

MINUTES  
OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION  
MEETING

DECEMBER 13, 2012

HELD AT:

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

For Office Use Only

Date Minutes Approved By NRC: 1/16/13

Director's Signature: Chuck Gipp  
Chuck Gipp  
Director

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NRC MINUTES

Sender's initials: KR

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Chair, Margo Underwood, on 12/13/12 at 9:30am.

**COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE**

Present

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

Absent

- Gregory Drees

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>
Ned Meyers	field trial grounds at Pleasant Creek
Walter Simmons	grounds maintenance for horseback trials (chose not to speak during public participation period but interjected comments during information item #8)
Randy Caldwell	field trials on Pleasant Creek (chose not to speak during public participation period but interjected comments during information item #8)
Tony McGrane	Pleasant Creek (chose not to speak during public participation period but interjected comments during information item #8)

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion – Commissioner Francisco Seconded – Commissioner Prickett Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote
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CARRIED AS PRESENTED
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**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF 11/08/12 NRC PUBLIC MEETING**

Motion – Commissioner Francisco Seconded – Commissioner Clement Decision – Approved; Commissioner Rettig abstained due to not in attendance at the 11/08/12 meeting
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CARRIED AS PRESENTED
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**3. DIRECTOR’S REMARKS**

Director Gipp provided an update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Iowa, the process the Department is implementing, and public meetings held. He also provided information on the health and safety review the Department has implemented after an isolated accident that occurred this summer, and the training staff may participate in is being explored. Director Gipp reported the Department submitted a status quo budget to the Governor as requested and during the budget presentation we were able to include challenges the Department faces, such as defease the Honey Creek Resort bonds, forest health, Lake Restoration funds, and livestock issues.

**4. HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK UPDATE**

Chuck Corell, DNR Conservation and Recreation Division Administrator, presented information on budget, marketing, and public relations. Also, information was provided to the Commission that the Resort is considered a refuge so public hunting is not allowed on the premises, and the Resort continues to work on updating their website.

INFORMATIONAL

**5. CONTRACT WITH WILDERNESS GRAPHICS FOR STATE PARK INTERPRETIVE PANEL DESIGN AND FABRICATION**

The Commission is requested to approve the selection of Wilderness Graphics at a cost of \$78,800 for the writing, design and fabrication of interpretive panels for multiple state parks. Twelve state parks will be receiving new orientation panels. Five state parks will be receiving a full suite that include 1 orientation and 3 interpretive panels which will be placed in 4-sided kiosks. Signs will be designed to meet all ADA requirements and Iowa State Park templates, color pallets and icons will be followed. It is the intent that customers will seek out these panels for the interpretive messaging and way finding at each park. It is the intent through self-guided interpretation that visitors will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the resource visited. An RFP was submitted to approximately twenty (20) firms locally and across the nation to solicit services to help design and fabricate interpretive signs that would meet ADA requirements. The RFP was also posted to the Targeted Small Businesses and the Department’s website. Proposals were received on November 9th from 7 firms interested in our design and fabrication needs and 6 submitted complete proposals. All bids were scored based on Review and Evaluation Criteria as described in the RFP which included their ability to complete the scope of work within the desired timeline, comprehensive communication plan, and description and quality of previous and applicable work experience. The scoring team selected Wilderness Graphics at a cost of \$78,800 to design and fabricate interpretive panels for state parks.

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Score	Rank	Cost
Wilderness Graphics	Tallahassee, FL	80	1	\$78,800
Experience Design	Pawtucket, RI	76	2	\$49,500
Kidzibits	Minneapolis, MN	74	3	\$50,840
Conservation By Design	Silver City, NM	67	4	\$87,350
106 Group	St. Paul, MN	57	5	\$98,600
Shive-Hattery	Des Moines, IA	56	6	\$87,750

Motion – Commissioner Francisco  
 Seconded – Commissioner Prickett  
 Discussion – Michelle shared she had been the person preparing the text and pictures for panels and an outside source would fabricate them. This project will have the firm complete the panels from creation to fabrication. She also provided information on how technology, such as QR codes, are being integrated into the panels.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**\*6. PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST AGREEMENT**

