

MINUTES
OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING

MARCH 8, 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: 4/10/12

Director's Signature: *R. L. Lande*

Roger L. Lande
Director

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File Name: ADM 1-1-1

NRC MINUTES

Sender's initials: KR

TABLE OF CONTENTS (* indicates consent item)

Call to Order4

Commissioner Attendance4

Public Participation.....4

1. Approval of Agenda.....4

CARRIED AS AMENDED4

2. Approve Minutes of 02/09/12 NRC Public Meeting.....4

CARRIED AS PRESENTED4

3. Director’s Remarks4

4. Honey Creek Resort State Park Update5

INFORMATION ONLY5

5. Review of Contested Case Decision on Residency Determination: Samuel J. Smith.....5

CARRIED AS PRESENTED5

6. Appeal Of Contested Case Decision On Residency Of Robert J. Schultz.....5

CARRIED AS PRESENTED6

7. Monroe Branstad Appeal of ALJ’s Proposed Decision.....6

CARRIED AS PRESENTED6

8. Iowa Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – Outdoor Recreation in Iowa6

CARRIED AS PRESENTED7

9. Engineering Construction Projects7

9.1 Hayesville Bend Wma, Flood Damage Repairs7

CARRIED AS PRESENTED8

9.2 Lake Keomah State Park, Office & Service Facility8

CARRIED AS PRESENTED9

9.3 Kellerton Wildlife Area, New Headquarters9

CARRIED AS PRESENTED10

9.4 Lake Wapello State Park, Water Control Structures10

CARRIED AS PRESENTED11

9.5 Lake Ahquabi State Park, North Campground Shower Building11

CARRIED AS PRESENTED12

9.6 Lake Darling State Park, Campground Roads And Final Site Grading.....12

CARRIED AS PRESENTED12

9.7 Colyn Wma, Repair Of Emergency Spillway13

ITEM REMOVED AS DECISION ITEM DUE TO AMOUNT13

10. Silver Lake Outlet Control Structure Replacement & Fish Barrier Improvements Change Order #213

CARRIED AS PRESENTED14

11. Small Construction Projects.....14

INFORMATION ONLY14

12. Land Acquisition Projects.....14

12.1 Ringgold WMA – Ringgold Co. – Shields14
 CARRIED AS PRESENTED15

*12.2 Maquoketa River – Clayton Co. – Ager15
 CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA15

*13. Land Management Projects.....15

*13.1 State Forest Nursery – Story Co. – City of Ames.....15
 CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA15

*13.2 Wallace WMA – Dickinson Co. – Secondary Roads Department16
 CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA16

*13.3 East Okoboji Lake – Dickinson Co. – Mau Marine.....16
 CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA16

*14. Contract with P&N Corporation for flight services for waterfowl surveys.....16
 CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA17

15. Wildlife Habitat Promotion With Local Entities Program Grant Review17
 CARRIED AS PRESENTED19

16. Fish Habitat Promotion With Local Entities Program Grant Review.....19
 CARRIED AS PRESENTED23

17. Brass Bluegill Award.....23
 INFORMATION ONLY23

18. Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board Appointments.....23
 CARRIED AS PRESENTED24

19. Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board 2011 Annual Report.....24
 INFORMATION ONLY25

20. Donations26
 CARRIED AS PRESENTED27

21. Information Item Red Cedar River Channel – Black Hawk County27
 INFORMATION ONLY27

General Discussion27

Adjournment27
 CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED27

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates27

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Chair, Greg Drees, on 03/08/12 at 9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Present

- Gregory Drees, Chairperson
- Richard (Kim) Francisco
- Dr. Sally Prickett (by phone)
- Janelle Rettig
- Margo Underwood, Vice-Chair

Absent

- Conrad Clement
- Dennis Schemmel, Secretary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Cody Hutton – bobcat and otters; increase quotas
- Jeremy Rosonke – waterfowl zones/seasons; Sweet Marsh
- Jeff Gudenkauf – waterfowl zones/seasons (submitted surveys – in Records file)
- Stuart Maas – waterfowl zones
- Matt McVeigh – waterfowl zones
- Cynthia Hansen –mourning doves as migratory bird and non toxic shot
- Rod Schmidt – hunting regulations; doe limitless, elk
- Gene Purdy – bobcat and otters; increase quotas (submitted document – in Records file)
- Bill Smith – waterfowl zones/seasons
- John Good – waterfowl zones (*did not complete a speaker card*)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion – Commissioner Francisco moved approval of agenda and consent items and request to move item #17 near 10am and withdraw Engineering item #9.7.
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS AMENDED

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF 02/09/12 NRC PUBLIC MEETING

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

3. DIRECTOR’S REMARKS

The Department working with legislators regarding HF645 that requests the sale of public land to provide one time funding for REAP.

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, public relations.

Discussion: Baekey and Woodrick responded that the activities building is occupied and up and running. They are finishing up landscaping around the area. As noted in January’s HCR report, to solicit and promote church organization business, staff attended a trade show and, since then, church organization business has increased, which has mostly been done by word of mouth. The current sales team consists of Liz, three sales managers, assistants, and catering staff. Regarding Gideon Bibles removed from guest rooms in this government owned facility, there have been no reported issues from guests and if a guest requests materials available, they would be provided them as amenities. The new restaurant menu is doing well and receiving positive comments. A new competitively priced Sunday brunch has been implemented increasing business. Due to the fair weather, golf course use continues. The lake area is looking good and the rip rapping is close to completion.

INFORMATION ONLY

5. REVIEW OF CONTESTED CASE DECISION ON RESIDENCY DETERMINATION: SAMUEL J. SMITH

This matter comes before the Natural Resource Commission for review 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, the decision of the ALJ is subject to review by the NRC. In this case, the ALJ determined that the Appellant is 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, which the Department is not contesting. The Commission’s review and decision constitutes final agency action. The parties shall be allowed oral arguments pursuant to rule 561 I.A.C. 7.17(5)(f).

Motion – Commissioner Francisco moved to support the Department’s position and uphold the ALJ’s decision.
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6. APPEAL OF CONTESTED CASE DECISION ON RESIDENCY OF ROBERT J. SCHULTZ

This matter comes before the Iowa Natural Resource Commission on appeal of a Decision issued by Administrative Law Judge David Lindgren of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals on July 18, 2011. Pursuant to rule 561 IAC 7.17(5), as adopted by reference at 571 IAC 7.1, a party may appeal the decision of the Administrative Law Judge to the Natural Resource Commission. In his Decision, the Administrative Law Judge has determined that the Appellant, Robert Schultz, is not an Iowa resident for the purpose of the obtaining of hunting and fishing licenses pursuant to Chapter 483A of the Code of Iowa. The Commission is being presented with the Decision of the Administrative Law Judge, the Appeal, the Appeal Briefs of the parties, and the Transcript of the Hearing. The entire record on appeal is available for the review of the Commission upon request. The record created in these contested cases 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 IAC 7.17(5) “f”.

Discussion – The opposing attorney presented his interpretation of Iowa Code 4.13 he referenced in support of his position in response to Commissioners Francisco and Rettig’s request for clarification in the opposing attorney’s use of the Code.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig moved to support the Department’s position and uphold the ALJ’s decision.

