

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
APRIL 8, 2010 – MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting Location: Wallace Bldg – 4th Floor Conference Rooms 502 E. 9 th Street, Des Moines, IA				
1	Approve Agenda			
2	Approve Minutes of 03/11/10			
3	Director's Remarks			
4	Honey Creek Update			
5	Construction Items			
	5.1	Riverton WMA, Fremont County – 4 Water Control Structures	Decision	CARRIED
	5.2	Ventura Marsh – HQ Facility, Cerro Gordo County – PCC Paving	Decision	CARRIED
	5.3	State Forest Nursery, Story County – Geothermal HVAC Upgrade	Decision	CARRIED
6	Small Construction Projects Contracts		Information	N/A
7	Construction Project Change Order– Cliffland Access		Decision	CARRIED
8	Professional Services Contract – Delivery Order Approval		Decision	CARRIED
9	Land Acquisition Projects			
	9.1	Kattleson Hogsback WMA – Dickinson County – Kilts	Decision	CARRIED
	9.2	Rice Lake WMA – Worth County – Colby Pioneer Peat Company	Decision	CARRIED
	9.3	Union Grove State Park – Tama County – American Legion of Gladbrook	Decision	CARRIED
	9.4	Lansing WMA – Allamakee County – INHF	Decision	CARRIED
	9.5	Muskrat Slough WMA – Jones County – McQuillen	Decision	CARRIED
	9.6	Muskrat Slough WMA – Jones County – McQuillen	Decision	CARRIED
	9.7	Viking Lake State Park - Montgomery County – INHF	Decision	CARRIED
10	Land Management Projects			
	10.1	Lansing Fish Hatchery – Allamakee County – City of Lansing	Decision	CARRIED
	10.2	Glenwood Archaeological State Preserve – Mills County – Mill CCB	Decision	CARRIED
11	Contract with Natural Resources, Inc., for Bat Survey of Five Iowa Counties		Decision	CARRIED
12	Contract with The Food Bank of Iowa for HUSH		Decision	CARRIED

13	Hardwood Timber Sale Iverson Wildlife Area	Decision	CARRIED
14	Reforestation Planting Preparation Canyon State Park	Decision	CARRIED
15	Cedar Valley Association for Soft Trails (CVAST) – 28E Agreement, George Wyth State Park, Black Hawk County	Decision	CARRIED
16	Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board Appointments	Decision	CARRIED
17	Friends Group Firewood and Souvenir Concession Contracts - Various Parks	Decision	CARRIED
18	Contract with Focus Group for the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Journal	Decision	CARRIED
19	Water Navigation Permit – Sunny Brae Golf Course footbridge	Decision	CARRIED AS AMMENDED
20	Chapter 40, Boating Speed and Distance Zoning – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	CARRIED
21	Chapter 15, General License Regulations – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	CARRIED
22	Chapter 46, All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Bonding - Notice of Intended Action	Decision	CARRIED
23	Chapter 47, Vessel Bonding - Notice of Intended Action	Decision	CARRIED
24	Chapter 50, All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Accident Reports, Titling, Registration and Numbering - Notice of Intended Action	Decision	CARRIED
25	Construction Project Change Order Approval-Honey Creek Resort State Park	Decision	CARRIED
26	General Discussion Board Guiding Principles Reflection on Board Training		
27	Items for Next Meeting		
Next Meetings: 05/13/10, Thursday-Polk County 06/10/10, Thursday-Polk County			

MINUTES
OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING

APRIL 8, 2010

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

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the Natural Resource Commission Chairperson, Gregory Drees on April 8, 2010 at 10:01 a.m. He welcomed the public to the meeting and reviewed the public speaking forum guidelines.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Gregory Drees, Chairperson
Richard (Kim) Francisco, Secretary
Elizabeth Garst
Tammi Kircher, Vice-Chairperson
Dennis Schemmel
Margo Underwood
Janelle Rettig

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<p>Moved – Commissioner Francisco Seconded – Commissioner Underwood Amendments – Move item #25 to follow item #8. Motion – Carried as Amended by Unanimous Vote</p>

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2010

<p>Moved – Commissioner Kircher Seconded – Commissioner Francisco Amendments – A few minor edits were requested to be corrected before public posting. Motion – Carried as Amended by Unanimous Vote</p>
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3. DIRECTORS REMARKS

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

➤ **Legislature session recap:**

- The 2010 legislative session ended March 30th at 12:30 p.m. - one day ahead of their goal date of March 31st.
- The Governor has 30 days to approve or veto any legislation passed during the session.
- Standings Bill
- Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations
- Ellis Boat Harbor
- Releasing of Pen Reared Pheasants
- Hunting of Pen Raised Birds on Hunting Preserves
- Budget
 - Water Quality: \$3,455,832
 - Keepers of the Land: \$100,000
 - State parks Maintenance and Operations: \$2,470,000
 - State Parks Volunteer Activities: \$250,000
 - Water Quality Monitoring: \$2,955,000
 - Water Quantity Regulation: \$495,000
 - REAP: \$15,000,000
 - DNR Floodplain management: \$2,000,000
 - Rock Creek State Park structure: \$40,000
 - Honey Creek Asset Manager: \$100,000
 - Lake Projects: \$10,000,000 (\$2,000,000 for Lost Grove; \$250,000 for a CCB project in Jones County; \$100,000 for dredging Lake Delhi)
 - State Parks Infrastructure: \$5,000,000
 - Grow Iowa Values Fund- DNR, State Parks: \$760,000

4. HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK UPDATE

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

- The department has received 3 out of 4 surrounding counties sign policy information; this information will be used to identify locations for possible additional Honey Creek State Park (HCR) signage.
- Construction budget – only real change from last month is some line items for the activities center are being paid off. It is hoped that the activities center will be in place for use by early summer.
- Boat Ramp / Beach
 - Working with area field engineer to possibly shorten the boat ramp to enable immediate usage
 - Waiting on lake level to lower
 - Normal pool is 904 feet needs to be 902 feet to install
- Previous construction budget oversight on roads & parking costs, it appears that change orders should have been brought to NRC no later than November 2008, these will be presented to the commission as soon as possible.

Honey Creek State Park Resort General Manager, Andy Woodrick reviewed with the commission some of the challenges the resort has dealt with over the last year. He provided the commission with a document titled 'Historical Budget Accuracy'.

5. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

5.1 RIVERTON WMA, FREMONT COUNTY – 4 WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

This project consists of the replacement of four water control structures. A substantial number of the present water control structures and culverts on the Riverton Area were installed in 1985. After 24 years they are rusting out, some are no longer useable. This project replaces the most critical of the damaged structures.

DNR estimate is \$57,000 for the base bid (2 structures) and \$30,000 for the alternates (2 structures). Funding source is TF Non-Habitat Stamp Wildlife Maintenance/Emergency Repairs (Capital Link #36), Wildlife Statewide Projects & Minors Boat Registration (Capital Link #72), and REAP LM Wildlife Minors (Capital Link #165). 6 sets of plans were issued and 4 bids were received.

		<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
Whitehead Farms Const. Inc.	Sidney, IA	\$57,577.47	\$22,431.22	\$80,008.68
TEK Builders, Inc.	Mount Ayr, IA	\$65,482.00	\$30,928.00	\$96,410.00
CL Carroll Co. Inc.	Des Moines, IA	\$84,949.00	\$26,283.00	\$111,232.00
Yost Excavating Inc.	Nebraska City, NE	\$82,377.00	\$30,839.00	\$113,216.00

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, Whitehead Farms Construction Inc.