The Department requests Commission approval of a one year agreement with Pheasants Forever to fund up to twelve Farm Bill Biologists to work one-on-one with landowners to deliver wildlife technical and financial assistance. The contract period would be from January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013. The total amount of the contract shall not exceed \$75,000. The funding source of the contract is the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. Pheasants Forever will fund the remaining cost of the Farm Bill biologists, up to \$730,000. The Department has partnered with Pheasants Forever in the Reload Iowa Farm Bill biologists program for the past three years with the goal of expanding technical assistance to landowners. From January 2012-September 2012, twelve contracted PF Farm Bill Biologists have had 672 landowner contacts (average 56 contacts per biologist) and provided habitat recommendations, such as CRP, native seeding, prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, and non-CRP

wetlands, for 22,512 acres. The Farm Bill biologists and DNR Wildlife Bureau Private Lands Program staff coordinate efforts to present a cooperative program to the public.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

**7. CONTRACT WITH CITY OF EMMETSBURG FOR DREDGING AT FIVE ISLAND LAKE (PALO ALTO COUNTY)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the City of Emmetsburg, Iowa. The contract will begin on January 1, 2013, and terminate on December 31, 2014. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$400,000 and the DNR shall have the option to renew this contract long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period. Five Island Lake (Palo Alto County) is one of the significant public lakes prioritized for restoration. Lake Restoration Program guidelines recommend the department give priority for funding to active lake projects so long as progress toward completion of the project remains consistent with the goals of the program. This contract will allow the City of Emmetsburg to complete the final stage of a multi-year dredging project. The goal of the project is to increase lake mean water depth and improve the lake water quality. The parties propose to enter into this Contract for the purpose of reimbursing the City of Emmetsburg for continued and planned lake dredging operations at Five Island Lake (Palo Alto County). The DNR and the City of Emmetsburg enter into this agreement pursuant to a program established under Iowa Code §456A.33B, LAKE RESTORATION PLAN AND REPORT, known as the State Lake Restoration Program.

Motion – Commissioner Rettig  
Seconded – Commissioner Clement  
Discussion – Staff provided information about the layout of the lake (part refuge and part recreation), and that wind and wave action and ice generates more turbidity than recreation measures.  
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**8. PLEASANT CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The Natural Resource Commission approved an updated ecosystem management plan for Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area in August 2005. The plan calls for the eradication of invasive plant species and conversion of early succession woodlands and brome grass areas into prairies. The goal is to manage the vegetation in ways that balance benefits to the many outdoor recreation uses of the area. Implementation of the management plan has been steadily progressing since 2005. The last of the prairie plantings are scheduled this upcoming spring. Park staff will present a status report on implementation of the management plan, with specific references to the dog trial activities that take place at Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area.

Discussion – Kevin Szcodronski, State Parks Bureau Chief, and Joan Flecksing, Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area Park Manager, presented information on the use and land management of Pleasant Creek SRA. Public comments and input were interjected during the presentation. Staff and the public will continue to dialogue. Commissioner Underwood requested Parks research potential field trial sites in Iowa and report back to the Commission their findings.

INFORMATIONAL

**9. ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction projects:

**9.1. ROCK CREEK STATE PARK, SEA WALL REPLACEMENT**

JASPER COUNTY-- PROJECT # 06-05-50-02, **Project Summary:** This project consists of the construction of a sheet pile sea wall for the docking of boats. The park currently rents boat docking spaces for the boating season at this seawall. **Function of the Project:** The existing sea wall and walkway are collapsing and in need of replacement. It is composed of rotting wooden posts and scrapped out aluminum picnic table seats and table tops. The concrete walkway is undermined and settling unevenly. This makes for an unsafe and unstable feature for users; and the current seawall is visually unpleasant. **Construction Needed:** The sea wall will be composed of

steel sheet piles driven into the lake shore with tiebacks to concrete deadmen to prevent movement of the wall. A walkway will be made of structural concrete and reinforced with steel reinforcing bars. Concrete will be placed over compacted crushed stone, which will provide a stable base for many years to come. Eight floating docks will be produced by and procured separately from Iowa Prison Industries and attached to the sea wall. This will allow for sixteen boats to be moored. **Green Features:** All steel, concrete, and rock materials are considered to be recyclable materials at the end of the project's useful life.