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

7. MONROE BRANSTAD APPEAL OF ALJ’S PROPOSED DECISION

On June 10, 2010, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a Restitution Assessment to Monroe Branstad pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.151. The assessment required Mr. Branstad to pay restitution in the amount of \$61,794.49 for a fish kill on a portion of the Winnebago River in August 2008. Mr. Branstad appealed the Restitution Assessment. On July 25, 2011, an administrative hearing was held regarding the appeal of the Restitution Assessment. On December 6, 2011, Administrative Law Judge Robert Wheeler issued the proposed decision affirming the Restitution Assessment and the full restitution amount of \$61,794.49. On January 5, 2012, Mr. Branstad, through his counsel, James L. Pray, filed an appeal of the proposed decision. The record, including the hearing transcript, all exhibits, all pleadings, the post-hearing briefs, and Mr. Branstad’s appeal, can be viewed at – [ftp://ftp.igsb.uiowa.edu/Records/Brandstads Dockets 60112](ftp://ftp.igsb.uiowa.edu/Records/Brandstads%20Dockets%2060112). The proposed decision and the parties’ appeal briefs are attached to this agenda item. The parties have agreed to ten minutes of oral argument for each party before the Commission. The Commission is requested to review this appeal and render a final agency action.

Discussion – Staff responded that game fish were found in a non-recreation area which staff adjusted fish values as outlined in code, which allows for the valuation of certain fish anglers seek. Restitution funds are put into programs related to water quality.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig moved to support the Department’s position and uphold the ALJ’s decision.

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Decision – Commissioners Drees, Francisco, Rettig, and Underwood – aye; Commissioner Prickett – nay
Approved

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

8. IOWA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) – OUTDOOR RECREATION IN IOWA

Iowa submitted the first SCORP in 1968, titled *Outdoor Recreation in Iowa*. This report was a comprehensive report that blended reports for LWCF, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Planning, and the State Historical Action Program. Over the past 38 years, these plans have been used by many city, county, and state agencies. Grants through programs such as, Fish Habitat, Wildlife Habitat Stamp, Resource Enhancement and Protection, Land & Water Conservation Fund, and Recreational Infrastructure Funds all require projects to reference back to the current SCORP plan and indicate how the projects accomplish goals set forth in the plan. Current SCORP plans are also a requirement of the National Park Service in order for states to receive their portion of Land and Water Conservation Funds.

This plan is the tenth edition for Iowa. An RFP was submitted to three Iowa firms and one out-of-state firm to solicit services to help design and implement a statewide survey of Iowans on outdoor recreation. Proposals were received on February 14, 2012 from three firms. All bids were scored based on the Review and Evaluation Criteria described in the RFP. Of the three proposals, Responsive Management was selected on the basis of their ability to complete the scope of work within the desired timeline and their description and quality of previous and applicable work experience. The Commission is requested to approve the selection of Responsive Management at a cost of \$32,500 to conduct this statewide survey.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Motion – Commissioner Francisco moved to table this item until more information can be presented.
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Motion - Commissioner Rettig moved to take this item from the table
 Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
 Discussion – Commissioner discussion resulted in the request to have future briefs include a paragraph outlining costs, brief background of project, and the Department’s history with the company recommended.
 Motion – Commissioner Underwood moved to approve this item
 Seconded – Commissioner Prickett
 Decision – Commissioners Drees, Francisco, Prickett, and Underwood – aye; Commissioner Rettig – nay

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9. ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

9.1 HAYESVILLE BEND WMA, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS

Project Summary: The scope of this project involves the repair of an existing earthen dike damaged by floods, installation of a revetment emergency spillway, a new corrugated metal pipe (CMP) water control structure and incidental work as required by the Plans and/or the DNR Construction Inspector.
Function of the Project: To repair the dike system to before flood operation, adding a new riprap spillway and water control to limit future flood damage. **Construction Needed:** The existing compacted earthfill dike will be repaired in several locations, a new riprap spillway will be constructed, and a new CMP water control structure will be added.

- DNR Project Manager:** Ken Jackson; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Ken Jackson; Engineering Bureau
- DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Operating Bureau:** Wildlife
- Funding Source:** \$204,900 – FEMA, \$53,100 – Special Appropriation (FY12 Cap Link #3/4)
- Cost Estimate:** \$258,000
- Plans Issue Date:** 01/18/12
- Bid Letting Date:** 02/16/12
- Plan Holders:** 25
- Number of Bids Received:** 14

Bidders

Buehneman, Inc	Delta, IA	\$141,142.56
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Comerstone Excavating, Inc.	Washington, IA	\$166,405.30
Sterk Excavating, Inc.	Otley, IA	\$169,389.02
Hammes Bulldozing, Inc.	Sigourney, IA	\$173,859.70
Buford Dozing & Excavating	Bonaparte, IA	\$178,844.18
Cole Construction Co., Inc.	Keosauqua, IA	\$182,456.64
Drish Construction, Inc.	Fairfield, IA	\$191,027.68
TK Concrete, Inc.	Pella, IA	\$196,425.00
DeLong Construction, Inc.	Washington, IA	\$197,245.40
Kevin Kent Construction	Lucas, IA	\$203,120.90
Seaton Construction	Deep River, IA	\$234,213.50
Connolly Construction, Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$260,215.40
Merrymen Excavation, Inc.	Woodstock, IL	\$273,637.30
Ag & Turf Construction, LLC	Davenport, IA	\$435,052.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Buehneman, Inc.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Discussion – Staff reported the Special Appropriation funds were from the Executive Council.
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.2 LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK, OFFICE & SERVICE FACILITY

Project Summary: Lake Keomah State Park is located east of Oskaloosa, IA. This project will consist of three heated garage/storage bays, one open office (2 staff), one conference room, one restroom, and a mechanical and storage room. It will also have an equipment yard to the east of the building. **Function of the Project:** Provide Lake Keomah SP with new office / storage space. **Construction Needed:** Cutting and filling of current location, utility runs to location, concrete foundation work, building erection and finish work. **Green Features:**

- Standing Seam Metal Roof – Life expectancy 50+ years – fully recyclable
- Rain garden to south side of building to catch run-off
- Structural Insulated Panels – Insulated resistance R-42
- LED lighting (full cut-off) used on all evening security and way-finding lights
- Cement Fiber Siding – recycled content & recyclable when use is finished
- Pervious paving throughout equipment yard
- Oil separators – automatically contains oil spills within premises
- Photo sensors on garage bay lights – monitors and dims lights to appropriate levels
- Geo-thermal - radiant floor (garage) / heat pumps with forced air (office)
- Nylon Carpeting with recycled content / low-VOC
- Energy efficient windows / local fabrication – Fiberglass
- Ultra low-flow plumbing fixtures

DNR Project Manager: Ryan Richey, Engineering Bureau
Designer: Ryan Richey, Engineering Bureau
DNR Inspector: Mark Johnson, Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Wildlife
Funding Source: 100% REAP OS (FY12 Cap Link #152)

Cost Estimate: \$500,000.00
Plans Issue Date: 01/19/12
Bid Letting Date: 02/16/12
Prime Plan Holders: 35
Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

Hanson Construction LLC	Clear Lake, IA	\$534,300.00
Hooyer Construction Inc	Pella, IA	\$665,100.00
Seydel Construction Inc	Iowa City, IA	\$738,800.00
TBB LC	Des Moines, IA	\$818,500.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Hanson Construction, LLC.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Discussion – Staff received appreciation from Commissioners for green initiatives.
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.3 KELLERTON WILDLIFE AREA, NEW HEADQUARTERS