Moved – Commissioner Retting

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Francisco asked about the use of upland areas to retain water to avoid the need to pump water. DNR Engineering Bureau Chief, Don Labate responded that this would be something the wildlife area would need to review for the future. Commissioner Drees asked if a lifespan of 24 years was typical for a structure of this nature. Don Labate responded that the reason the structures are rusting is unknown and that typically the lifespan on such a structure is 30+ years.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

5.2 VENTURA MARSH – HQ FACILITY, CERRO GORDO COUNTY – PCC PAVING

This project consists of the paving of an 8” PCC entrance and loop road at the Wildlife Headquarters complex. Work will include stockpiling existing surfacing material, excavation, placement of base material, 8” PCC paving, and incidental work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. The proposed improvement involves paving the existing granular entrance serving the Wildlife office and service buildings. Paving these areas will complete the final phase for this new facility. Storm water runoff will be collected and filtered in two previously constructed natural filtration basins.

This project was designed by Ken Jackson and will be inspected by Mel Pacovsky, District Inspector. DNR estimate is \$121,200.00. Funding source is Park & Institutional Road Fund (Capital Link #80), Fish & Wildlife Trust (Capital Link #48), and Boat Registration Fund Fees (Capital Link #72). 9 sets of plans were issued and 10 bids were received.

Concrete Foundations Inc.	New Hampton, IA	\$115,361.25
Howrey Construction Inc.	Rockwell City, IA	\$130,420.51
Smith Concrete Service Inc.	Storm Lake, IA	\$136,310.00
Wicks Construction Co.	Decorah, IA	\$141,371.90
Allied Manatts Group LLC	Charles City, IA	\$144,343.50
Heartland Asphalt Inc.	Mason City, IA	\$145,443.71
KP Construction	Sergeant Bluff, IA	\$148,724.00
TK Concrete Inc.	Pella, IA	\$148,898.00
Concrete Technologies Inc.	Urbandale, IA	\$157,579.25
Tschigffrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$168,403.55

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, Concrete Foundations Inc.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher
Seconded - Commissioner Francisco
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

5.3 STATE FOREST NURSERY, STORY COUNTY – GEOTHERMAL HVAC UPGRADE

This project consists of upgrading the existing outdated and inefficient heating and cooling system in the state forestry nursery building to a geothermal HVAC system.

This project was designed by Ken Jackson and will be inspected by Richard Wilson, District Inspector. DNR estimate is \$132,000. Funding source is Federal ARRA Stimulus (No Capital Link – funded after the plan was created). 14 sets of plans were issued and 2 bids were received.

C & K Htg, Air Conditioning & Plumbing	Ames, IA	\$123,700.00
Kapaun & Brown	Marshalltown, IA	\$129,461.00

DNR recommends awarding project to the low bidder, C & K Htg, Air Conditioning & Plumbing.

Moved – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded - Commissioner Garst
Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked if the funding source had not been federal ARRA would the priority have still been to replace the system with a geothermal system. Don Labate responded that geothermal would have been the choice. Commissioner Rettig asked if replaced with a conventional replacement what would be the cost. Don Labate responded approximately half. Commissioner Rettig then asked about the payback on energy savings. Don Labate responded the savings should be significant.
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

6. SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONTRACTS

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

The following projects have been let utilizing the Competitive Quotation process for projects \$100,000 or less:

BID DATE	PROJECT	COUNTY	AREA	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE	BIDS
3/4/10	10-05-59-03	Lucas	Stephens State Forest HQ	Siding Replacement	\$15,000.00	\$12,158.00
						\$4,495.00
						\$6,000.00
						\$7,500.00
						\$8,100.00
3/4/10	10-06-26-01	Davis	Lake Wapello State Park	Remove 3 Pit Latrines	\$7,500.00	\$16,885.00
						\$9,315.00
						\$10,381.33
						\$12,667.91
3/4/10	10-06-70-01	Muscatine	Fairport SRA	Riverbank Erosion Repair	\$13,000.00	\$12,936.64
						\$17,284.50
						\$11,182.50
						\$13,626.50
						\$14,412.50
						\$14,615.00
3/11/10	10-01-30-08	Dickinson	Cayler Prairie Wetland Complex	Hales Slough Wetland Enhancement	\$12,500.00	\$15,688.50
						\$19,665.00
						\$26,312.50
						\$14,979.00
						\$15,431.00
						\$15,759.00
						\$18,326.00
3/18/10	09-05-54-03	Keokuk	South Skunk River	Riprap Riverbank	\$31,800.00	\$19,487.50
						\$21,600.00
						\$38,120.00
						\$38,990.00
						\$40,132.00
						\$44,720.00
3/18/10	09-05-90-02	Wapello	Cliffland Access	Repair 2008 Flood Damages	\$50,000.00	\$51,528.50
						\$58,075.60
3/18/10	09-03-31-03	Dubuque	EB Lyons Interpretive Center	Construct and Develop New Well	\$32,000.00	\$19,354.00
						\$19,639.50
						\$21,684.00
3/18/10	09-05-59-01	Lucas	Stephens Forest, Lucas Unit	Parking Access	\$26,687.58	\$22,378.06
						\$46,228.00
						\$15,899.85
						\$16,825.50
3/18/10	09-06-57-01	Linn	Pleasant Creek SRA	Jetty Repairs	\$24,525.00	\$17,716.25
						\$19,234.00

7. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER– CLIFFLAND ACCESS

A contract was awarded to Cole Construction Company for the repair of flood damage at the Cliffland Access area in Wapello County in February 2010. The contract was made to remove flood debris, re-rock the access road and parking lot, and rip-rap above and below the boat ramp to protect it from stream bank erosion. The FEMA estimate for the overall damage was \$136,000, of which approximately \$60,000 was allocated for the contracted work under this project. The remainder of the repair work was performed by staff. The contract to the low bidder is for \$38,120.00.

FEMA would now like to provide additional repair work on the project (200 feet of additional shoreline armoring) and the DNR has negotiated a change order amount of \$18,000 for 720 additional tons of rock to be placed on the shoreline at a unit price of \$25 per ton. The negotiated unit price is lower than the unit price in the original contract (\$27 per ton) and equal to, or lower than, the unit price for this item for all of the bidders on the original bid. The total contract amount would be for \$56,120.00 and requires NRC approval since the contract would now exceed \$50,000.00. Funding will fit into the original FEMA budget since the original bid was lower than the estimate.

DNR recommends awarding the contract change order to Cole Construction Company Inc.

<p>Moved – Commissioner Garst Seconded – Commissioner Rettig Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote</p>
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8. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – DELIVERY ORDER APPROVAL

The future holds a renewed investment in state parks with the passage of Senate File 2389 which assures 5 million dollars for State Park Infrastructure for 2011. Also in this bill, the Legislature expressed intent to continue funding this effort at \$5 million for an additional four years.

The 100th anniversary of Iowa State Parks will be celebrated in 2020. The goal is to bring state parks into a premier condition by 2020. A state park needs assessment is currently underway to better understand the scope and depth of the challenges and opportunities, as well as project associated cost estimates.

At issue in this agenda item, is a partnership between the Iowa Parks Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to build the vision for state parks of the future. The DNR will take on primary responsibility for the image projected through buildings, signs, shelters, cabins, etc. and will use (in part) public input developed through the Iowa Parks Foundation's marketing and public involvement plans.

