

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

8

DECISION

TOPIC **Land Acquisition Project Approval**

1. Hendrickson Marsh, Story County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Story County adjacent to state-owned and managed Hendrickson Marsh. The appraised price of the tract is \$61,500. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation offers this 22-acre tract for the price of \$36,500. INHF acquired the property in February 2009 for \$70,500. The Story County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF) is contributing \$35,000 towards the acquisition.

David Nebel, Licensed Appraiser of Nevada, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This irregular-shaped property is located four miles northeast of Collins in southeastern Story County. The nearly level to rolling tract is comprised of 9 acres of pasture, 6.5 acres of cropland (CSR of 67), 6 acres of CRP (enrolled at \$128/acre with 8 years remaining) and .5 acres of roads. There are no building improvements. Hendrickson Marsh borders the east and south side of the tract. Access is provided by a county gravel road along the west boundary.

This tract will provide for wildlife habitat, enhance public recreation to this area, and provide for improved water quality to the marsh. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund (FY10 capital link 65). The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. No survey or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

2. Yellow River State Forest, Allamakee County - R. Neale Downing

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent to state-owned and managed Yellow River State Forest. R. Neale Downing offers this 20-acre tract for the appraised price of \$56,000.

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

This half moon-shaped property is located four miles southwest of Harpers Ferry in southeastern Allamakee County. The steep tract is entirely forested. There are no building improvements.

Yellow River State Forest borders along the entire south side of the tract. Access is provided by a county gravel road along the north boundary.

This tract will provide for improved access and enhance public recreation to this area. The Forestry Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by REAP Open Spaces (FY10 capital link 147). The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. No survey or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

3. Lake Darling State Park, Washington County – Silt Basin Easements

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to accept the donation of six permanent easements for silt basins adjacent to Lake Darling State Park in southwest Washington County. The donors are Grace Jochimsen, Richard Pepper, James and Mary Wolcott, John and Emily Emonin, John and Patricia Jurinek, and Donald Dickinson. These easements shall serve as temporary and permanent storage of water and retention of silt on areas totaling approximately 5 acres lying below tops of the five earthen dams. The donors also grant access to the State and its authorized agents across their property as needed for construction of the silt basins.

These easement grants were negotiated by Travis Baker of the Department and Stan Simmons of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, Iowa.

The easements are primarily forested ravines and adjacent seeded periphery. The DNR is constructing six earthen dams and associated basins. The dams and associated basins will be designed to trap sediment and to impound water to reduce runoff of soil and nutrients into Lake Darling. During extreme precipitation runoff, floodwater could result in occasional flooding to the top of the silt retention dams.

These easements will become part of the Lake Darling State Park, and will be managed by the Parks Bureau in accord with the area management plan. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the silt basin easements donation.

Attachment

Travis Baker, Supervisor
Management Services Division
July 9, 2009