**DNR Project Manager:** Jason Kruse, P.E.; Engineering Bureau

**Designer:** Jason Kruse, P.E.; Engineering Bureau

**DNR Inspector:** Jason Kruse, P.E.; Engineering Bureau

**Operating Bureau:** Parks Bureau

**Funding Source:** 100% Marine Fuel Tax

**Cost Estimate:** \$115,000

Capital Link #124

**Plans Issue Date:** 10/25/12

**Bid Letting Date:** 11/15/12

**Plan Holders:** 9

**Number of Bids Received:** 9

**Bidders**

Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC Washington, IA \$101,045.00

Kinman Co Inc Oskaloosa, IA \$120,500.00

Herberger Construction Company Inc. Indianola, IA \$131,407.00

Septagon Construction Co., Inc. Grimes, IA \$132,500.00

Peterson Contractors, Inc. Reinbeck, IA \$134,300.00

WRH, Inc. DBA Wendler Const., Inc. Amana, IA \$134,950.00

Taylor Construction, Inc. New Vienna, IA \$143,519.00

United Contractors, Inc. Johnston, IA \$174,920.00

Jasper Construction Services, Inc. Newton, IA \$192,000.00

**IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC.**

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel

Seconded – Commissioner Rettig

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**9.2. ST MARY'S ISLAND WMA, NORTH ROADWAY AND PARKING PROJECT**

MILLS COUNTY-- PROJECT # 12-04-65-01, **Project Summary:** The St. Mary's Island Wildlife Management Area in Mills County is comprised of 140 acres of State land and 2419 acres of land acquired by the US Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the Wildlife Bureau. The Corps tract is part of the Missouri River Mitigation/Recovery Project. St. Mary's Island WMA is a relatively new public area. The first tracts were acquired in September 2004 by the Corps of Engineers. Public use of the area continues to increase as the public has become more aware of its presence. There is more need for development of improved public access. Public use potential for the area is great due to its proximity to nearby population centers. It is 7 miles from Glenwood IA, 11 miles from Council Bluffs IA, 6 miles from Bellevue NE and 17 miles from Omaha NE. The population within 30 miles of St. Mary's Island is over 900,000. This project consists of the construction of a crushed stone over engineering fabric access roadway with a granular surfaced parking area and seven pull-off areas. **Function of the Project:** The proposed access road and parking lot will allow improved public access to the wildlife area by creating an improved access point to the northern boundary. This project will provide users with vehicular access to the entire north side of the existing 2,419 acre St Mary's Island WMA. This area is currently used for fishing, bird watching, hiking, and hunting. **Construction Needed:** The project will provide and place crushed rock roadway over engineering fabric for a distance of 6,600 feet in order to provide vehicular access to the area.

**Green Features:** The access road will be a porous rock surface directly over the existing terrain, thereby acting as a porous road surface with no need for curb & gutter, storm sewers, and/or other precipitation runoff handling facilities.

**DNR Project Manager:** Butch Doorenbos, PE, Engineering Bureau

**Designer:** Butch Doorenbos, PE, Engineering Bureau

**DNR Inspector:** Mark Johnson, Engineering Bureau

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife

**Funding Source:** Federal- Other (100%)

Capital Link #66

**Cost Estimate:** \$135,000.00

**Plans Issue Date:** 10/25/12

**Bid Letting Date:** 11/15/ 12

**Plan Holders:** 10

**Number of Bids Received:** 5

**Bidders**

Carley Construction, LLC Treynor, IA \$90,792.40

CJ Moyna & Sons, Inc. Elkader, IA \$96,271.70

Richards Construction Co., Inc. Sac City, IA \$106,225.50

K & L Construction, Inc. Sergeant Bluff, IA \$123,728.25

Affiliated Services International, LLC Indiana, PA \$181,753.76

**IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Carley Construction, LLC.**

Motion – Commissioner Prickett

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Gabe Lee provided information that the final project would not create run off so a rain garden would not be a necessary feature.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**9.3. BIG CREEK STATE PARK, TRAILS CREW BUILDING**

POLK COUNTY -- PROJECT # 13-02-77-01, **Project Summary:** The Trails Crew Building burned down in late 2011 and there has been a need for a new structure for storage and offices. This new 96'x48' building will be constructed over the existing building site; the new building will have two offices, one restroom, one conference/break area, mechanical room, two heated garage bays and two cold garage bays. Site work will be minimal as the construction site was prepared and graded for the original building. **Function of the Project:** To provide the Trails Crew with new office & storage and maintenance space for welding, masonry, wood-working equipment for year-round operations. The shop area is mainly used in the winter for fabrication of trail building material like metal railings, signs, pedestrian bridges, etc in preparation for warm weather work, i.e. to create and maintain trails. Water Trails program shares part of the building. It will be use primarily for storage of equipment and necessary tools. **Construction Needed:** Cutting and filling of current location, concrete foundation work and building erection. Site utility protection and trenching will also be needed.