Project Summary: Kellerton Wildlife Headquarters is located southwest of Kellerton, IA. This project will consist of three heated garage/storage bays, one open office (4 techs), four offices, one conference room, two restrooms, and one mechanical and storage room. It will also have an equipment yard to the south of the building, which will be leveled and will have a new septic system. **Function of the Project:** Provide Kellerton Staff with new office / storage space. **Construction Needed:** Cutting and filling of current location, utility runs to location, concrete foundation work, building erection and finish work. Green Features:

- Standing Seam Metal Roof – Life expectancy 50+ years – fully recyclable
- Structural Insulated Panels – Insulated resistance R-42
- Pervious paving throughout equipment yard
- Oil catchment basin – manual ball-valve to contain oil spills within premises
- Photo sensors on garage bay lights – monitors and dims lights to appropriate levels

DNR Project Manager: Ryan Richey, Engineering Bureau
Designer: Ryan Richey, Engineering Bureau
DNR Inspector: Mark Johnson, Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Wildlife
Funding Source: Federal PR 75% / 25% REAP LM (FY12 Cap Link #163)
Cost Estimate: \$500,000.00
Plans Issue Date: 01/19/12
Bid Letting Date: 02/16/12
Prime Plan Holders: 21
Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Hooyer Construction Inc	Pella, IA	\$588,200.00
Septagon Construction Co	Grimes, IA	\$724,900.00

IDNR recommends rejecting all bids.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.4 LAKE WAPELLO STATE PARK, WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

Project Summary: The scope of this project involves the construction of 11 compacted earthfill silt retention structures within the watershed of Lake Wapello, and incidental work as required by the Plans and/or the DNR Construction Inspector. **Function of the Project:** To intercept sediment from crop fields in the watershed above Lake Wapello, reducing siltation of the lake and improving water quality. **Construction Needed:** Construct 11 compacted earthfill silt retention structures.

- DNR Project Manager:** Ken Jackson; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Iowa NRCS
- DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Operating Bureau:** Fisheries
- Funding Source:** 75% – Lake Restoration, 25% – Federal EPA (Cap Link #91)
- Cost Estimate:** \$85,000
- Plans Issue Date:** 02/08/12
- Bid Letting Date:** 03/01/12
- Plan Holders:** 18
- Number of Bids Received:** 7

Bidders

Kinman Company Inc	Oskaloosa, IA	\$55,514.00
Drish Construction Inc	Fairfield, IA	\$65,532.76
Buford Dozing & Excavating LLC	Bonaparte, IA	\$70,337.25
Kamerick Dozing Inc	Melrose, IA	\$73,866.25
Cole Construction Company Inc	Keosauqua, IA	\$81,952.10
Kevin Kent Construction	Lucas, IA	\$97,460.75
Stek Earthmoving	New Sharon, IA	\$98,604.69

**Fact Sheet – Lake Wapello State Park (Davis County) Prepared by Mike McGhee For 03/08/12
 NRC Mtg Engineering Item**

Man-made Lake – initially impounded 1933 252 surface acres 4,950 acre watershed 18.3/1 watershed 23% of the watershed in public ownership 100% of the shoreline in public ownership Watershed composition – 52.3% forest, 32% grass, 7.7% water, 6.8% cropland, 1.2 % urban Current mean depth 14.0 feet, maximum water depth 33 feet Current Average Secchi Disk prior to renovation – 2’ (historically 4.5’) Sediment delivery will reduced by 50%

Need for Project

Fishing pressure has declined by over 60%, primarily due to illegal gizzard shad introduction Lake is impaired for bacteria and water clarity is diminishing

Project Goals

Remove from the impaired waters list Target BMP practices to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery from both private and public land Stabilize severely eroding shoreline areas Eliminate the problem gizzard shad population and re-establish a desirable sport fish population Increase and re-establish historic public use of the area Improve water clarity from 2’ to 4.5’; reduce total phosphorus levels by 50%

Project funding and status update:

A total of 31 structures were constructed within the watershed (11 of which are on state property) The final 11 structures (4 required easements) will be brought before the March NRC Total structure cost - \$740,000 (Private land structures \$320,000 -50% IDALS, 25% EQUIP, 25% landowner, Public Land Structures \$420,000 -75% 319, 25% Lake Restoration) When the lake was drained to facilitate the fishery renovation \$395,000 of in lake work was accomplished (\$267,000 Lake Restoration funds & \$127,000 DJ/FW Trust Fund) In-lake work accomplished – 2,500 lineal feet of shoreline protected/deepened, re-construct 1 silt dam & build 1 new silt dike, replacement of leaking dam outlet valve, built 3 new fishing jetties In-lake fish habitat work -placed 1,000 cedar trees, 1600 tons of gravel spawning areas and 440 ton of rock fish mounds, main boat ramp was also updated Lake was restocked in 2008

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Kinman Company, Inc.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.5 LAKE AHQUABI STATE PARK, NORTH CAMPGROUND SHOWER BUILDING

Project Summary: This project consists of the construction of a precast concrete shower building, necessary utilities, concrete flatwork and site restoration. **Function of the Project:** The previous shower building has outlived its design life and was in need of replacement. The purpose of this project is to replace the old shower building with a precast concrete shower building. **Construction Needed:** Work includes constructing a new foundation, install underground utilities, set a precast concrete building, and provide concrete access.

- DNR Project Manager:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Jason Kruse, PE, Engineering Bureau
- DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Operating Bureau:** Parks
- Funding Source:** 100% Health and Safety (FY12 Cap Link #197)
- Cost Estimate:** \$240,000
- Plans Issue Date:** 2/6/2012
- Bid Letting Date:** 3/1/2012
- Plan Holders:** 14
- Number of Bids Received:** 9

Bidders

TK Concrete Inc	Pella, IA	\$219,215.00
Hooyer Construction Inc	Pella, IA	\$228,650.00
Joiner Construction Co. Inc	Plano, IA	\$229,975.00
Vanderpool Construction Inc	Indianola, IA	\$237,130.00
Gross Construction LLC	Carlisle, IA	\$238,118.00
TBB LC	Des Moines, IA	\$238,500.00
Jensen Builders	Fort Dodge, IA	\$254,000.00
Hanson Construction LLC	Clear Lake, IA	\$258,500.00
Bergstrom Construction Inc	Des Moines, IA	\$272,000.00

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to TK Concrete, Inc.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.6 LAKE DARLING STATE PARK, CAMPGROUND ROADS AND FINAL SITE GRADING

Project Summary: This project consists of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) paving of the roads in the campground and constructing rock camping pads. **Function of the Project:** The existing asphalt pavement in the campground is in very poor shape. In addition, the existing camp pads do not accommodate modern RVs adequately. While the lake is drawn down for dam construction, the campground is being completely renovated. Camp pad sizing and spacing were adjusted to maximize the number of campsites in the park without overcrowding. A previous project has graded all of the camp pads and is currently installing new underground utilities. This contract is the final phase of the campground renovation, and will replace all of the old asphalt roads with concrete. **Construction Needed:** Work includes placing and shaping rock camp pads, construction of the PCC pavement, storm sewer installation, and final seeding.

