

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

10

DECISION

TOPIC

Contract with Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, ISU for Iowa Rivers and River Corridors Recreation Survey

Commission approval is requested for a two year-service contract with Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, ISU (Joe Herriges) of Ames, IA. The contract will begin on June 17, 2009 and terminate on December 31, 2010. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$120,000. DNR shall have the option to renew this contract as long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period.

This contract will be funded through authority provided in 455B.103, and USEPA Sect. 319 CWA NPS Grant C9007404-11; 456A.11 Water Trails & Lowhead Dam Public Hazard Statewide Plan; 455A.10 & 456A.17 State Fish & Game Protection Fund; and cooperation with Iowa Department of Economic Development Tourism.

The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development is an Iowa State University center devoted to economic issues of rural Iowa. Since 2000, it has conducted economic studies with DNR and the USEPA on the economic value of Iowa lakes. This helped Iowa begin DNR's Lake Restoration Program. Their research results and our collaboration with CARD researchers also allowed CARD to document the benefits of natural resource to Iowa development in relation to sustainable funding. The current contract will begin to develop economic data to document the economic benefits of our Iowa rivers.

The parties propose to enter into this Contract for the purpose of retaining the Contractor to provide data on the recreational use of Iowa's rivers. The contractor will conduct a population weighted survey to identify and quantify the recreational uses of Iowa's rivers and the associated immediate river corridors so that economic benefits of these uses may be calculated. The DNR intends to utilize the information gathered and analyzed in through this contract to prioritize rivers and river reaches for restoration, protection, and river trail development. In addition, the information will be used to help local communities understand the benefits and potential benefits they may receive from encouraging local river restoration, protection and development activities.

The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, ISU was chosen using the special authority to contract with our state universities (455B.103). The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development was chosen for this project because of their expertise in this type of study, their expertise in the economics of natural resources, DNR's desire for CARD to gain further expertise in the economics of natural resources, and DNR's need to gain this valuable information while enhancing our continuing collaboration.

Bernard Hoyer, Special Assistant
Director's Staff
June 11, 2009