban populations. We plan to expand our efforts to assess water bodies and watersheds, as well as community engagement and support for developing such sites as sustainable fisheries. This effort will provide recommendations for 15 sites as well as comprehensive improvement plans for 5 sites that can be used to obtain necessary resources to develop those sites as urban fisheries. Through this partnership, we will collect information necessary to develop improvement plans to improve 15 priority waterbodies so they provide urban fisheries in central Iowa. Comprehensive plans will be developed for five sites to secure resources needed to complete those improvements. Iowa State University was chosen using authority provided in the Iowa Code 455B.103, which authorizes contracts with the state universities for specified purposes. Iowa State University was chosen for this project because of their experience in working with smaller urban systems as well as their familiarity with this specific initiative.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Clement
 Discussion – Staff responded the projects are in Fisheries' central Iowa district. The fifteen sites will move forward with planning and the locals will be working on finding funding. The locations are ponds and lakes specific, versus including rivers, due to the logistics of resource management and accessibility.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

16. CONTRACT WITH IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – CHARITON RESEARCH STATION

Commission approval is requested to approve a contract with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to implement energy efficient measures at Chariton Research Station. The Fisheries Bureau was successful in securing a state energy program grant through the IEDA. The purpose of the grant is to install an energy efficient furnace, a high efficiency air conditioning unit, insulate ducts and hot water pipes, replace existing refrigerator and freezer with Energy Star rated units, install low flow aerators, replace 21 fluorescent lights with T8 lights and ballasts, install 14 energy efficient windows and increase attic insulation to a R-30 rating. The grant award amount is \$23,819. The contract requires the DNR to match one dollar for every grant dollar spent and to

complete the energy efficient measure by March 31, 2012. The Fisheries Bureau will use Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund capital funds to meet the match requirement.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Discussion – Staff responded that they will investigate if the facility has completed an energy audit and explored energy related rebates.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

17. CONTRACT WITH CITY OF CRESTON WATER WORKS - SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT AT SUMMIT LAKE
Commission approval is requested for a six month service contract with the City of Creston Water Works of Creston, Iowa. The contract will begin on February 1, 2012, and terminate on July 31, 2012. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$40,000. DNR shall have the option to renew this contract as long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period. This contract will be funded through the Lakes Restoration Program established under Iowa Code Section 456A.33B. Summit Lake, owned by the City of Creston, is a 225-acre lake located on the west edge of Creston in Union County in south central Iowa. The lake was constructed in 1893 as a water supply for the railroad and the City of Creston. The City completed a formal watershed assessment in 2008 and successfully applied to the Watershed Improvement Review Board to implement a multi-year water quality improvement project focused on streambank stabilization, livestock runoff, agricultural runoff/drainage, stormwater runoff and top address a section of inadequate sewer. To date, some of the major projects implemented involve the following: installation of 18,500 LF of shoreline stabilization (75% complete); completion of seven water/sediment basins on private property; installation of two large grade stabilization structures; five acres of grassed waterways to reduce storm water runoff; installation of 16,000 LF of terraces to reduce runoff; and completion of one livestock crossing and three CRP buffer strips to address animal access to streams. Another project that the City of Creston has been working on in parallel with the above described watershed activities is the replacement of the old spillway. Deteriorated conditions became more critical after high water events and the City was able to provide confirmation to FEMA that damage did occur as a result of the flooding. In the fall of 2009, the lake was drawn down to facilitate the already planned fish renovation and begin the process of removal and replacement of the old spillway. The parties propose to enter into this Contract for the purpose of the DNR providing funding to the City of Creston for incorporating a fish barrier into the new structure. Prior to a decision to rebuild the spillway, the DNR had planned to fund installation of a fish barrier structure onto the old spillway. The current plan for the new spillway incorporates an adequate drop in elevation in the spillway to limit reintroduction of rough fish from the Platte River below the lake.

Motion – Commissioner Clement
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

***18. 28E AGREEMENT WITH GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK**
The Commission is requested to approve a 28E agreement between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Department) and Webster County Improvement Corporation (WCIC), Webster County Conservation Board (WCCB), Webster County Board of Supervisors (WCBS), and Webster County Wheelers (Wheelers). WCIC owns and leases former mining ground that was designated as a State OHV Park by the Natural Resources Commission in 2003. WCIC, WCCB, Department, and the Wheelers are working together to expand this multi-use off-highway vehicle complex, offering all-terrain vehicle trails, fishing, permitted hunts, a campground, maintenance building and equipment, along with other recreational amenities. This complex will provide excellent outdoor recreation opportunities for the entire state. The Department originally contracted with WCIC and the Wheelers on December 22, 2004. As part of the park development plan with the park expansion of 850 acres and development of a modern

campground, this agreement will replace the existing contract and expand the partnership to include WCCB and provide clear guidelines for operation and maintenance of the park and define roles and responsibilities of the parties. In addition, the agreement provides a funding commitment through grants from the all-terrain vehicle cost-share fund to cover the costs of maintenance workers and enforcement personnel hired and supervised by the WCCB.

Motion – Commissioner Clement
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

19. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. CELLULAR

Commission approval is requested to enter into a lease with US Cellular for the purposes of US Cellular installing wireless communication devices. The installed equipment will result in the Department's enhanced wireless communication at Springbrook State Park. The cost of the lease shall be zero dollars and shall be subject to the Department's continued relationship with US Cellular for its other work. The authority for this lease would be Iowa Code section 461A.25. The lease would not exceed five years unless renewed in accordance with applicable law. The lease would create no other interest in real property or result in permanent fixtures being placed on state property.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel
 Discussion – Staff responded that the communication devices will be to improve Department signals.
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Rettig inquired on the 01/18/12 legislative event, the status of budget, legislative issues, and Maquoketa Caves ban. Staff stated legislators were invited by email and it is on the legislative social calendar. The event begins at 7:30am. The Governor's budget shows the Department as status quo with no salary adjustments. A committee has been formed regarding the joint resolution to uphold the ARRC's decision to strike the non toxic shot from the rule. Diane Ford will send the Commissioners information regarding current legislative issues. Maquoketa Caves will remain closed but organized tours are being planned. Commissioner Rettig summarized the a response of informal advice regarding Notice of Intended Actions she received from the Attorney General's office.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Commissioner Rettig
Seconded - Commissioner Schemmel
Decision - Approved by Unanimous Vote

With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Vice Chair Underwood adjourned the meeting on 01/17/12 at 3:39 p.m.

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

UPCOMING NRC MEETING DATES

- February 9, 2012 - Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am
- March 8, 2012 - Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am