DNR Project Manager: Heath Delzell; Engineering Bureau
Designer: Kevin Bailey, PE; McClure Engineering
DNR Inspector: Bruce Flippin, PE; Engineering Bureau
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% P&I (FY 12 Cap Link #75)
Cost Estimate: \$805,000
Plans Issue Date: 2/6/2012
Bid Letting Date: 3/1/2012
Plan Holders: 15
Number of Bids Received: 10

Bidders

TK Concrete Inc	Pella, IA	\$535,169.00
Cornerstone Excavating Inc	Washington, IA	\$557,436.25
DeLong Construction Inc	Washington, IA	\$564,308.50
J & L Construction LLC	Washington, IA	\$572,441.25
Peterson Contractors Inc (PCI-Reinbeck)	Reinbeck, IA	\$574,475.00
Vieth Construction Corp	Cedar Falls, IA	\$621,624.75
Wicks Construction Co	Decorah, IA	\$681,539.25
Sulzberger Excavating Inc	Muscatine, IA	\$702,092.00
Allied Manatts Group Inc	Charles City, IA	\$719,029.75
K & E Flatwork Inc	Eldridge, IA 52748	\$740,613.65

IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to TK Concrete, Inc.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9.7 COLYN WMA, REPAIR OF EMERGENCY SPILLWAY

Project Summary: An existing riprap spillway will be repaired by adding riprap in areas of scour.
Function of the Project: Adding riprap will prevent further damage to the spillway. **Construction Needed:** 1166 tons riprap will be added to fill a scoured area along 300' of spillway.

- DNR Project Manager:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Designer:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, PE; Engineering Bureau
- Operating Bureau:** Wildlife
- Funding Source:** 75% FEMA, 25% F&W Trust
- Cost Estimate:** \$45,000.00
- Plans Issue Date:** 02/15/12
- Bid Letting Date:** 03/01/12
- Plan Holders:** Bid letting to be held at the time of agenda setting
- Number of Bids Received:** Bid letting to be held at the time of agenda setting

IDNR requests this project to be removed from NRC March 8, 2012 meeting as an item needing NRC's decision. The low bid came in at \$41,211.47, not needing NRC action. The estimate for this project is \$45,000. This item will be presented as an information item in the NRC's April meeting. Bids were opened on March 1, 2012.

ITEM REMOVED AS DECISION ITEM DUE TO AMOUNT

10. SILVER LAKE OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT & FISH BARRIER IMPROVEMENTS CHANGE ORDER #2

The DNR currently holds a contract with Landwehr Construction for the replacement of the outlet control structure & fish barrier improvements, rebuilding the emergency spillway, placement of revetment, and culvert structure in the outflow channel. Plans were developed by McClure Engineering Company and let by the IDNR. The control structure consists of two 13' wide precast concrete channels each with 2 stop log units, placed side by side & made up of 8 separate sections per side, with stop logs placed near the center to facilitate controlling the water level in the lake. Work was completed on the outlet control structure January 19, 2012, and the lake water was let into the structure. Later that evening it was discovered that water was leaking from under the outlet end of the structure; Contractor replaced the coffer dam on the lake side of the structure thus stopping the water. January 23 contractor was instructed to remove part the structure to identify the source of the leak with no evidence of the source found. Bentonite was placed under, in the joints, and in the inlet end of the structure. Water was released January 26 and leaks appeared again downstream of the structure and water was stopped from flowing from the lake. After consulting with the design engineer and DNR staff, considering avenues of controlling the seepage & soil conditions under the control structure, it was determined that the best solution would be to install 10' long sheet piling under the stop log section and extending 20' piling out 15 foot each side with a top elevation above normal lake water elevation. The control structure channels will be reset & tied approximately 6" apart with the void filled with concrete. A void will left each side if the piling under and along the side of the structure which will be filled with concrete.

Proposed Change Order Items

1.Furnish Sheet Piling, 1100 SF @ \$22.61	\$24,871.00
2.Drive Sheet Piling, 1100 SF @ \$9.43	\$10,373.00
3.Crew Labor Dismantle, Reassemble, & Backfill Structure 30 HR @ \$519.00	\$15,570.00
4.PCC Grout 30 CY @ \$125.00	\$3,750.00
5.Crane & Operator 12 HR @ \$260.00	\$3,120.00
6.Crane Mobilization & Set-up Lump Sum	\$3,400.00

7. Miscellaneous Materials, Equipment, Waterproof, & Ties Lump Sum	\$3,000.00
Proposed Change Total	\$64,084.00
Previous Approved Change Orders	\$14,821.27
Original Contract	\$282,816.78
Contract Total + Change Orders	\$361,722.05

Funding for the Change Order costs is Lake Restoration & Fisheries
 IDNR recommends approving these change orders as outlined above.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

11. SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following projects have been let utilizing the Competitive Quotation process for projects \$100,000 or less. These projects have low bids under \$50,000, not needing NRC any action.

BID DATE	PROJECT	COUNTY	AREA	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE	BIDS
01/26/12	09-01-75-01	Woodbury	Stone State Park	Septic Tank Replacement	\$44,500.00	\$45,940.00
						\$56,905.75
01/26/12	12-04-36-01	Fremont	Waubonsie State Park	Interpretive Kiosk	\$36,000	\$20,480.00
						\$24,920.00
02/02/12	11-03-28-06	Clayton	Bixby State Preserve	Flood Damage Repairs	\$55,000	\$29,351.50
						\$32,967.55
						\$38,244.00
						\$55,110.00
						\$60,601.00
\$108,926.00						

INFORMATION ONLY

12. LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

12.1 RINGGOLD WMA – RINGGOLD CO. – SHIELDS

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Ringgold County adjacent north and west of state-owned and managed Ringgold Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Josh and Christi Shields offer this approximately 84-acre tract for the appraised price of \$168,000. The department will provide for a land survey to determine the exact number of acres, and payment for the land will be \$2,000 per surveyed acre. Gary Thien, Licensed Appraiser of Council Bluffs, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is

located 12 miles southeast of Mt. Ayr in south central Ringgold County. The gently sloping to steep tract contains 60 acres of grassland with remnant prairie, 21 acres of timber, and 3 acres of ponds and stream. Lotts Creek serves as the west boundary of the property. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by a county level B road at the southwest corner, as well as through adjacent DNR land. The property will be managed for outdoor recreation, specifically hunting deer, turkey, and pheasant. In addition, the quality prairie remnant on the site will be managed. The tract will be managed by the Wildlife Bureau. Acquisition funding will be \$84,000 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp, and \$84,000 from REAP License Plate. The property will remain on the tax rolls. Estimated survey cost is \$3,500. No fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

***12.2 MAQUOKETA RIVER – CLAYTON CO. – AGER**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a permanent easement for angler access on a 915 foot segment of the Maquoketa River located in southwestern Clayton County and northwest of Backbone State Park. Charles and Beverly Ager offer this permanent easement encumbering 3.2 acres for \$8,000. Rick Hansen negotiated the option for easement in compliance with Title 49 CFR Part 24 which allows the negotiator to negotiate without an appraisal from a value of \$10,000 to \$25,000 with the landowners waiving an appraisal. This heavily forested region of the stream bank is located 1 1/2 miles northwest of the Backbone State Park boundary. In addition to public fishing, the easement allows DNR to stock and sample fish, install fish habitat, and conduct water quality/stream bank improvements. The easement corridor is 150 foot wide by 915 foot in length (75 foot on each side of the centerline of Maquoketa River). Access is provided by prior completed angler access easements adjacent both north and south of the Ager segment. This easement will be monitored by the Fisheries Bureau. I-JOBS funding will be used to acquire the easement. No survey or fencing costs are anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the easement acquisition.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***13. LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