THE IOWA PARKS FOUNDATION**OVERVIEW:**

The Iowa Parks Foundation (IPF), an Iowa not-for-profit corporation, has commenced an effort to establish a philanthropic organization designed to be an independent voice for Iowans who use and support park lands and other publicly owned natural resources. The IPF will organize and lead efforts to transform Iowa's parks for future generations. One focus will be to advocate for increased private and public funding in support of the environment and natural resources including parks in all jurisdictions.

The Foundation is focused on enhancing the built environment of Iowa State Parks. The foundation is currently undertaking three major efforts. The first effort is hiring a consultant to assist in a significant operations and capital campaign. The second is hiring a marketing and research consultant to assist in both qualitative and quantitative research. The third is a public policy effort to increase appropriations for infrastructure funding at State Parks and to secure public support for the sustainable funding initiative.

MISSION & VISION:

The IPF'S work will be accomplished by strengthening local partnerships, making strategic grants, restoring park infrastructure, building new facilities and financing interpretative programs in order to elevate the parks in Iowa to world-class status.

FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT:

The IPF is negotiating a contract with Renaissance Group, Inc. to assist with the fundraising campaign. This fundraising and capital campaign will support near term operations of the foundation and provide the opportunity for the foundation to financially support the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the transformation, rehabilitation, and renovation of existing State Park facilities. This financial support will also assist with natural resources management and development of new outdoor recreation and education opportunities in the State of Iowa.

MARKETING & RESEARCH CONSULTANT:

The IPF is negotiating a contract with ETC Institutes to conduct qualitative and quantitative research that will inform The IPF's long range strategic planning efforts. ETC Institutes will assist the foundation in ascertaining information from targeted groups and individuals as part of a strategic goal to create a sustainable vision for Iowa's Parks and to advance The IPF's mission.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department has negotiated a delivery order under a master contract with RDG Planning & Design to provide design consultation services in developing an Iowa State Parks Image Guide for the "Built Environment." The built environment includes essentially all park structures (e.g., benches, lodges, cabins, shelters, office buildings, etc.) as well as signs and playgrounds.

The intent of this project is to develop an Image Guide that will provide the framework for future improvements to the built environment with Iowa State Parks and enhance the aesthetics, sustainability, identity and overall quality of these facilities consistent with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' role as a leader in natural resource stewardship.

Individuals and entities anticipated to be involved throughout the process of this project include the following:

Planning Committee:

The Planning Committee is intended to be a small strategic group of Iowa DNR Staff and design team members. The Planning Committee will meet periodically throughout the process to review progress, provide feedback, comments and direction to the overall project.

Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee will include members of the Planning Committee and additional Iowa DNR Staff, representatives from the Natural Resource Commission and representatives from the Iowa Parks Foundation Board of Directors. The Steering Committee will provide review and recommendation oversight for the project and will meet throughout the project as needed.

Design Team:

The design team is the group of design professionals that will complete the project for the Iowa DNR. The team will be comprised of LEED accredited architects, landscape architects, and engineers, ecologists, artists, lighting designers, multimedia designers, graphic illustrators, writers and support staff.

The approach to completing this project has been focused on four primary phases of work as follows:

Phase I: Discovery will provide a critical historical frame of reference and establish the basis for the Image Guide. This phase includes data collection, inventory and analysis, and case study evaluation.

Phase II: Development will result in preliminary design graphics. This will involve public input and education, looking at other state and national parks, as well as ongoing work sessions to develop initial concepts.

Phase III: Articulation will include final refinement of the Image Guide graphics to communicate the design intent of architectural elements. In this phase, the image guide's purposes, preliminary design principles, and regional variations are confirmed and documented.

Phase IV: Adoption will include publication and distribution of the Image Guide and other final deliverables, summary presentations of the guide to the Natural Resources Commission and an Open House to unveil the Image Guide to the public.

Each of these project phases will be achieved using a participatory approach involving the design team, Planning Committee and Steering Committee as well as input from state park users, friends groups and the public from across the State of Iowa.

RDG Planning & Design has proposed a schedule to commence work on this project upon authorization by the Natural Resource Commission. The fee for basic services as defined in the consultant's delivery order is \$267,000.00, plus expenses (currently estimated at \$15,000.00). The project is proposed to be billed on a time and materials basis with a not-to-exceed amount equal to the fee for basic services. The billing rates have been established in the master contract. The IDNR Staff and RDG Planning & Design will collaborate to identify efficiencies and resource sharing opportunities in an effort to avoid duplication of efforts and minimize the total fee incurred for this project.

Funding for the project will be through REAP Open Spaces (Capital Link #155).

DNR recommends awarding the delivery order to RDG Planning & Design.

Moved – Commissioner Underwood

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked if the plan was to include the design phase so it may be shown to the legislature. Don Labate responded that the plan is to be able to not only show that the design is in place but that it could be implemented. Commissioner Underwood commented that she would like to volunteer to be on the steering committees. Commissioner Garst stated that she would also like to volunteer. Commissioner Rettig asked if staff was confident enough to spend \$300k on the design, noting that the legislature is not going to allocate any further funds over the \$5M and the Parks Foundation may not be able to raise enough funds to assist. DNR Parks Bureau Chief, Kevin Szcodronski replied they would go forth with the design as he is confident this will be an investment in the future of state parks for generations to come. Commissioner Garst commented about the land management within the state parks and asked if land management/education would be incorporated into the design plan. She stated that if work is being done to have state parks look good by 2020 the land within those parks should also look good by 2020. Kevin Szcodronski responded that within the resources assessment database there is a resource management section. Director Leopold commented about the use of internal staff from across the department for land use management of park lands. Commissioner Garst also added that this is the perfect opportunity to institutionalize dark sky lighting in Iowa. Commissioner Drees added that it is a perfect opportunity to incorporate everything the commission has been speaking about for the last three years. Commissioner Schemmel asked for clarification on direction from the legislature. DNR Conservation and Recreation Interim Division Administrator, Diane Ford explained that all ideas had been presented to the legislature during the session so they are well aware of the department's intentions; the infrastructure that is referenced is vertical infrastructure. Commissioner Kircher commented that she did not see signage addressed in the plan; she stated that she feels this is a critical piece that needs to be addressed.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9. LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

9.1 KETTLESON HOGSBACK WMA – DICKINSON COUNTY – KILTS

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a tract of land located adjacent to the western and southern boundaries of DNR Wildlife Bureau Headquarters three miles northwest of Spirit Lake. The 42.52-acre tract is owned jointly by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (50%) and Larry and Fern Kilts (50%). Bette and William Lanning donated their 50% interest in the property to the Iowa DNR December 12, 2000. Larry and Fern Kilts are offering their 50% interest for the appraised value of \$103,000.00.

Licensed appraiser, Steven K. Schmidt of Schmidt Appraisal Services, Spirit Lake, Iowa submitted the appraisal. The purchase agreement was negotiated by Jerry Gibson.

The subject tract has 32.35 acres of cropland; 4.67 acres of remnant prairie; and 5.5 acres of an existing building site. Road right-of-way adds an additional 1.5 acres. The north tract has an existing building site which consists of a dilapidated dwelling, garage, and wood-framed out buildings. All buildings are highly depreciated and contribute no value. The acquisition will allow increased recreational use by the public, eliminate continuous trespass issues, greatly improve management efforts, add needed upland nesting habitat, benefit non-game migratory bird species, and provide increased protection for water quality.