**Green Features:**

- Metal Roof – Life expectancy 25+ years and fully recyclable.
- Structural Insulated Panels – Insulated resistance R-42.
- LED lighting (full cut-off) used on all evening security lights.
- Pervious paving throughout the site.
- Photo sensors on garage bay lights – monitors and dims lights to appropriate levels.
- Reuse of existing site – utilities already in place.
- High efficiency forced air unit heaters (shop).
- Energy efficient windows.

**DNR Project Manager:** Ryan Richey, NCARB; Engineering Bureau

**Designer:** Ryan Richey, NCARB; Engineering Bureau

**DNR Inspector:** Don Labate, P.E.; Engineering Bureau

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** 87% Executive Council - 13% Other

**Cost Estimate:** \$436,500.00

**Plans Issue Date:** 10/25/12

**Bid Letting Date:** 11/15/12

**Plan Holders:** 15

**Bids Received:** 11

**Bidders**

Larry Elwood Construction Mason City, IA \$406,175.69

R.H. Grabau Construction, Inc. Boone, IA \$445,147.19

Hanson Construction, LLC Clear Lake, IA \$456,628.37

Septagon Construction Co., Inc. Grimes, IA \$466,900.00

Lansink Construction, Inc. Johnston, IA \$477,000.00

Prostruct Construction, Inc. West Des Moines, IA \$483,204.76

Lang Construction Group, Inc. West Des Moines, IA \$496,400.00

Blue Ribbon Builders Earlham, IA \$524,382.84

TK Concrete Inc. Pella, IA \$556,422.10

Jensen Builders, Ltd. Fort Dodge, IA \$598,000.00

TBB, L.C. Des Moines, IA \$599,658.00

**IDNR recommends awarding the Bid to Larry Elwood Construction.**

Motion – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**10. FY2013 LOW-HEAD DAM PUBLIC HAZARD COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

From the General Assembly's FY2013 special appropriation for water trails and low-head dam mitigation, the Department has prioritized \$380,000 in community projects for the Low-Head Dam Public Hazard program. The projects will further agency goals of safety, stream habitat connectivity, and recreation on Iowa's navigable streams. This cost-sharing will support \$2.5 million in project development. Chapter 30 of the administrative code implements the low-head dam safety cost-share program to support signage, dam removal, and dam modification for the benefits of navigational and recreational safety and aquatic species, including game fish. Seven projects submitted have been screened by our scoring committee, which included Clark Fletcher (citizen, Fort Dodge), Michael Smith (citizen, Des Moines), Rachel Glaza (DNR watershed improvement), Gregory Gelwicks (DNR Fisheries Research), and Nate Hoogeveen (DNR River Programs). Below is the full project list and rankings including the scoring committee's recommendation for funding for state fiscal year 2013 awards:

**FY2013 LOW-HEAD DAM SAFETY, RANKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Project Name	Applicant	Amount requested	Funding recommendation	Total Project Cost	Rank
Cedar Lake Dam Portage Trail	City of Nashua	\$7,896	\$7,896	\$9,870	1
Rockford Dam Removal	Floyd County Conservation Board	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$108,560	2
Design Phase-Burlington Street Dam Mitigation / Whitewater Park	City of Iowa City	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$310,000	3
Whitewater and Habitat Improvements at the Marion Street Dam	City of Manchester	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,600,000	4

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Quasqueton Rock Arch Rapids	City of Quasqueton	\$48,521	\$48,521	\$356,330	5
Mon Maq Dam Modification- Maquoketa River Restoration	Jones County Conservation Board	\$50,000	\$43,583	\$156,625	6
Whitewater Feature on the Turkey River	City of Elkader	\$87,475	\$0	\$257,000	7
Totals		\$473,892	\$380,000	\$2,541,385	

Staff recommends entering into cost-share agreements with the above-mentioned parties to accomplish the projects identified in their respective applications and seeks commission approval.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco  
 Seconded – Commissioner Prickett  
 Discussion – Commissioner Rettig suggested adding language, similar to previous briefs, allowing funds to be redistributed if a recipient refuses funding.  
 Amend Motion – Commissioner Francisco amended motion to include the text:  
 The committee recommends fully funding the top ranked projects. Undistributed funds may be available from cost savings on projects and/or funds declined. If an approved 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.  
 Seconded – Commissioner Prickett  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS AMENDED