***13.1 STATE FOREST NURSERY – STORY CO. – CITY OF AMES**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the issuance of a permanent water line easement to the City of Ames to construct and maintain a water main across the State Forest Nursery. The water main will enhance water service to the area. The easement area consists of a 20’ wide strip of land following the existing gravel roadway. The project has been approved through a sovereign lands construction permit. The City is offering \$11,000 per acre for the .74 acre easement area. The offer is based off of an appraisal completed by Sharon Chism, Hertz Appraisal Services. The total offer amount is \$8300 and includes an allowance for abstracting costs. Staff recommends issuance of the easement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***13.2 WALLACE WMA – DICKINSON CO. – SECONDARY ROADS DEPARTMENT**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the issuance of an easement for additional right-of-way to Dickinson County. The additional right-of-way is needed for a culvert replacement and minor grading work to shape the ditch. The easement area includes a 12' wide strip of land along the south edge of the property. In addition, the County is seeking a 20' by 45' temporary easement for construction of the culvert. The County is offering \$5650 per acre for the permanent easement area and \$4250 per acre for the temporary easement area. The temporary easement consists of .021 acres and the permanent easement consists of .329 acres. The total offer amount is \$2273.10, and includes \$300 for the removal of 3 trees and a \$25 allowance for abstracting costs. Staff recommends issuance of the easement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***13.3 EAST OKOBOJI LAKE – DICKINSON CO. – MAU MARINE**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to recommend approval to the Executive Council of a renewal Chapter 18 lease with Mau Marine, Incorporated of Okoboji, Iowa. The leased area is located along the northeastern shore of East Okoboji Lake east of the US Highway 71 Bridge between East and West Okoboji Lakes in the City of Okoboji, Dickinson County. The leased areas total approximately 758 square feet lying below the ordinary high water line. The areas consist of a retaining wall and grassy area manicured by Mau; a portion of a boat ramp; and a deck located adjacent to a large covered boat slip that falls outside of the scope of dock rules.

These areas have been under lease since 1984. The lease term will be the standard five-year period, with an annual rent fee of \$936.00. The administrative fee is \$168.48. The lease will include a condition that allows the rent fee to be adjusted to comply with approved fee revisions to IAC 571-18 that may occur as a result of administrative rule making during the term of the lease. Staff recommends approval of the lease agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

***14. CONTRACT WITH P&N CORPORATION FOR FLIGHT SERVICES FOR WATERFOWL SURVEYS**

The Department requests Commission approval for a 1 year renewal of an existing service contract with P&N Corporation of Marion, Iowa. The renewal period will begin on April 1, 2012, and terminate on March 31, 2013. The total amount of this contract amendment shall not exceed \$48,125. Pursuant to the terms of this contract, DNR has 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 Fish and Game Trust Fund. The Canada goose population is monitored annually via a statewide aerial survey. Population status is used to determine appropriate hunting regulations each year. Federal regulations also require the Canada goose population be monitored annually to use lethal control methods in Iowa. As part of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Evaluation Program in MN, SD, ND, MT, and IA, waterfowl surveys have been conducted annually since 1993 in north Iowa to assess population responses to the PPJV habitat restoration and management initiatives. This survey is a multi-state cooperative waterfowl population monitoring program and data is used to develop biologically sound wildlife management and harvest programs. P&N Corporation was chosen using the competitive selection process. P&N Corporation was chosen for this project because it had the highest overall score in the selection evaluation process. The Enstrom F28 helicopters they use have one of the best FAA safety records in N. Am. The triple-bladed rotor, powered by a turbocharged engine, gives these helicopters more power and control than similar sized helicopters with 2 blades. P&N Corporation pilots also have extensive experience flying low-level surveys as they fly power line surveys across the Midwest and have flown the North Iowa Waterfowl Survey since 2002 and the Statewide Canada

Goose Survey since 2005. They use GPS navigational systems so they can fly directly to survey locations and determine the most efficient survey and refueling routes. P&N Corporation pilots repair and rebuild helicopters, so they are intimately familiar with the mechanics of the helicopters they fly.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

15. WILDLIFE HABITAT PROMOTION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW

In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. All revenue derived from the sale of habitat stamps are used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, leasing of land, obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas. At least 50 percent of the stamp revenues are apportioned to local entities (county conservation boards) on a semiannual basis. Cost sharing will not be approved for more than 75 percent of the approved appraised value. The Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund Program is administered by the DNR in compliance with 571 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 23. Natural Resource Commission approval is requested for the wildlife habitat grant recommendations. The Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Review Committee met on January 27, 2012, to review a total of 6 county conservation board projects requesting \$732,665.00 in Habitat Funds. A total of \$450,000.00 was available for this grant review. The committee recommends fully funding the top ranked projects. Undistributed funds may be available from cost savings on other projects and/or previous funds declined by county conservation boards. If the highest ranked project declines the funding, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects. Any remaining funds will be distributed in the next grant cycle.

Rank by Score	County	Project	Acres	Grant Request	Grant Awarded	Total Project Cost
1	Linn	Matsell Bridge Natural Area	129	\$220,000.00	\$220,000.00	\$501,350.00
2	Fayette	Blockhus Property	223	\$294,500.00	Applicant declined partial funding; will resubmit	\$536,500.00
3	Worth	Willow Creek WMA	157	\$62,160.00	\$62,160.00	\$188,278.00
4	Floyd	Knapp Wildlife II	67	\$41,370.00	\$41,370.00	\$68,750.00
5	Howard	Minear Wildlife Area	66	\$73,000.00	\$73,000.00	\$198,000.00

The project described in the table below represents the unsuccessful grant applicant. It is provided for the Commission's information but is not recommended for funding at this time.

County	Project	Acres	Grant Request	Total Project Cost
Buchanan	Johnson Addition	21	\$41,625.00	\$55,500

Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entitites Program Project Descriptions

Matsell Bridge Natural Area Additions – Anderson and Teymer Tracts, Linn County

Purchase of the Anderson tract (79 acres) and the Teymer tract (50 acres) will add 129 acres of wildlife habitat to the adjacent Matsell Bridge Natural Area. This land is located seven miles southeast of Central City. These tracts are bordered by state-owned land under management agreement between the Conservation Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Matsell Bridge Natural Area is a 1,758 acres wildlife management area. It is a combination of state-owned (418 acres) and county owned (1,340 acres) lands which are managed by the Linn County Conservation Board.

The two acquisition properties combined have many diverse habitats including upland grasses, ponds (wetlands), woodlands, and riparian areas along the Wapsipinicon River, A State-Protected Water Area. Acquiring these properties for public use will ensure that these habitats are protected and enhanced and will therefore benefit a wide variety of wildlife species.

Critical aquatic habitat will be protected with this acquisition. Additional wildlife habitat such as prairie will be developed on land that is currently in agricultural use. The land currently enrolled in the CRP program will be upgraded per the habitat development plan. Planting the cultivated land to permanent cover will help reduce runoff and associated pollutants going into the nearby Wapsipinicon River. These acquisitions will enlarge an already impressive core wildlife area and also greatly enhance access to the north unit of Matsell Bridge Natural Area.

Funding sources include Linn County Conservation Board donations, REAP, Pheasants Forever, Wild Turkey Federation, and North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Willow Creek – Frahm-Prestholt Addition, Worth County

This 157 acre property adjoins 220 acres already owned by the County Conservation Board and will also be managed for the main purpose of hunting. It will benefit waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as provide important nesting and winter cover.

The site will have approximately 120 acres of native prairie seeded along the shallow water excavations totaling about 20 acres. There is currently some secondary growth timber along with an abandoned sand pit now acting as a small pond which has the potential to become a bigger wetland complex in the future.