Acquisition funding will be federal Prairie Lakes II NAWCA (100%). Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Francisco

Seconded – Commissioner Schemmel

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked if the buildings would be removed and if so at what cost. DNR Land and Waters Bureau Chief, Travis Baker explained they would be removed and the cost would only be that of only staff time. Commissioner Underwood asked if any of the material would be reused. Travis Baker responded that in some cases it would be advertised to be sold at salvage value. Commissioner Rettig asked how many acres of land were owned in Dickinson county. Travis Baker responded he did not have the figure at the present time. Commissioner Rettig asked if it was more than any other county times ten. Travis Baker responded that it was not more than ten times of any other county, but that it is one of the top counties and further explained that the focus came from where the funding was. Commissioner Rettig asked if the NAWCA funds could be used anywhere else. Travis Baker explained that this particular grant was only for this area but that there is NAWCA funding in other areas of the state. Diane Ford further explained that there is a misconception in the legislature that the DNR drives up land prices; she explained for the record that the DNR does not do this, what is paid is appraised value. Commissioner Rettig stated that as of an old report dated June 30, 2008 the state owns 24,173 acres in Dickinson county and the next highest county was approximately 13,000 acres; she stated that there are 98 other counties that would like the opportunity for natural resources. Deputy Director Boddy offered that a presentation on the departments land acquisition strategy be present to the commission in the coming months. Commissioner Drees stated that he understood Commissioner Rettig's perception but that it is worth noting that Dickinson County uses NAWCA funding very wisely.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.2 RICE LAKE WMA – WORTH COUNTY – COLBY PIONEER PEAT COMPANY

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a tract of land located 2 miles northwest of Joice, Iowa adjacent to the Rice Lake Wildlife Management Area. The 30-acre parcel is being offered by the Colby Pioneer Peat Company (John and Malcolm Colby) for the appraised price of \$63,000.00.

Licensed appraiser, Fred Greder, Benchmark Agribusiness, Inc., Mason City, Iowa provided the appraisal. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement.

The property consists of 28.75 acres of an area previously mined for peat until the peat reserves were exhausted, and 1.25 acres of road right-of-way/waste. The residual property consists of trees and shallow wetlands. The DNR plans to restore two 20-acre basins which will provide excellent habitat for waterfowl and shore birds

Acquisition funding consists of a \$2,000.00 commitment from the local chapter of Pheasants Forever, and \$61,000.00 from NAWCA-Prairie Lakes III. Incidental closing costs are the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Underwood
Seconded - Commissioner Francisco
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.3 UNION GROVE STATE PARK – TAMA COUNTY – AMERICAN LEGION OF GLADBROOK

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a one-acre in-holding within the boundaries of Union Grove State Park in Tama County. Union Grove is located three miles south of Gladbrook, Iowa. The American Legion is offering this one-acre tract for \$5,000.00.

Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement. Union Grove State Park has numerous private rural residential properties adjacent to its boundaries, and the negotiated price is below the price of a rural residential lot. The American Legion acquired the property in 1940 for members to use for meetings and recreational outings. If approved, the Parks Bureau plans to build a rental cabin on the site using funding donated to the DNR from an anonymous donor. An existing picnic shelter would need to be demolished prior the construction of the rental cabin.

Acquisition funding will be from REAP-Open Spaces (100%). Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig
Seconded - Commissioner Underwood
Discussion – Commissioner Garst asked what policy there was in place about accepting donations from anonymous donors, she wanted to make sure someone reviews for possible conflict of interest. DNR Legal Counsel, Tamara Mullen will research this issue and report back to the commission.
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.4 LANSING WMA – ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – INHF

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Allamakee County adjacent to state-owned and managed Lansing Wildlife Management Area. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation offers this 23-acre tract for the price of \$61,400. INHF acquired the property in December 2009 for \$65,000. The appraised price of the tract is \$66,400.

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

This irregular-shaped property is located 2 miles north of Lansing in northeastern Allamakee County. The steep, heavily wooded tract overlooks the Mississippi River. There are no building improvements. Access is provided by state-owned land adjacent west.

This tract will provide for wildlife habitat, and enhance public recreation to this area. In addition, the area is a possible future nesting bluff for the Peregrine Falcon. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be \$36,400 from Wildlife Habitat Stamp and \$25,000 REAP Open Spaces. The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. No boundary survey or fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded - Commissioner Kircher
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.5 MUSKRAT SLOUGH WMA – JONES COUNTY – MCQUILLEN

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Jones County located north of state-owned and managed Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area. Matthew McQuillen offers this 16-acre tract for the price of \$58,200. The appraised price of \$71,200 was discounted as the seller will retain the remaining 14 CRP payments. This reservation will require the seller to remain in compliance, as operator, with CRP regulations.

Jamie Nabb, Licensed Appraiser of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, submitted the appraisal.

This tract will increase the Muskrat Slough area to 710 acres, and will add high quality diversity to the existing wetland complex. The acquisition will provide upland nesting habitat, improve surface water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. In addition, this acquisition will provide protection to the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid which is a federally threatened and state endangered species. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by Wildlife Habitat Stamp. The property will remain on the property tax rolls. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded - Commissioner Kircher

Discussion – Commissioner Garst asked about having state owned land managed by someone else. Travis Baker explained that the land would not be managed by the seller but they would be charged with remaining in compliance with CRP agreement as an operator.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.6 MUSKRAT SLOUGH WMA – JONES COUNTY – MCQUILLEN

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to accept a donation of 9.4 acres of land located in Jones County located north of state-owned and managed Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area. Matthew McQuillen offers to gift this tract of land to the DNR.

The property is a mix of pasture and a small area of tillable land. Acquisition of this property will eliminate the potential for additional dwelling sites at Muskrat Slough.

This tract will increase the Muskrat Slough area to 719 acres, and will add high quality diversity to the existing wetland complex. This addition will provide upland nesting habitat, improve surface water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

9.7 VIKING LAKE STATE PARK - MONTGOMERY COUNTY – INHF

The Natural Resource Commission’s approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Montgomery County adjacent east to state-owned and managed Viking Lake State Park. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation offers this 118-acre tract for the appraised price of \$330,000. INHF acquired the property at auction in October 2009 for \$355,000.

Gary Thien, Licensed Appraiser of Council Bluffs, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This irregular-shaped property is located 4 miles northwest of Villisca in southeastern Montgomery County. The gently sloping to steep, heavily wooded tract is a former United Methodist Church camp. Building improvements include three lodge buildings with dormitories and kitchen facilities and a director’s residence. There are also nine RV sites. Access is provided by a county road along the west side.

This tract will provide for overflow camping opportunities, and the existing hiking trails enjoyed by the public. The Parks Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be \$330,000 from REAP Open Spaces. The tract will remain on the property tax rolls. No boundary survey or fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher

Seconded – Commissioner Garst

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked what the plans were for the buildings. DNR Parks Bureau Chief, Kevin Szcodronski explained that all of the buildings have been assessed and have a lot of potential. Preliminary plans are to convert into group cabins, lodge rental, and the house into a cabin type facility.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

10. LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

10.1 LANSING FISH HATCHERY – ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – CITY OF LANSING

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a management agreement with the City of Lansing, Iowa to manage the Lansing Fish Hatchery property located in the City of Lansing through December 31, 2034.