**11. LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

**11.1. BLUEBIRD ACCESS – BUENA VISTA CO. – NOLL**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a tract of land located on the north edge of Linn Grove which is north of Storm Lake. This 12.0-acre parcel is offered by Keith and Diane Noll for \$10,000.00. Jerry Gibson negotiated the option in compliance with Title 49 CFR Part 24 which allows the negotiator to negotiate without an appraisal for a value up to \$10,000. The subject tract contains 12 acres of riparian habitat with 1,950 feet of river frontage adjacent to state-owned land known as Bluebird Access. Bluebird Access has a boat ramp located just upstream from a dam across the Little Sioux River. This acquisition would increase the size of Bluebird Access by 33%, and would provide water trails recreation. The property is home to deer, fur-bearers, song birds, waterfowl, and an occasional bald eagle. The Nolls' have owned and managed the land for 51 years. Acquisition funding will be NAWCA. Surveying is estimated to cost \$1,500.00. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**11.2. Big Marsh WMA – Butler Co. – Allan**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Butler County adjacent to state-owned and managed Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Richard and Marlene Allan offer this 78-acre tract for the appraised price of \$142,000. Steve Badger, Licensed Appraiser of Marshalltown, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is located 6 miles south of Allison in south central Butler County. The level tract is entirely forested bottomland bisected by the West Fork Cedar River. There are no building improvements. Big Marsh WMA borders along the west and south sides of the tract. Access is provided by a Highway No. 14 along the west side of the property. The property will

be managed for outdoor recreation, specifically hunting deer, turkey, and wood ducks. In addition, state endangered wood turtle populations have been documented on the property, as one of the most significant areas for wood turtles in the state. The tract will be managed by the Wildlife Bureau. Acquisition funding will be a \$50,000 donation from Allan and Fayette Meyer Trust, \$50,000 from REAP License Plate, and \$42,000 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp. The property will remain on the tax rolls. No survey or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Schemmel with appreciation to the Allan and Fayette Meyer Trust.  
 Seconded – Commissioner Clement  
 Discussion – Travis provided a brief history of the Trust.  
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

#### 11.3. LENON MILLS WMA – GUTHRIE CO. – CLEVELAND

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Guthrie County adjacent to state-owned and managed Lenon Mills WMA. George and Jill Cleveland offer this 33-acre tract for the appraised price of \$3,775 per surveyed acre (approx. \$124,575). The DNR shall provide for a fence along the sellers retained west boundary. Steven Kroeger, Licensed Appraiser of Menlo, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is located 2 miles south of Panora in east central Guthrie County. The gently sloping to steeply tract contains 24 acres of grassland pasture, 8 acres of timber, and 1 acre of public road frontage. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by a county, hard-surfaced road (Wagon Road) along the entire east boundary. The property will be managed for outdoor recreation, as well as public access to the area of Lenon Mills adjoining to the west and north of the acquisition. The tract will be managed by the Wildlife Bureau. Acquisition funding will be 75% from Wildlife Habitat Stamp, and 25% from REAP Protected Waters Area. The property will remain on the tax rolls. Estimated cost of the land survey is \$4,000, while fencing cost at the boundary is less than \$500. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of land acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

#### 11.4. WATERLOO CREEK WMA – ALLAMAKEE CO. – INHF

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent Waterloo Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers this 47-acre tract for the appraised price of \$166,608. INHF purchased the tract in July 2012 from Jerry Bulman at a price of \$183,114. Steve Badger, Licensed Appraiser of Marshalltown, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is located four miles south of Dorchester in northwestern Allamakee County. The gently sloping to steep tract is a mix of goat prairie hillsides and forested slopes. There are no building improvements. Iowa Route No. 76 provides excellent access along the south side of the property. This acquisition will border Waterloo Creek WMA along the north, east, and south sides. This aesthetic tract will be managed for open woodlands/savanna and the goat/hill prairie will be expanded. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property. Acquisition funding will be 100% from federal State Wildlife Grant. No surveying or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the permanent easement acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**11.5. MIDDLE RACCOON PWA – DALLAS Co. – HOUP**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Dallas County adjacent to state-owned and managed Middle Raccoon PWA. Steve and Lynette Houp offer this 4-acre tract for the appraised price of \$30,000. Fred Lock, Licensed Appraiser of Des Moines, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is an “inholding” (surrounded on all sides by public land) located 2 miles south of Linden in west central Dallas County. The gently sloping to steeply tract contains about 1.5 acres of grassland with remainder as forested ravine. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by a county gravel road along the entire west boundary. The property will be managed for outdoor recreation. Acquisition will eliminate the inholding, an otherwise potential future home site. The tract will be managed by the Wildlife Bureau. Acquisition funding will be \$30,000 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp. The property will remain on the tax rolls. No survey or fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**11.6. Boone Forks WMA – Webster Co. – Kopp**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Webster County adjacent east of Boone Forks WMA. Donald Kopp and family offer this 120-acre tract for the appraised price of \$440,000. Fred Lock, Licensed Appraiser of Des Moines, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is located three miles northwest of Stratford in southeastern Webster County. The rectangular-shaped tract is bisected by a county road with upland timber to the north and benched bottomland to south enrolled and established in CRP (63 acres). The Des Moines River bounds the entire south side of the tract. A vacant two-story house and a barn are building improvements of no value and be removed from the property. This aesthetic tract will be managed for outdoor recreation. The acquisition will greatly enhance the adjoining WMA. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property. Acquisition funding is \$330,000 from Pittman-Robertson and \$110,000 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp. The property will remain on the tax rolls. No surveying or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Motion – Commissioner Francisco  
Seconded – Commissioner Rettig  
Discussion – Travis responded he will follow up on building disposal policies and their green features.  
Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**11.7. CEDAR ROCK STATE PARK – BUCHANAN Co. – INHF**