It is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program, and the agriculture ground is under permanent protection and easement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Funding sources include Pheasants Forever, Worth County Conservation Foundation, and donations from the Prestholt and Frahm Families.

Minear Wildlife Area, Howard County

The purchase of this 66 acre property adjacent to Vernon Springs County Park will permanently protect important woodland and grassland habitat in the Turkey River Corridor. It will ensure perpetual connectivity between upland habitat and the river valley increasing hunting opportunities for the public. The site is located approximately 1 mile south of Cresco and is bordered by a 55 acre parcel owned by the County Conservation Board. Acquisition of this land expands permanent protection along the Turkey River, an important habitat corridor. It will expand the Vernon Springs area and add to a complex of public lands along the Turkey River.

This property is comprised of woodland, pasture, and a possible prairie remnant. It serves as an important buffer to the Turkey River, filtering field runoff from neighboring farms. It will be managed as a game management area and permit public hunting. The Howard County Conservation Board will also utilize this area as an outdoor classroom.

Funding sources include Pheasants Forever and the Howard County Conservation Board.

Knapp Wildlife Area, Floyd County

This 67 acre property is located 2 miles NW of Colwell. It will provide habitat for upland, riparian, and wetland species as well as non-game wetland and upland species.

Acquisition of this Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) property will allow continued conservation and wildlife benefits as well as hunting opportunities. The CREP project was developed on Slough Creek for erosion control, denitrification, and other wetland benefits. This activity resulted in a high quality upland/wetland wildlife habitat. Slough Creek itself will be protected and enhanced and will add riparian habitat. The conservation board has already acquired a CREP site from the same landowner just 4 miles away and at least 2 additional CREP sites are scheduled for the area. These sites will have a huge impact in total on water quality and wildlife benefits. Waterfowl nesting boxes structures will also be installed to compliment the wetlands. Funding sources include Pheasants Forever and Izaak Walton League.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

16. FISH HABITAT PROMOTION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW

Natural Resource Commission approval is requested for the fish habitat grant recommendations. All revenue derived from fish habitat fees, paid for as part of fishing licenses, is deposited in the state fish and game protection fund to be used for fish habitat development. In compliance with 571 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 35, at least fifty percent of all revenue from the sale of fish habitat fees is distributed equally among six county districts to county conservation boards. Each district is allowed to hold a two-year apportionment before money is reverted and redistributed equally among all districts. This program is a 90% cost share grant open to all county conservation boards for the development of fish habitat or acquisition of land to be used for fish habitat development purposes. The Fish Habitat Grant Review Committees met in December 2011 and January 2012 to review county conservation board projects. Each district forms a grant committee made up of at least five county conservation board directors that rank and score all of the projects in their district. A district fisheries biologist sits on each committee for advisory purposes. The committee recommends funding the projects as follows:

District 1 committee recommends funding the following two (2) ranked projects.

Tama County	\$44,212.12	Fish Habitat Placement in Pond-Parcel A Hansen Addition
Marshall County	\$17,460.00	Riprap (partial shoreline) Sand Lake

District I Total \$61,672.12

District II committee recommends funding the following five (5) projects.

Mitchell County	\$23,077.00	Rock Creek Land Acquisition
Butler County	\$18,068.40	Camp Comfort River Bank Armoring
Kossuth County	\$14,954.00	Smith Lake Sediment Basin
Howard County	\$16,672.50	Lake Hendricks Riprap
Howard County	\$12,686.40	Lake Hendricks Jetty

District II Total \$85,458.30

District III committee recommends funding the following four (4) ranked projects.

O'Brien County	\$18,710.00	Douma Park
O'Brien County	\$12,830.00	Mill Creek Project
Palo Alto	\$28,125.00	Five Island Project
Sioux County	\$32,001.00	Big Sioux Rec Area

District III Total \$91,666.00

District IV committee recommends funding the following three (3) projects.

Guthrie County	\$55,000.00	Nations Bridge Park Fishing Riffle
Ringgold County	\$14,617.00	Fife's Grove Park Pond Renovation

District IV Total \$91,667.00

District V committee recommends funding the following three (3) projects.

Marion County	\$50,000.00	Fish Habitat & Lake Renovation at Marion County Park
Des Moines County	\$39,226.50	Big Hollow Lake Impaired Retention Pond Development Project
Jefferson County	\$22,734.00	Whitam Woods Pond Renovation

District V Total \$111,960.50

District VI committee recommends funding the following seven (7) ranked projects.

Dubuque County	\$10,870.00	Upper Catfish Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement
Jones County	\$9,039.00	Hale Wildlife Area/Hagen Addition Pond Construction
Linn County	\$39,834.00	Pinicon Ridge Park, Riverside Channels Fish Habitat
Jackson County	\$30,600.00	Spruce Creek Park-Harbor Restoration
Allamakee County	\$23,895.00	Volney Park Stream Bank Armoring
Allamakee County	\$26,068.00	Phase II Columbus Bridge Property Stream Bank Armoring
Iowa County	\$7,146.00	Lake Iowa Articial Reefs

District VI Total \$147,452

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

Carroll County	\$33,580.00	Pond Construction at Tigges South Wildlife Area
Greene County	\$ 7,425.00	Pound Pits Renovation
Hamilton County	\$49,500.00	Little Wall Lake Shoreline Armoring and Habitat
Clay County	\$34,843.50	Scharnberg Park – Shoreline Armoring
Sioux County	\$14,980.00	Winterfeld Boating and Fishing Area – Fishing Jetty
Audubon County	\$17,100.00	Littlefield Lake Wetland Restoration
Audubon County	\$13,950.00	Littlefield Lake Shoreline Restoration
Taylor County	\$19,800.00	Sands Timber Recreation Area Shoreline Deepening Fish Habitat Improvement
Taylor County	\$35,099.00	Sands Timber Recreation Area Jetty Installation
Taylor County	\$49,410.00	Sands Timber Recreation Area Shoreline Armoring

Union County	\$33,570.00	Cedar Park Fisheries Habitat Renovation Project
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The Department recommends the Commission to approve the aforementioned projects, as described above.

Fish Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Project Descriptions

District I

Installation of fish habitat/structure in conjunction with the construction of a 3.2 acre pond on **Parcel A-Hansen Addition** is slated for summer of 2012. The pond will provide a pond fishing experience and also improve water quality in the SE bay of Otter Creek Lake.

Riprap along **Sand Lake** will help stabilize and protect shoreline from further erosion caused by wind-driven waves and flooding from the Iowa River.

District II

The acquisition of 160 acres will protect and enhance critical wildlife and fisheries habitat along the **Rock Creek Watershed**. It will greatly benefit the water quality around Rock Creek by the removal of crop land and establish native prairie. It will provide nearly one mile of public fishing access along Rock Creek—the only public access to the stream in the county.

Armoring at Butler County’s **Camp Comfort** Recreation Area will protect approximately 797 feet of the Shell Rock River and Coldwater Creek. It will also increase water quality and provide increased fish structure.

Dredging a silt retention basin and enhancing an existing rock dike will help reduce nutrient and sediment inputs into **Smith Lake**. A silt fence will also be constructed to prevent runoff back in to the channel.

Riprap along the shoreline of **Lake Hendricks** will create fish habitat that will be used as spawning areas, feeding areas, and escape cover. In addition, it will prevent further erosion and allow sport anglers easier access to the lake shore.