The Lansing Fish Hatchery property is a 0.19-acre parcel of land, acquired by the state in 1936, located on the Mississippi River riverfront in the City of Lansing in Allamakee County. The property is occupied by the former fish hatchery building. The building is maintained as a VFW community center under a lease with the City. The area has been managed by the City, at their request, since 1984, when the DNR planned to remove the building. The City will not be required to insure the building. In the event the building is destroyed, it will not be rebuilt.

The proposed management agreement will utilize the DNR’s standard management agreement form.

Staff recommends approval of management agreement.

Moved – Commissioner Underwood

Seconded - Commissioner Kircher

Discussion – Commissioner Drees asked if it was typical for the city not to be responsible for maintaining insurance on the building. Travis Baker responded that it is not typical.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

10.2 GLENWOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PRESERVE – MILLS COUNTY – MILL CCB

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a management agreement with the Mills County Conservation Board and the DNR. The agreement authorizes the Mills County Conservation Board to manage the Glenwood Archaeological State Preserve through 2035.

The agreement covers 906 acres of cultivated fields, grassland, and forest. Management of the preserve will be according the approved preserve management plan and the terms and conditions of the standard DNR management agreement.

Staff recommends approval of management agreement.

Moved – Commissioner Garst

Seconded - Commissioner Rettig

Discussion – Commissioner Drees asked if Mills County was the current manager. Travis Baker explained that they are not. It had been managed previously by Iowa Prison Industries.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

11. CONTRACT WITH NATURAL RESOURCES, INC., FOR BAT SURVEY OF FIVE IOWA COUNTIES

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a contract with Natural Resources, Inc., of Independence, Iowa, contingent upon receiving a federal grant. Approval is being requested at this time to allow the contractor begin work in early May if the grant is received by April 15 and all federal approvals are complete. The contract will be for a fixed fee of \$150,000.

The Department submitted a grant application to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund a multi-state, multi-species wind energy habitat conservation plan (HCP). The HCP will provide conservation benefits to species protected under the Endangered Species Act. In Iowa, the Indiana bat will be the primary focus of the proposed project.

An RFP to conduct acoustical monitoring at a minimum of 50 sites, mist net surveys at a minimum of 20 sites, and radio telemetry tracking of up to 20 Indiana bats in Adams, Dallas, Fremont, Guthrie and Pottawattamie counties was posted in February. One bid proposal was received from Natural Resources, Inc. located in Independence, Iowa. The company and key personnel are well qualified to conduct the study. The survey will be conducted during the summer of 2010 if federal approvals are received and a contract is signed by June 1, 2010. If there is a delay past June 1, 2010, the survey work will be completed by July 15, 2011.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher contingent on receiving federal grant funding

Seconded - Commissioner Rettig

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked for explanation on the type of bat. Daryl Howell responded that the project is a multi-state project to study wind power on federally listed species.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

12. CONTRACT WITH THE FOOD BANK OF IOWA FOR HUSH

Commission approval is requested for a three-year year-service contract with The Food Bank of Iowa of Des Moines, IA. The contract will begin May 15, 2010 and terminate May 14, 2013. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$5 per deer processed through the HUSH program.

This contract will be funded through income received from the \$1 HUSH fee on all deer licenses, with additional support from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, as needed. In the last 2 years, the \$1 fee has provided about \$400,000, with an average of \$150,000 additional funding per year from the Trust Fund.

HUSH was initiated with the 2003 deer season as an incentive to hunters to harvest more deer, and to provide lean and healthy meet to Iowans in need. Venison comprises more than ½ of all the Food Bank's red meat distributed to the needy. Figures for deer donations during the 2009-10 season are not yet available, but for 2003-2008, 31,329 deer have been donated, amounting to more than 6 million, quarter-pound servings. The Food Bank of Iowa is a major partner in HUSH, arranging venison distribution, making more than 300 total payments per year to participating lockers, and collecting information for the DNR on donated deer.

Because of the Food Bank of Iowa's partnership, the DNR can operate the HUSH program with less than 0.2 FTEs, unlike other states that run a deer donation program who must devote from 1 to 3 FTEs to their operations.

The Food Bank of Iowa is a sole source provider due to its direct access to the food distribution system for Iowa's needy and its administrative staff being able to perform the financial arrangements.

Moved – Commissioner Garst

Seconded - Commissioner Schemmel

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked if venison is distributed to all food bank pantries across the state. Diane Ford explained that she believed it was by participation in the program and would follow up with information on how distribution was determined from Ross Harrison. Commissioner Drees asked why this could not be break even project so that the \$150k supplement would not be needed. Diane Ford responded that due to the costs to process the venison fees would need to be increased. She reminded the commission of the previous failed attempt to increase hunting license fees and within that increase raise the HUSH fee to \$1.50. She also added that another idea discussed was to implement a cutoff point on donations so there would be no need to subsidize the program but managing. Commissioner Garst commented that as the deer populations are brought under control the HUSH program should also see a decrease. Diane Ford agreed and stated that while in the Dubuque area recently she received three complaints of no deer in the area.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

13. HARDWOOD TIMBER SALE IVERSON WILDLIFE AREA

The Natural Resource Commission is asked to approve the sale of an estimated 89,950 board feet of mixed hardwood trees at the Iverson Wildlife Area. The sale consists of 1,076 trees.

Species	# of Trees	Bd. Ft./Tree	Total Bd. Ft.
Red Oak	273	138	37,750
White, Bur Oak	338	106	35,840
White Elm	12	92	1,010
Red Elm	6	107	640
Basswood	42	93	3,920
Hard Maple	7	71	500
Ash	5	98	490
Cherry	7	94	660
Hickory	41	96	3,940
Walnut	40	108	4,320
Butternut	2	70	140
Cottonwood, Aspen	7	106	740
Culls	296		
Totals	1076		89,950

The harvests will accomplish 3 acres of early successional habitat and 19 acres of clearcut which will be re-planted with native oak seedlings. These management practices are in accordance with the Iverson Forest Stewardship Plan, approved December 2009. The harvesting is being conducted specifically to improve habitat for game and non-game wildlife species including: ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, turkey, warblers, cuckoo and eastern towhee.

A natural areas inventory was conducted, and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Wildlife den trees will not be marked and will be left standing. Best management practices (BMP's) will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the SMA (within 50 feet of the adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

The following bids were received for the sale:

Company	Location	Amount of Bid
Grau Logs and Lumber, Inc.	Elkader, IA	\$37,243.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$33,079.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$30,873.00
Meyer Timber Company	New Albin, IA	\$15,641.00

The Commission is requested to approve a contract with the high bidder, Grau Logs and Lumber, Inc. for \$37,243.00.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher
Seconded – Commissioner Francisco
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

14. REFORESTATION PLANTING PREPARATION CANYON STATE PARK

The Natural Resource Commission is asked to approve a tree planting contract for the reforestation of Preparation Canyon State Park. The project will be funded from revenues generated by the salvage of timber from the park and from Forestry operations.

The forest was severely damaged by a tornado in June 2008. Salvage logging and firewood cutting was utilized wherever trees were accessible throughout the damage path. The result was nearly a clearcut that will allow ample sunlight to planted seedlings. Native trees previously found on this site included bur oak, red oak, black walnut, red elm, white elm, green ash, white ash, basswood, Kentucky coffee tree, bitternut hickory, hackberry, black cherry, cottonwood, red cedar, honey locust, and many understory species.