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Buchanan County near Cedar Rock State Park. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers this 43-acre tract for the bargain sale price of \$80,000. The appraised price is \$143,700. INHF purchased the tract in May 2012 from the Lowell Walter Trust at a price of \$137,500. The seller shall retain cropping rights for 2013 and 2014. Steve Badger, Licensed Appraiser of Marshalltown, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement. This property is located 1 ½ miles northwest of Quasqueton in south central Buchanan County. The level to gently sloping tract contains 18 acres of cropland, 24 acres of timber adjacent to a creek, and 1 acre of road right-of-way. There are no building improvements. A county paved road (W-35) borders the north side of the property. This tract will be managed for prairie planting beginning in 2015. The Parks Bureau will manage the

property. Acquisition funding will be 100% from REAP Open Spaces. The property will remain on the tax rolls. No surveying or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**\*12. LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

**\*12.1. LAKE ICARIA – ADAMS CO. – 28E AGREEMENT**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a 28E agreement between Adams County Conservation Board, the Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Department of Natural Resources for the construction and management of Four Sediment Ponds at Lake Icaria, in Adams County, Iowa. The purpose of the agreement is to convey financial assistance for the construction of and provide for the management and operation of four sediment ponds (Ponds), in conformance with plans and specifications developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and approved by the SWCD and DNR, at Lake Icaria in Adams County, Iowa. In order for the structures to be constructed utilizing financial assistance from the Watershed Improvement Review Board Fund Program, it is necessary for the parties to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 28E. A summary of party responsibilities is as follows:

DNR

- Provide an archeological survey estimated at \$3,000
- Review and approve engineering plans
- Provide fish stocking

SWCD

- Provide \$22,500 to the CCB for construction
- Participate in final inspection

CCB

- Construct the ponds in accordance with plans
- Return any unspent funds to the SWCD
- Manage the ponds in accord with existing management agreement with DNR

Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

**\*12.2. MISSISSIPPI RIVER – CLAYTON CO. – ARTCO (No. 31-R)**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease (No. 31-R) with American River Transportation Company of Decatur, Illinois. The leased area is described as a portion of the bed of the Mississippi River including approximately 1200 feet of frontage by 200 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 636.2 located in Section 10, Township 95 North, Range 3 West of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa. This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1982. A Public Notice was printed in two local newspapers. No comments were received. The annual fee is \$9,057.20 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

**\*12.3. MISSISSIPPI RIVER – CLAYTON CO. – ARTCO (No. 59-R)**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease (No. 59-R) with American River Transportation Company of Decatur, Illinois.

The location is described as a portion of the bed of the Mississippi River including approximately 4,000 feet of frontage by 105 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 607.5 located in Section 7, Township 91 North,

Range 1 West of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa. This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1983. A Public Notice was printed in two local newspapers. No comments were received. The annual fee is \$15,848.23 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

**\*12.4. PILLSBURY POINT – DICKINSON CO. – DORSEY-HENRY**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve, for submission to the Iowa Executive Council for final approval, a Chapter 18 Lease with Lenore Dorsey-Henry. The Dorsey-Henry lease will cover a 6' x 7' boat house. Stipulations to the lease include:

1. The structures shall be properly maintained.
2. No additions or changes shall be made to the existing structure.
3. If the structure deteriorates beyond repair or is destroyed by natural causes, the structure may not be rebuilt or replaced and the remnants will need to be removed.
4. The Department is in the process of designing a Vegetation Management Plan to be implemented for the high bank area around Pillsbury Point. The purpose of this plan is to stabilize the bank to avoid future erosion and to protect West Lake Okoboji. State Parks, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Bureaus will be involved in the design of this plan. Once the plan is ready for implementation, there will be a meeting held between DNR staff and Pillsbury Point property owners to discuss. The proposed lease will be for a five year period. The annual fee is \$300.00 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees. Staff recommends approval of the lease agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

