

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

**Decision Item**

**18. REAP County Grants – September 2019 (FY20)**

The Department requests Commission approval of the recommendations of the Project Review and Selection Committee for REAP County grants as directed by Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 33.

**Grant Purpose:** The county conservation account receives 20% of the REAP funds. After initial distributions outlined in Chapter 33, 40% of the remaining funds are available for competitive grants to counties for increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, land protection, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. This money is available to counties, only if they are dedicating at least 22¢ per \$1,000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county for county conservation purposes.

**Funding Source(s):** Resource Enhancement And Protection Fund – County Conservation Account

**Grant Funding Available:** \$1,005,276

**Selection Committee Members:** As directed by Chapter 33, a review and selection committee consisting of five members (two DNR staff and three non-DNR appointees) evaluate and rank project applications:

- County Representation
  - Jim Liechty, Madison CCB
  - Katie Hammond, Louisa CCB
  - Chris Lee, Des Moines CCB
- DNR Representation
  - Jessica Manken, State Parks Bureau
  - Tom Anderson, ESD Land Quality Bureau

**Summary of Selection Process:** As directed by criteria under Chapter 33.30, the selection committee reviewed and scored all applications. Examples of criteria considered include quality of site and project, public need, urgency of project, multiple use potential, and economic benefit.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends funding for four projects listed in the table. In the event that any of the grantees are unable to execute their project, the Department requests authority to offer those funds to the next highest scored projects that meet the grant criteria or return the funds to the grant program for distribution in the next grant cycle.

<b>2019 (FY20) REAP County Projects</b>					
<b>Ranked by Score</b>	<b>County Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
135.5	Louisa	Wilson’s Prairie	This project includes the acquisition of a 40-acre native prairie remnant that is believed to have never been cropped or plowed. The area is a unique sand prairie, located on the Muscatine Island, in Louisa County. It is only two miles away from the Big Sand Mound Preserve and has a good diversity of native plants.	\$166,400	\$166,400
130.6	Fayette	Beeghly Tract Acquisition	The Beeghly Tract acquisition consists of 134.6 acres located adjacent to the City of Fayette, Iowa. The Tract contains a	\$490,000	\$490,000

			multitude of varied ecosystems including wetlands, savanna, native prairie, and forest resources. The property is adjacent to and protects a significant portion of multi-use trail connecting the City to the Volga River Recreation Area. This Tract's natural attributes provide recreational opportunities and supports student's academic pursuits at Upper Iowa University.		
<b>128</b>	Madison	Madison Co. Conservation Center – Interactive Exhibits	The proposed Madison County Conservation Center is a 12,500 sq. ft. facility designed to promote environmental education and outdoor recreation/exploration. The Conservation Board is specifically requesting funds to assist with the cost of the Interactive Exhibits currently being developed by Split Rock Studios. The exhibits will highlight the natural resource features of the Southern Iowa Drift Plain and depict how centuries of weathering have come to create the current landforms that define the beauty of Madison County.	\$275,300	\$275,300
<b>124.2</b>	Story	Wicks Wildlife Area	This project will protect and restore 55 acres along the South Skunk River on the north edge of Story City creating a nature destination. Its mix of river frontage, oxbows, grassland and woodland offers a diverse, convenient get-away for hiking, paddling, hunting, environmental education and more. A strong local fundraising partnership and the vision for a vibrant riparian greenbelt near the metro area bring significant value to this project.	\$150,000	\$73,576
122	Benton	Hart Family Wetland		\$189,000	-0-
116.8	Dickinson	Okoboji Wetland		\$72,500	-0-
116.4	Butler	Eisentrager Fen	<i>This and all projects above would have been awarded funding if REAP was fully funded at \$20 million.</i>	\$349,830	-0-
109.8	Polk	Lane Property Acquisition		\$267,750	-0-
109.4	Woodbury	Briese Acquisition		\$339,610	-0-
106.6	Clayton	Expanding the Motor Mill Trail		\$250,000	-0-
104.4	Woodbury	Zook Acquisition		\$246,250	-0-
102.6	Palo Alto	Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center Addition		\$240,189	-0-
102.4	Plymouth	Newberg Addition to Hillview		\$400,000	-0-

		Recreation Area			
95.4	Ringgold	Liberty Lake Recreational Development Project		\$520,000	-0-
92.4	Boone	High Trestle to City of Boone Trail, Phase 1		\$308,000	-0-
90.8	Linn	Linn Learning Farm Acquisition		\$400,000	-0-
88.8	Harrison	Willow Lake Nature Center		\$450,000	-0-
86.4	Clay	Oneota Environmental Learning Center		\$656,463	-0-
TOTALS				\$5,771,292	\$1,005,276

Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator  
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 October 10, 2019