The contractor will conduct a hand tree planting project consisting of 8,000 seedlings at Preparation Canyon State Park in the Tornado Damaged / Harvested Areas outlined on the map. While the total project area on the enclosed map is approximately 156 acres, contractor shall hand plant trees on only the most suitable sites described below. Herbicides will be applied in 4 ft. circles around each tree to kill and prevent competing vegetation during the first growing season. It is estimated that one-half of the project area, or 80 acres, will constitute the area for planting. Tree shelters will be installed on one-half (or 4,000) of the trees planted. This project consists of 3 tasks: hand planting, herbicide application and shelter placement.

The following bid was received for the reforestation project:

Company	Location	Amount of Bid
Hickory Ridge Forestry, LLC	Council Bluffs, IA	\$36,850.00

The Commission is requested to approve a contract with the low bidder, Hickory Ridge Forestry, LLC for \$36,850.00.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher
Seconded - Commissioner Rettig
Discussion – Commissioner Schemmel asked about the cost estimate and how the commission was to know this was a fair bid. Jeff Goerndt responded that because only one bid was received they do not have a good comparison method, however after speaking to some forestry contractors in NE Iowa to gather some comparison information he feels it is fair. Commissioner Underwood asked about the wide variety species listed and wanted to know if all would be utilized in replanting. Jeff Goerndt explained that the species to be replanted would be mix of hardwoods.
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

15. CEDAR VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR SOFT TRAILS (CVA) – 28E AGREEMENT, GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK, BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Commission approval is requested to for a 28E agreement between Cedar Valley Association for Soft Trails (CVA) and the DNR.

George Wyth State Park and the Cedar Valley have an extensive hard-surfaced trail system, and CVAST, which is a group of outdoor enthusiasts that use George Wyth, wants to expand on it by creating more soft trails that can be used for hiking, mountain biking and otherwise accessing remote areas of the park. Creating these trails would bring more visitors to George Wyth State Park and will allow new, expanded and different types of events to take place.

When CVAST originally met with staff to propose this endeavor, DNR expressed concerns with the plans, including the presence of the blue spotted salamander. DNR and CVAST worked with Dr. James Demastes, Biology professor from UNI, and Daryl Howell with the DNR on the locations of the blue spotted salamander in George Wyth to develop trail locations that would avoid their habitat. In addition, DNR and CVAST worked with the DNR Trails Section in developing the trail plans. A Sovereign Lands permit has been issued for the proposed trails. Archaeological clearance is in progress.

DNR also expressed concerns related to conflicts with campers and insufficient staff to maintain additional trails. CVAST responded by recruiting volunteers to work on the trails, including students from Hawkeye Community College and local scout groups. Education of trail users will also be a component of the agreement to assure trails users are clearly aware of where to ride and not ride in order to protect areas from washouts, to avoid disturbing select habitats, and to remove interference with campers at campsites.

Funding to develop and maintain the trails will be raised through CVAST memberships, donations, and grants. Burden on George Wyth State Park's budget will be minimal. Park staff will assist with locating and inspecting the trails. They will also assist with general maintenance as time allows. This agreement is similar to one currently in effect at Summerset State Park.

Moved – Commissioner Francisco

Seconded - Commissioner Underwood

Discussion – Commissioner Schemmel asked if the department would be supervising the management of the trail system once installed. Kevin Szcodronski responded that the department's trails coordinator would be the point person on the management of the trail.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

16. BRUSHY CREEK TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chapter 455A.8, Code of Iowa authorizes the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to appoint two members of the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board. The DNR Director is to provide the NRC a recommendation for appointments. The below recommendations are based on the average scores (in parentheses). The NRC is requested to appoint the following two applicants for three years terms.

Ron Jacobson (34.6) – 3 years

Lori Lange (34) - 3 years

The following are the average scores for the other applicants:

Mike Tinkham (31.5)

Frank Santana (28.6)

The scoring was conducted by DNR staff: John Pearson, Daryl Howell, Jim Lawson, Amber O'Neill, Steve Bell, and Greg Van Fosson. Criteria used for scoring includes: Criteria 1 – Time Commitment, Criteria 2 – Desire to Serve/Contributions/Role, Criteria 3 – Usage of Brushy Creek Recreation Area, Criteria 4 – Discretionary Points. Note: all criteria had equal weights of up to 10 points.

Ron Jacobson lives and works in Fort Dodge. He is the manager of Sioux City Grain Inspection. He is the chairman of the board for Dodger Cyclists and is an avid mountain biker. He also enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing and kayaking/canoeing at the park.

Lori Lange lives in Gilmore City and works in a local farm store. Lori is an avid equine trail user and has used the trails for 25 years. She attends most board meetings and is generally present at most volunteer functions sponsored by the board, as well as, other groups. Lori is an avid outdoors person who loves to camp, bike, swim, fish, hike, and horseback ride.

Mike Tinkam lives in Maxwell and works for Harold Pikes Construction in Ames. Mike has been a BCTAB member for 13 years and has been a great advocate for the DNR, Trails, and Brushy Creek. Mike is an avid equestrian trail rider and also loves to camp. Mike has been a great spokes person for all park users of Brushy Creek.

Frank Santana lives in Winterset and is President and CEO of 7 Flags. Frank enjoys horseback riding, horse competition, driving horse and buggy, camping, fishing, boating, and biking. Frank belongs to ITRA, TRHA, and MIDA.

The two new appointees will join the following members of the board: Donna Christensen, Linda Jenny, Pat Reed, Beth Aswegan, Kelly Keller, Deb Lewis (Preserves Board designee), Chad Kelchen (Park Manager), and Kevin Szcodronski (DNR Director Designee) to make up the 10 member board.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher
Seconded – Commissioner Garst
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

17. FRIENDS GROUP FIREWOOD AND SOUVENIR CONCESSION CONTRACTS - VARIOUS PARKS

The Department requests Commission approval of firewood contracts to three state park/recreation area friends groups and a firewood and souvenirs contract to one state park friends group.

Friends groups are defined in 571 I.A.C. 14.1 as “an organization incorporated under Iowa Code chapter 504A as a not-for-profit group which has been formed solely for the purpose of promoting and enhancing a particular state park or recreation area.” These groups are not subject to Chapter 14’s bidding procedures.

Pursuant to 571 I.A.C. 14.3(2)“f”, persons selling only firewood may do so with a letter/permit from the director provided the park or recreation area has no other concessionaire, or provided the concessionaire has declined the opportunity to sell firewood.

Pursuant to 571 I.A.C. 14.3(3), friends groups may offer souvenirs, books, photos, and other memorabilia for sale in a state park by requesting that a letter/permit be issued by the director. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise by the friends group must be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Upon review of the Articles of Incorporation for these friends groups, it was identified that the purpose statements need to be updated to include language that the group was formed *solely* for the purpose of promoting and enhancing a particular state park or recreation area.

With the summer camping season fast approaching, the Department is proposing these contracts be approved with clear revocation language that is triggered if the friends group fails to amend their “statements of purpose” within 45 days of signing. This conditional acceptance will ensure the needs of park visitors and campers are immediately met upon the opening of the season and giving the friends group ample time to properly amend their Articles of Incorporation, a simple yet time-intensive change.