**\*12.5. PLUM CREEK WMA – BREMER CO. – BREMER CCB**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for a management agreement with the Bremer County Conservation Board and the DNR. This agreement authorizes the Bremer County Conservation Board to manage Plum Creek Wildlife Area through 2037. The property is 114 acres of flood plain timber and switch grass along Plum Creek. This property was in CRP and then put into EWP after the 2008 flood. This tract is adjacent to the Bremer County Plum Creek Wildlife Area and can be accessed by the public for those who are hunting, bird watching, morel hunting, or fishing. Hunting and trapping is allowed in the Bremer County Wildlife Areas during the appropriate seasons established by the Iowa DNR. The County desires to manage the area. Staff recommends approval of the management agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

**\*12.6. CARROLL ACCESS, NORTH RACCOON RIVER – CARROLL CO. – CARROLL CCB**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the renewal of a management agreement with the Carroll County Conservation Board and the DNR. This agreement authorizes the Carroll County Conservation Board to manage the Carroll Access-North Raccoon River Access through 2037. The agreement consists of 85 acres with the North Raccoon River running through the Carroll Access Wildlife Area. The area provides the public with access to the river and a boat ramp. The area presently provides for wildlife habitat, fishing access points, public hunting and other recreational opportunities. The county has managed the area since 1961 and desires to continue the agreement. Staff recommends approval of the management agreement.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA

**\*13. AMENDMENT WITH TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**

The Department requests Commission approval for an amendment to a contract Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. The contract provides a certified lab to test tissue samples (retropharyngeal lymph nodes or obex) from white-tailed deer collected for CWD surveillance. The amendment will begin on December 31, 2012 and terminate on December 31, 2013. The amount of this contract amendment shall not exceed \$110,250. Testing wild deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a critical part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources surveillance and response plan. The Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratory has tested over 9,000

samples over the past 2 years at lower cost than any other certified lab was willing to accept. The results have allowed the DNR to continue the surveillance work needed for CWD. The National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames was contacted and is still unable to handle this work due to staffing limitations and their role in providing testing for other diseases for the USDA.

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT AGENDA
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#### 14. DONATIONS

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Furharvester Education Program	\$25.00	\$25.00 gift card used to purchase food and drinks for furharvester education class	HyVee Food Store
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$25.00	Gift Card for supplies for youth duck hunt	Wal-Mart
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park	\$50.00	Funds toward park maintenance	Thomas Kurtz
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$50.00	Decoys and bag for youth hunt prizes	Aaron Bonnes
Wapsipinicon St. Park	\$50.00	Funds to support the park	Buffalo Fork settlers
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$75.00	Three \$25 gift certificates for youth hunt prizes	Baker Taxidermy
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$75.00	Wildlife print for youth duck hunt	Bass Pro Shops
Furharvester Education Program	\$81.00	Three dozen T-bar trap stakes, two dozen trapping supply catalogs, and NAFA fur bags	Funke Trap Tags & Supplies
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$125.00	Beverages, cookies, water for youth duck hunt	Hy-Vee/PEPSICO
Furharvester Education Program	\$131.50	Five dozen snares, 24 can koozies, trapping supply catalogs, and three t-shirts	The Snare Shop
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$140.00	Decoys for youth hunt prizes	Blake Miller
Furharvester Education Program	\$164.00	8 bottles of lure, 8 containers of coon bait	Mill Creek Trap Supply
Prairie Resource Center	\$175.00	Funds for the Prairie Resource Center	Hawkeye Stages, Inc
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$200.00	Decoys and gift certificates for youth hunt prizes	Sioux City Scheels
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$200.00	Hats, water bottle, cozies, blind bag, caribiners for youth duck hunt	Cabela's
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$250.00	Funds toward youth duck hunt meal	Bank Iowa
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$300.00	Hats and lanyards for youth hunt prizes	Avery Outdoors
Ledges State Park	\$400.00	Rental cost of the Fareway Education Center in Boone to host the annual State Parks Campground Host Appreciation Picnic.	Fareway Stores, Inc.
Hunter Ed Program/ Mentored Hunt	\$400.00	20 DVDs for youth hunt prizes	Big Sean's Championship Calls
Pine Lake State Park	\$465.00	Prairie planting enhancement	Bob and Mary Lou Gunderson
Lake Macbride State Park	\$500.00	Funds toward two memorial benches	Julie Gates

