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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranke Score</th>
<th>County Applicant</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Grant Amount Requested</th>
<th>Recommended Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>135.5</td>
<td>Louisa</td>
<td>Wilson’s Prairie</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$166,400</td>
<td>$166,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Beeghly Tract Acquisition</td>
<td>The Beeghly Tract acquisition consists of 134.6 acres located adjacent to the City of Fayette, Iowa. The Tract contains a</td>
<td>$490,000</td>
<td>$490,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A 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.

### 128 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.

- **Funding Requested:** $275,300
- **Available Funding:** $275,300

### 124.2 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.

- **Funding Requested:** $150,000
- **Available Funding:** $73,576

### 122 Benton
**Hart Family Wetland**

- **Funding Requested:** $189,000
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 116.8 Dickinson
**Okoboji Wetland**

- **Funding Requested:** $72,500
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 116.4 Butler
**Eisentrager Fen**

This and all projects above would have been awarded funding if REAP was fully funded at $20 million.

- **Funding Requested:** $349,830
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 109.8 Polk
**Lane Property Acquisition**

- **Funding Requested:** $267,750
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 109.4 Woodbury
**Briese Acquisition**

- **Funding Requested:** $339,610
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 106.6 Clayton
**Expanding the Motor Mill Trail**

- **Funding Requested:** $250,000
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 104.4 Woodbury
**Zook Acquisition**

- **Funding Requested:** $246,250
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 102.6 Palo Alto
**Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center Addition**

- **Funding Requested:** $240,189
- **Available Funding:** -0-

### 102.4 Plymouth
**Newberg Addition to Hillview**

- **Funding Requested:** $400,000
- **Available Funding:** -0-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Area</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.4 Ringgold</td>
<td>Liberty Lake Recreational Development Project</td>
<td>$520,000</td>
<td>-0-</td>
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<tr>
<td>92.4 Boone</td>
<td>High Trestle to City of Boone Trail, Phase 1</td>
<td>$308,000</td>
<td>-0-</td>
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<tr>
<td>90.8 Linn</td>
<td>Linn Learning Farm Acquisition</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>-0-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88.8 Harrison</td>
<td>Willow Lake Nature Center</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>-0-</td>
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<tr>
<td>86.4 Clay</td>
<td>Oneota Environmental Learning Center</td>
<td>$656,463</td>
<td>-0-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$5,771,292</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,005,276</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tammie Krausman, REAP Coordinator
Conservation and Recreation Division
October 10, 2019