Firewood Concession Contract – Ledges State Park – Friends of the Ledges, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a one-year firewood contract with Friends of the Ledges. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2010. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood Concession Contract – Walnut Woods State Park – Friends of Walnut Woods State Park

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood contract with Friends of Walnut Woods. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood Concession Contract – Wilson Island State Recreation Area – Friends of Wilson Island State Recreation Area

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood contract with Friends of Wilson Island State Recreation Area. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Firewood and Souvenir Concession Contract – Prairie Rose State Park – Friends of Prairie Rose State Park

Commission approval is requested for a five-year firewood and souvenir contract with Friends of Prairie Rose. The contract will terminate on December 31, 2014. All proceeds from the sale of firewood by the friends group will be spent on repair, replacement, or enhancement of facilities within the park.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded - Commissioner Kircher

Discussion – Commissioner Underwood asked where the firewood would come from and expressed concern that out of state wood contaminated with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) may be brought into Iowa. Sherry Arntzen, Parks explained that it would come from local sources, and that it is written into the concession contract that no out of state firewood may be brought in, as well it is illegal to carry wood across state lines. Commissioner Garst objected to the item stating that limiting the proceed expenditures to only a specific park would prohibit a friends group from getting together with other friends groups to form an Iowa Parks Foundation. Commissioner Garst stated that she felt the language should be broader so as to include all Iowa State Parks. She went on to say that she is concerned that firewood proceeds would be spent only on facilities and again referenced the previous point she had made on item #8 in reference to land management and education in state parks. Kevin Szcodronski explained that he would work with legal council to have the language adjusted. He stated that the intent was not to limit friends groups to only allow proceeds to be spent on facilities or to limit them to helping only a specific park.

Moved (2) - Commissioner Rettig moved to amend the language to include facilities, grounds, and operations of the park and make all four concessionaire contracts a one year contract. Commissioner Rettig also asked that staff research an administrative fix to these issues for the future.

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Motion – Carried as Amended by Unanimous Vote

18. CONTRACT WITH FOCUS GROUP FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (IHEA) JOURNAL

The Department requests Commission approval for a contract with Focus Group for the publication of Iowa's International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) quarterly journal. The contract will expire December 31, 2011. The contract is not to exceed \$30,000 and will be paid for with federal grant funds. The cost identified as a limit is due to the variables in the mailings. These variables include number of pages and pieces mailed depending on the number of names we provide for the mailing.

The journal is an educational resource provided to our volunteer hunter education, bow education, and fur harvester education instructors and apprentices. The Department's newsletter, specific to Iowa's issues, is inserted into the publication on a quarterly basis. This resource to our volunteers provides information which assists them in their teaching students lifelong skills that are important to the many different types of outdoor recreation opportunities, wildlife identification, hunting ethics, hunting laws, firearm/archery safety, wildlife management basics and more which help conserve our natural resources.

The contractor, Focus Group, is identified as the sole publisher and mailer of the IHEA journal in accordance with the competitive bid process and sole source requirements.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher

Seconded - Commissioner Schemmel

Discussion – Commissioner Rettig asked about the sustainability of this publication. She stated that the department needs to begin demanding that anything with IDNR name/logo on it be printed in a sustainable fashion thus utilizing recycled paper, soy ink, etc. Commissioner Francisco stated that this particular publication through IHEA saves the state postage money as all materials are printed and mailed by IHEA; however he did agree that the department should highly suggest to IHEA they use sustainable practices when printing. Commissioner Underwood asked about the utilization of online media vs. this printed media and stated that she felt electronic media is a format in which the department should explore more as it will assist to reduce the departments carbon foot print. Commissioner Rettig stated that all should remember not every household has access to a computer/internet access. Deputy Director Boddy stated that as technology changes things will get easier, but at this time there is still a need for both types of media. Law Enforcement Bureau, Chief Robert Garrison replied that they will do further research into this matter for future publications.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

19. WATER NAVIGATION PERMIT – SUNNY BRAE GOLF COURSE FOOTBRIDGE

Pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code section 462A.32, the Commission is requested give the director the authority to approve an obstruction, a floating footbridge, that expands across a portion of the Cedar River in Mitchell County, Iowa. Iowa Code section 462A.32(2) reads: “No other obstruction of any kind shall be maintained in the waters of this state under the jurisdiction of the commission without first receiving permission from the commission to maintain such obstruction.”

Sunny Brae Golf Course, a nine-hole golf course, was first established in 1915. The Department had previously approved the use of this footbridge, as evidenced in prior permits issued to it. Recent complaints by canoeists, kayakers and other river users caused Sunny Brae to redesign the structure to accommodate those other uses on the river.

The Commission is asked give the director authority to grant the permit pursuant to Iowa Code section 462A.32(2) with the following restrictions, in addition to those in the previous permits, to ensure that the historical uses of the club are recognized while the access and ability to use the river by other recreational enthusiasts is protected:

- The permit shall be for a period of not to exceed ten years.
- The Club shall coordinate the design, installation and maintenance of the structure with the DNR’s Water Trails Program, or its successor, annually to ensure that other recreational activities taking place on the water shall be considered.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Garst expressed concern about the height of the passage way under the bridge for others using the waterway.

Moved (2) – Commissioner Francisco moved to amend the permit to be for only one year.

Seconded – none

Motion – failed

Discussion – Director Leopold explained that this particular bridge is a ‘floaters’ and not structural and is an inexpensive way for golfers to get across the river. It is being presented to the commission because it is not right according to rule, as it has been a traditional use bridge. The alternative is that the property owners could construct a property to property bridge. Commissioner Rettig stated that she was okay with the director making the decision as long as commissioner comments were considered. Commissioner Garst stated that she would rather approve for one year and know there is an adequate fix in place vs. approve ten years of an ongoing problem.

Moved (3) – Commissioner Francisco to table item until DNR Water Trails Coordinator, Nate Hooegeven could address the commission in reference to the item.

Seconded – Commissioner Garst

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

Moved (4) – Commissioner Francisco moved to bring item 19 off of the table

Seconded – Commissioner Garst

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

Discussion – Nate Hooegeven explained to the commission that the existing structures 3 to 3 ½ height clearance would be sufficient for skilled paddlers to maneuver.

Commissioner Francisco made comment that the bridge had been in operation since the 1950’s and wanted to know if there had ever been any reported incident. Nate Hooegeven explained that he did not know of any.

Moved (5) – Commissioner Garst moved to amend to allow for a one year permit extension to allow time to draft a plan for a fix to allow all users to navigate the passage safely and report back to the commission.

Seconded – Commissioner Francisco

Motion – Carried as amended by Unanimous Vote

20. CHAPTER 40, BOATING SPEED AND DISTANCE ZONING – NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

The Department requests Commission approval of this Notice to amend Chapter 40, Boating Speed and Distance Zoning.

These proposed changes will provide consistency and speed clarification within the rule. In addition, the speed limit of 10 mph is reduced to 5 mph to address safety concerns of decreased visibility and environmental concerns of increased water turbidity and soil erosion caused by higher rate of speed. The Department has received unanimous support of these proposed amendments from the lake associations in the Great Lakes area and from DNR staff.

Moved – Commissioner Rettig

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

21. CHAPTER 15, GENERAL LICENSE REGULATIONS – NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

The Department requests Commission approval of the proposed changes to clarify what additional information may be sought by the department to determine residency status of license applicants and license holders and provide a process for suspension and revocation of licenses that are not properly obtained.

Moved – Commissioner Francisco
Seconded - Commissioner Garst
Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

22. CHAPTER 46, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE AND SNOWMOBILE BONDING - NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

The Commission is requested to approve this notice to rescind Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Bonding” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new Chapter 46, “All-terrain Vehicles, Off-road Motorcycles and Off-road Utility Vehicles.”