Law Enforcement Bureau	\$656.79	Decoys and hats for youth duck hunt	Clinton Decoy Co.
Lake Macbride State Park	\$660.00	Three stone benches	Tom and Bitsi Wolfe
Parks	\$1,100.00	Eleven \$100 gift certificates were donated as prize give-aways for the State Parks exhibit at the State Fair	Sportsman's Warehouse #120
Lake Macbride State Park	\$1,274.52	labor to grade portions of bike trail with erosion	Jay Proffitt Construction, Inc.
Mines of Spain	\$1,280.00	Steel manhole rings and lid to be used for fire rings in proposed Youth Group Camp Site	Morrison Brothers Company
Pikes Peak State Park	\$1,280.00	Limestone picnic table and benches	Dale Demmer
ATV Education Program	\$1,673.94	Six shock-proof and water-proof digital cameras with memory cards and cases to be used by enforcement officers in the DNR designated OHV parks to document injury scenes for evaluation and improvement of the riding area	University of Iowa Children's Hospital
Lewis and Clark Visitor Center	\$3,225.00	Funds toward repairs needed in the visitor center library after the Missouri River flood	Sgt. Floyd Tri-State Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Historic Fund, Inc.
Law Enforcement Bureau	\$6,600.00	3 Redman WDS instructor suits, 3 Redman WDS student suits for law enforcement tactics training	C&L Sales
Wapsipinicon State Park	\$8,347.59	85.75 yards of concrete, 47.22 tons of Class A rock, ten 6' concrete parking barriers	Anamosa Charities

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

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

**15. DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR REMARKS**

Chuck Corell provided information about the first deer hunting season of the year, a meeting held regarding aquatic invasive species and possible definitions for legislation, the State Auditor's Office reports (handout), and an updated financial summary page for Honey Creek Resort State Park (handout) which will be presented to the NRC when payments to the bond are made.

Chuck reported the Department is researching how best to have an online database the public can use to input data or search for events for the DNR's healthy initiative program. This may be rolled out this spring. We look to engage partners and/or advertisers and provide web tools, such as a activity suggestions, a calorie calculator, cell phone apps, or ways to get prizes. This initiative is looking to promote mental health benefits as well as physical. Commissioner Underwood mentioned the Miles for Charity app might be an option to fundraise.

**16. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- NRC Legislative Annual Report – Commissioner Underwood recommended adding an aquatic invasives species accomplishment to the report. Commissioner Francisco moved to add this to the report. Commissioner Prickett seconded. Report change approved; Commissioner Rettig abstained. She requested her name not be included in the annual report.

- Waterfowl Working Group Update – Commissioner Francisco reported the first meeting will be late January or early February. The list of members is being finalized and he will send it to the Commissioners.
- Legislative Open House (01/16/13) Briefing – Diane Ford provided information on the planning with the Communications Bureau and the Department’s initiatives sent to the Commissioners. Commissioners Francisco, Rettig, Schemmel, and Underwood are planning to attend the legislative open house. It was reported to the Commissioners that the legislative committees will be finalized after a recent special election.
- Topics for Joint NRC/EPC Meeting (01/16/13) – Commissioner Underwood provided additional topics to consider for the joint meeting.
- Commissioner Rettig wished happy holidays and encouraged everyone to look up their new legislators and hold them accountable.
- Commissioner Prickett requested field advice if a buck has been shot and identified, afterward, as having EHD. Staff reported that the hunter should contact the local officer to discuss removal and tag usage. Commissioner Prickett read excerpts from a newsletter published by MSRPO, advocates for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, about the AIS legislation that was passed in MN.
- Commissioner Francisco inquired on the water issue at Big Creek. Chuck Corell reported that the Corps is aware of their outlet pipe leak and are drawing up plans to correct it. Commissioner Francisco recommended the DNR and Corps prepare a joint press release.
- Commissioner Schemmel reported seeing quite a few dead deer in recent hunting trips due to EHD.

**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, Chair Underwood adjourned the meeting on 12/13/12 at 2:56pm.

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

Lunch presentation by Michelle Wilson regarding the Fish and Game Trust Fund and State Parks Forums held in 2012 and outdoor recreation related data.

**UPCOMING NRC MEETING DATES**

- January 17, 2013 – Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 8:30am
- February 14, 2013 – Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am
- March 14, 2013 – Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am
- April 11, 2013 – Henry Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, 9:30am