Constructing a fishing jetty at **Lake Hendricks** will increase fishing opportunities for shore anglers and add needed habitat to the fishery.

District III

Installation of a rock habitat structure and fishing jetty will positively impact several fish habitat activities at **Douma Park**. The rock substrate will improve fish habitat structure in the lake which will in turn impact the quantity and quality for the sport fish species. The jetty will increase the sport fishing opportunities by providing a handicap accessible location from which anglers can fish in deeper water without a boat. The jetty structure will protect the adjacent shoreline from erosion by water currents and waves while also improving water quality and habitat structure. The Conservation Board will also be adding a solar light which will naturally manipulate fish populations and will allow nighttime access to fishing.

Installation of a rock habitat structure and fishing jetty will address several fish habitat activities at **Mill Creek Park**. The rock substrate will improve fish habitat structure in the lake which will in turn impact the quantity and quality for the sport fish species. The jetty will increase the sport fishing opportunities by providing a handicap accessible location from which anglers can fish in deeper water without a boat. The jetty structure will protect the adjacent shoreline from erosion by water currents and waves while also improving water quality and habitat structure. The Conservation Board will also be adding a solar light which will naturally manipulate fish populations and will allow nighttime access to fishing.

Construction of a rock reef in **Five Island Lake** will improve the fishing recreation of the lake by attracting fish through habitat enhancement. The rock reef will be constructed of native fieldstone. The 650 feet shoreline armoring and 50’ fishing jetty project will add habitat, protect shoreline,

and add structure for fish and macro invertebrates at **Big Sioux Recreational Area**. In addition to giving anglers more surface area to fish from, anglers will also have the opportunity to catch larger fish that congregate along the riprap structures.

District IV

Placement of 430 feet of shoreline riprap will be used to control excessive bank erosion on a critical peninsula between two fingers of **Willow Lake**. It will provide quality fish spawn habitat and allow for greater access to fishermen.

Constructing a native fieldstone fishing riffle with limestone riprap at **Nations Bridge Park** will provide fish habitat, easy access to fishermen, and create wintering habitat for multiple species of fish.

Renovation of **Fife's Grove Park Pond** will improve water quality, increase the depth and size of the pond, and introduce more desirable fish and vegetation species. The project will include draining and dedging of the existing pond. In addition to deepening the existing pond, the material being dug out of the shallow pond will be used to create fishing jetties to greatly improve angler access. Any disturbed areas will be repaired by reseeding the pond dike and installing riprap to prevent jerry erosion and to provide quality fish habitat for multiple fish species and bank stabilization.

District V The **Big Hollow Lake** watershed contains 4,280 acres above the lake. Since 1978, 24 erosion control structures were established on public and private land in this watershed. Of those structures, 23 are ponds strategically placed around the lake's perimeter. The structures benefit the lake by retaining the run off and separating the silt and erosion material from the lake. The impaired retention pond will be drained down, the face of the dam will then be cored and the existing overflow pipe will be replaced. Betonite will be spread in the core trench area and clay and riprap will be installed. Proper maintenance will ensure continued protections for the lake as well as enhanced fishing opportunities on the pond. Construction of a rock sill dam and silt retention pond at the **Marion County Park Lake** will help control sediment and slow down the water allowing the sediment to drop out before it reaches the interior lake area. The silt retention pond will help reduce nutrient delivery to the lake. This is the first of a four phase approach to improve fisheries habitat and renovate the lake working toward better water quality and improved fisheries.

Restoring a quality fishery to an existing one acre pond in **Whitam Woods Park** will include draining the pond, removing excess silt, repairing/rebuilding the dam and adding fish habitat.

District VI

Sloping and stabilizing 305 feet of actively eroding stream bank with riprap will improve stream quality and aquatic habitat in **Upper Catfish Creek**. The overhead habitat will be improved by adding five bank hide structures.

The 2.2 acre pond construction at **Hale Wildlife Area** will add fishing opportunities and enhance diversity through addition of pond and shoreline habitat. It will also improve water quality in downstream waterways through slowing runoff and reduction of sediment load to the Wapsipinicon River.

Three fishing jetties will be constructed in the channel at **Pinicon Ridge Park**. Deepening the channel will provide better fishing habitat. Dredging out the channel will provide over wintering areas for fish as well as better habitat and water quality from spring through fall. The third jetty will be constructed to allow for people to fish further out in the channels.

Harbor restoration at **Spruce Creek Park** will provide better deep water habitat conditions especially over winter habitat for the members of the sunfish family. The harbor site will be dredged and 4 habitat structures will be installed to provide additional structure for fish. The deep water habitats will create excellent habitat for centrarchids, and thereby increasing the fishing opportunities within the park area.

Volney Park Stream bank stabilization and bank armoring will reduce silting into the Yellow River and thus the Mississippi River. It will also improve fishing access to the Yellow River by eliminating the vertical drop to the water line along the shoreline. Habitat for trout will be enhanced and habitat

improvements will include reduction of sedimentation resulting in enhanced natural reproduction opportunities.

The **Columbus Bridge Property** stream bank stabilization and bank armoring will include a handicapped fishing access sidewalk constructed into the riprap. The ADA standard sidewalk will provide river access to the Allamakee County Conservation Board's Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center currently under design.

Constructing an artificial reef in the 97 acre lake located at **Lake Iowa Park** will promote a long term habitat. It will benefit the environment by enhancing aquatic habitat and resources, as well as providing an additional option for conserving, managing, and/or developing fishery resources.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

17. BRASS BLUEGILL AWARD

Each year, the Department sponsors an award honoring an individual for their efforts in helping our citizens become skilled anglers and advocates of fishing and natural resource conservation. This year we are recognizing Karen Phelps, naturalist with the Benton County Conservation Board. Karen was first trained in *Fish Iowa!* in 2005 and became a trainer that same year. She works with area teachers to develop overall conservation education and outdoor skills programs and provides ongoing support to these educators. She has also worked with thousands of youth over the years through *Fish Iowa!* and she is involved with a number of other education and outreach efforts sponsored by the Department including *Projects WILD*, *WILD Aquatic*, and *Learning Tree*; GreenSchools!, IOWATER, Hunter Education, and National Archery in the Schools. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Education Program has recognized outstanding partners with the Brass Bluegill Award since 1997.

INFORMATION ONLY

18. BRUSHY CREEK TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Department requests Commission approval of the following recommended appointments to the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board. The Trails Advisory Board advises the Department and 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 Directors 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 and include consideration for gender balance, terms 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 Daryl Howell, Sherry Arntzen, Sandy Sampson, Jim Lawson, Angie Bruce, and Whitney Davis.

Brushy Creek Advisory Board applicants 2012

candidate	average
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Reed, Patrick	33.3
Follman, Doug	31.8
Jenny, Linda	31.7
Christensen, Donna	26
Hansen, Dan	24.5
Collins, Susan	23.5
Hilton, Gary	22.5
Seaba, Alyce	20.8

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

Patrick Reed: Patrick lives in Lehigh and works as an insurance agent/representative. He has been a member of the board for several years. He lives adjacent to the recreation area and uses all the unique opportunities offered: hiking, trail use, hunting, fishing and boating.

Doug Follman: Doug lives in Stanhope and works at the First State Bank in Webster City. He and his family use the recreation area for fishing, camping, hiking extensively. He doesn't own any horses but has hiked the trails by foot and wants to share the extensive trail system at Brushy with other hikers in Iowa.