The proposed new chapter clarifies the procedures for registration, renewal, titling, decal placement and accident reporting for all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road utility vehicles. Division II of the new chapter establishes minimum standards for all-terrain vehicle dealers as authorized under Iowa Code Chapter 321I.22. Division III provides for the regulations of designated all-terrain vehicle riding areas.

Existing rules in Chapter 46 will be moved to the new Chapter 50 “All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-road Motorcycles, Off-road Utility Vehicles, Snowmobile and Vessel Bonding.”

Moved – Commissioner Kircher moved items 22, 23 and 24
Seconded - Commissioner Francisco
Discussion – Commissioner Schemmel asked for further explanation on the requirements to become a licensed dealer. David Downing, Law Enforcement, explained that a lot of the requirements are in code. He explained that a dealer has to be registered with the DNR and must meet new requirements such as filing paperwork and customer registrations after sales.
Motion – Carried 6-yes 1-abstain (Schemmel)

23. CHAPTER 47, VESSEL BONDING - NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

The Commission is requested to approve this notice to rescind Chapter 47, “Vessel Bonding” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles.” The proposed new chapter clarifies the procedures for registration, renewal, titling, decal placement and accident reporting for snowmobiles. Division II of the new chapter establishes minimum standards for snowmobile dealers as authorized under Iowa Code Chapter 321G.21.

Rules related to bonding requirements that were formally part of this chapter are proposed to be moved to a new Chapter 50 “All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-road Motorcycles, Off-road Utility Vehicles, Snowmobile and Vessel Bonding.”

Moved – Commissioner Kircher moved items 22, 23 and 24

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Schemmel asked for further explanation on the requirements to become a licensed dealer. David Downing, Law Enforcement, explained that a lot of the requirements are in code. He explained that a dealer has to be registered with the DNR and must meet new requirements such as filing paperwork and customer registrations after sales.

Motion – Carried 6-yes 1-abstain (Schemmel)

24. CHAPTER 50, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE AND SNOWMOBILE ACCIDENT REPORTS, TITLING, REGISTRATION AND NUMBERING - NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

The Commission is requested to approve this notice to rescind Chapter 50, “All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Accident Reports, Titling, Registration and Numbering” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new Chapter 50, “All-terrain Vehicle, Off-road Motorcycles, Off-road Utility Vehicles, Snowmobile and Vessel Bonding.”

The proposed new chapter defines each of the regulated vehicles covered by the rules, clarifies the criteria which require the bonding of a regulated vehicle or vessel, and updates the process used to bond a regulated vehicle or vessel. The specifics for regulated vehicles are covered in Division I of the chapter and the specifics for vessels are captured in Division II of the chapter.

Existing rules found in Chapter 50, Iowa Administrative Code, will be moved to new Chapters 46 and 47, Iowa Administrative Code, as part of an update and reorganization of the rules pertaining to the Off-highway Vehicle Program and the Snowmobile Program.

Moved – Commissioner Kircher moved items 22, 23 and 24

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Schemmel asked for further explanation on the requirements to become a licensed dealer. David Downing, Law Enforcement, explained that a lot of the requirements are in code. He explained that a dealer has to be registered with the DNR and must meet new requirements such as filing paperwork and customer registrations after sales.

Motion – Carried 6-yes 1-abstain (Schemmel)

25. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL-HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK

This decision is for change orders for the dock systems and related shoreline earthwork at the resort. The change orders would be for an accumulative amount not-to-exceed \$100,000.00. The dock system and land approach require modifications in order to function properly and to meet code. The design team, DNR, and the contractors (Dock Contractor and Roads and Paving Contractor) are negotiating the scope of work and total construction cost. If negotiations are completed in the immediate future, change orders are required to proceed with the work. Since the amount of the change orders, including previous change orders, on these contracts would be greater than 10% of the contract amounts previously approved, additional NRC approval is required.

The Department will only agree to pay for value-added services to this project not to exceed \$50,000 out of MFT. Design Fees from the design team contract will cover all remaining and non-value added work to complete the project.

This item is coming before the Commission prior to final negotiations due to the time sensitive nature of this project and the rapidly approaching recreational season.

DNR recommends awarding the contract change orders.

Moved – Commissioner Underwood

Seconded - Commissioner Francisco

Discussion – Commissioner Garst asked how much is still owed to TSP. Deputy Director Boddy responded approximately \$70k. Don Labate explained the exact fix is unknown at this time, the item is being presented now to the commission so the final negotiations meeting on April 21st can take place and work can begin immediately on the agreed upon fix. Deputy Director Boddy stressed that the docks *need* to be in place and as such need some flexibility to enter into negotiations. Commissioner Garst asked if it would be reported back to the commission on the outcome of that meeting. Deputy Director Boddy assured the commission that would be done.

Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote

26. GENERAL DISCUSSION

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

➤ Board Guiding Principles

- Commissioner Underwood provided the commission with a copy of Trees Forever mission statement as an example/consideration for the NRC Commissioner Handbook.
- Commissioner Schemmel asked how the commission should proceed.
- Deputy Director Boddy suggested possibly holding a public notice meeting to conduct future work sessions or perhaps forming sub committees.
- Commissioner Drees recommended sub committee's with no more than three commissioners.
- Commissioner Underwood volunteered to sit on a subcommittee.
- Commissioner Kircher suggested that the commission start with a work session and then move on to specific sub committee's

➤ Reflection on Board Training

- none

➤ Commissioner Drees

- none

- Commissioner Francisco
 - Commented about SERIP retirees saying it would be a real challenge to the state. The retirement of Ken Herring, Bob Dolan & Ross Harrison for example would mean the DNR would be losing 107 years of experience.
 - Deputy Director Boddy explained that the department is trying to capture as much knowledge as possible prior to SERIP retirees last day.
- Commissioner Garst
 - Comments on the work of Dan Kinsinger in the land acquisition area and how import his position has been to the department.
- Commissioner Kircher
 - Reminded the commission of Officer Elections to be held in May
- Commissioner Schemmel
 - None
- Commissioner Underwood
 - Attended the 2nd Annual Gift to Iowa's Future Recognition Day on March 24th at the State Capitol and made comment that she thought it was a terrific event to recognize private landowners' gifts to Iowa.
- Commissioner Rettig – left meeting moments prior to general discussion.

Proposed Schedule Changes

May – HCR review with Central Group Companies

June – Walnut Woods 6/9-6/10 – tour/work session

July 21 – Joint EPC/NRC

July 22 – NRC meeting

Sept. 9-10 – Geode Tour & RCD's event

October – HCR review with Central Group Companies

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Anonymous Land Donors
- Eagles Population /Lead
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
- Fish Stock & Possible Tour at Big Creek
- Houseboat Littering in Cedar Rapids
- IA Outdoor Magazine article to recognize land donations
- Land Acquisition Strategy Presentation
- Possible tour on rain gardens
- State Land Crop leases be no till
- Status Report on Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board
- Wind technology effects on wildlife – previous reports to new commissioners

April 8, 2010

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

Next Meetings:

05/13/10, Thursday-Polk County

06/10/10, Thursday-Polk County

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Natural Resources Commission, Chairperson Gregory Drees adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m., on April 8, 2010.

<p>Moved – Commissioner Kircher Seconded - Commissioner Francisco Motion – Carried by Unanimous Vote</p>

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