Linda Jenny: Linda lives in Stratford and is a retired school teacher. She currently spends her time riding, training and boarding horses. She enjoys kayaking and bird watching. As a lover of the outdoors and living only 10 miles from the recreation area she hopes to help preserve its natural beauty while enjoying her favorite activities.

The three appointed members will join the 4 standing members (Beth Aswegan, Ron Jacobson, Lori Lange, and Mike Tinkham), Deborah Lewis (Preserves Board designee), Amber O'Neill (Park Manager), and Kevin Szcodronski (DNR Director Designee) to make up the 10 member board.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

19. BRUSHY CREEK TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Pat Reed, Chairperson of the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board, will present the 2011 Annual Report. Mr. Reed will show photos and maps during the presentation to allow commissioners and attendees to better visualize the board's activities.

Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board

3175-290th Street, Lehigh, Iowa 50557 * www.iowadnr.gov/bcreek/index.html

2011 Annual Report

Presented to the IA DNR Natural Resource Commission 03/08/12

- In April of 2011, we saw the Brushy Creek staff diminish significantly with the retirement of Park Ranger Steve Bell and the
- transfer of Park Manager Chad Kelchen. Park Manager Amber O'Neill has taken over Chad's place on the Trails Advisory
- Board. In the past there were 5 seasonal staff members at the park and this year only 2 could be hired. Thankfully camphosts Steve & Kathy Haakenson and Ron Eckman were avid volunteers

throughout the summer which helped immensely. The year started off with a maintenance reduction plan that included abandoning some picnic areas and mowing day use areas and trails

- on a very limited basis. After July, “normal” maintenance was resumed, which still included some reduced mowing of large
- open areas in the campgrounds and picnic areas that has been done for the past couple of years.
- Board members Pat Reed and Beth Aswegan attended the Friends Group Summit in April where new ideas to raise funds for parks were discussed. Starting a new friends group at Brushy is something that may be explored down the road.
- The Webster County Engineer’s Office gave a written response to the request for an at-grade trail crossing or underpass structure on County Road D-46 near the South Campground entrance. Neither the DNR nor the county believes an at-grade crossing would be safe at that location. The county would not be opposed to an underpass structure but the road department would not be responsible for the costs to build and maintain such a structure. There is currently a trail crossing beneath the bridge just ¼ mile down the road.
- st
- A very successful trail work day was held on May 1 with 10 volunteers picking up garbage, pruning and rerouting two sections of trail along the Des Moines River that were becoming unsafe as the riverbank continues to collapse.
- Camping numbers were high this year, in part thanks to a drier than normal year which allowed trails to be open more often. The number of reservable sites was increased to 75% in the North and Beach Campgrounds and was kept at 50% in the South Campground. All 264 sites were full for Labor Day weekend and only a handful of non-electric remained on the other two holidays.
- The All-Weather Rock Trail is officially complete. This project that began in 2005 created 13 miles of rock trail around the lake that remains open even when others are closed due to wet conditions.
- This summer the DNR Americorps Trail Crew spent time at Brushy Creek. They spent a lot of time pruning the trails, making trail repairs, and helping with windstorm damage at Brushy, Dolliver, and Union Grove.
- Padlocks were placed on the Preserve Trail gates this summer. Somebody opened the gates and the trail was significantly damaged twice by horse riders during a closure. Unfortunately, limited staff means less patrolling and if someone really wants to break the rules they can find ways around the gates. Some education is needed, perhaps a sign at the trail head. This is the only preserve in the state that has been allowed to have a trail go through it. It has a very hydric soil that does not drain well and once a muddy area gets chewed up it will stay that way for a very long time and just keep getting bigger.
- New federal mandates allow handicapped persons to use other power driven mobility devices on trails with a park issued permit. Once such individual that was part of a group of horse riders took advantage of this with a Polaris Ranger in July, but did not go very far because of the overgrown burdock weeds in one section.
- A can collection barrel has been well used along the trail. Park staff may put more out but perhaps come up with a design that blends in better. This helps keep the trails cleaner and volunteers collect those cans and donate the money back to the park for improvement projects.
- At the October meeting a tour of some FEMA trail repair sites was conducted. All 2010 flood damage projects have been finished.
- A volunteer trail work day has been set for April 21, 2012. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

INFORMATION ONLY

20. DONATIONS

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$15.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Ray and Betty Collins
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$20.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Kristina and Robert Wilson
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$20.00	Memorial contribution in memory of her husband, Daryl Neumann.	Denise Neumann
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$20.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	David and Lisa Russell
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$20.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Bill and Maureen Sharp
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Curtis and Ardell Stoops
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Lee Czapanskiy
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	J.D. Proudfit
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Carl and Janet Metzger
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Charles and Carol Russo
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$25.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Judith Davidson
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$35.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Rex and Joann Rockey
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$50.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Allan and Gina Graham
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$50.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Stephanie McAdam
Mines of Spain	\$60.00	Funds toward Eagle Scout project; trail bridge construction.	Loren H. Shellabarger 4th
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$75.00	Memorial contribution in memory of Daryl Neumann.	Jack and Janeen Myer
Mines of Spain	\$90.34	Funds toward Eagle Scout project; trail bridge construction.	David E. Shellabarger
Fish and Game Trust Fund	\$200.00	Funds supporting the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	Janice Kerkove
Clear Lake Fish Management	\$500.00	Park Bench and cement in memory of Robert Larson.	Florence Larson
Lake Macbride State Park	\$500.00	Funds toward park improvements.	Paul and Sabrina Moore
Mines of Spain	\$600.00	Funds toward Eagle Scout project; GPS course.	Bryan Case
Prairie Rose State Park	\$650.00	Concrete bench.	Galen Johannsen

Lake Macbride State Park	\$1,000.00	Funds toward park improvements.	Richard and Sunday Antrim
Clear Lake Fish Management	\$1,200.00	Biomark Tag Reader, Tags, and syringes for Muskie tagging.	Chris McCabe, Heartland Chapter – Muskie, Inc.
State Forest Nursery	\$10,000.00	Funds supporting the State Forest Nursery in memory of Betty Tognetti.	Betty Tognetti Estate
Deer Creek WMA	\$10,300.00	Loess Hills local ecotype prairie seed (2,000 lbs - \$10,000) and use of drop seeder (\$300) on 30 acres at Deer Creek WMA, Plymouth County.	Bill Zales

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

21. INFORMATION ITEM RED CEDAR RIVER CHANNEL – BLACK HAWK COUNTY

BMC Aggregates, L.C. has requested to present information related the portions of the Red Cedar River Channel in Black Hawk County.

INFORMATION ONLY

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chuck Corell, CRD Division Administrator, presented information regarding the Iowa Auditor’s Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting for Honey Creek Resort dated June 30, 2011. Chuck provided an update on the Aquatic Invasive Species legislation, which is currently pending due to an amendment.

Commissioners Underwood and Prickett remarked they enjoyed receiving the REAP annual report from the Congress.

Wildlife presented information on potential changes to the Hunting and Trapping Seasons rule. Commissioners supported staff to proceed with bobcat and otter, deer, geese, and doves recommendations for rulemaking. The Commission requested an information only teleconference be coordinated for 03/12/12 or 03/13/12 to further discuss waterfowl seasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Commissioner Underwood
 Seconded - Commissioner Francisco.
 Decision - Approved by Unanimous Vote
 With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Chair Drees adjourned the meeting on 03/08/12 4:25p.m.

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

UPCOMING NRC MEETING DATES

April 12, 2012 - Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am

