

**Minutes of the
Natural Resource Commission
Meeting**

**August 11,
2022**

Business Meeting
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 E 9th St, 2nd Fl, Des Moines, IA

For Office Use Only

Date Minutes Approved By NRC: 09/07/22

Director's Signature: _____
Kayla Lyon, Director

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Natural Resource Commission Minutes

Sender's initials: KR

TABLE OF CONTENTS (* indicates consent item)

Call to Order.....	1
Commissioner Attendance	2
Public Participation	2
1. Approval of Agenda	2
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	2
2. Approve Minutes of 07/13/22 Public Meeting.....	2
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	2
3. Director’s Remarks	2
4. Division Administrator’s Remarks	2
*5. Public Land Management Project: Easement Conveyance, Cedar River - Linn County.....	2
CARRIED UNDER CONSENT.....	2
6. Construction Projects	3
6.1 Green Valley State Park, Fishing Pier – Union County.....	3
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	3
6.2 Prairie Rose State Park, Spoil Site Decommissioning – Shelby County	3
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	4
6.3 Lake Darling State Park, Concrete Trail – Washington County.....	4
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	4
6.4 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Office Addition – Warren County	4
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	5
6.5 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Road Reconstruction – Warren County	5
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	6
6.6 George Wyth State Park, Trail Repair – Black Hawk County	6
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	6
*7. Contract with RLC Roberts Trust (IHAP)	6
CARRIED UNDER CONSENT.....	7
8. Contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC	7
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	7
9. Contract with JNC Construction LLC.....	8
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	8
10. Contract with Iowa State University (Deer Study).....	8
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	9
11. Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (West Swan Lake)	9
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	10
12. Chapter 101, Falconry Regulations – Permit Lottery Drawing	10
INFORMATIONAL.....	10
13. Contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	10
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	11
14. Contract with Armodus, LLC	11
CARRIED AS PRESENTED.....	11
15. General Discussion	11
Adjournment.....	12
CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED	12
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates	12

MEETING MINUTES**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by the NRC Chair, Marcus Branstad, on 08/11/22 at 9:32 am. This meeting is open to the public and is being recorded as outlined by IA Code (571-1.8).

Commissioner AttendancePresent

Marcus Branstad, Chair [9:02a-10:25a]

Laura Foell (electronically) [9:02a – 10:50a]

Uriah Hansen [9:02a – 10:50a]

Laura Hommel, Secretary [9:02a – 10:50a]

Tammi Kircher [9:02a – 10:50a]

Tom Prickett, Vice Chair (electronically) [9:02a – 10:50a]

Margo Underwood (electronically) [9:02a – 10:50a]

Absent

None

Public Participation

None

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion – Commissioner Kircher

Commissioners Foell requested more information for items 8, 9, and 13. Commissioner Underwood asked for items 13 and 14 be removed from consent.

Commission Branstad moved to remove items 8, 9, 13, and 14 from the consent agenda.

Seconded – Commissioner Hansen

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

2. Approve Minutes of 07/13/22 Public Meeting

Motion – Commissioner Foell

Seconded – Commissioner Hommel

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

3. Director's Remarks

Deputy Director Alex Moon provided information on DNR activities at the State Fair, the start of our new Law Enforcement Bureau Chief, Craig Cutts, and discussions occurring regarding Honey Creek State Park Resort.

4. Division Administrator's Remarks

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, reported that Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator, was on a field tour today reviewing possible projects in southern Iowa with the USACOE.

***5. Public Land Management Project: Easement Conveyance, Cedar River - Linn County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for a flood control system along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Linn County.

Project Description: The City of Cedar Rapids is requesting an easement to install a flood control system along the Cedar River adjacent the I-380 Bridge. The size of the easement will be .58 acres in total. This easement will allow the City, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, to install a new levee, flood wall, gate closure, and a new sandbag closure improvement. Local fisheries staff have reviewed the request and given their approval.

Compensation: \$0

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

6. Construction Projects**6.1 Green Valley State Park, Fishing Pier – Union County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Green Valley State Park in southwest Iowa is a popular destination for fishing and boating. The park is a family-friendly hub for camping, picnicking or any outdoor pursuit. Green Valley's 390-acre lake is stocked with walleye, bluegill, channel catfish and more. It has six fishing jetties, two ADA accessible fishing piers on the north and south shorelines, and a section of shoreline is designated as 24-hour fishing access.

The jetty, located in the campground, is being upgraded from a rock surfaced fishing jetty to a 12'x 12' ADA accessible fishing pier with steel substructure, wood joints and composite decking. Construction consists of grading the existing fishing jetty, driving steel piling, and constructing the fishing pier. Additionally, a new ADA parking space will be constructed as well as a concrete sidewalk to the pier.

Engineering Project #: 22-04-88-06

Cost Estimate: \$128,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Federal-Land and Water Conservation Fund-57%, Parks Infrastructure-43%

Bid Letting Date: 7/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 04/30/2023

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

United Construction Services Corp.	Atlantic, IA	\$161,232.00
Minturn, Inc.	Brooklyn, IA	\$197,230.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to United Construction Services Corp.

Motion – Commissioner Hansen

Seconded – Commissioner Underwood

Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, and Sherry Arntzen, Parks Bureau Chief, reported that ADA upgrades and amenities are part of larger park plans and this particular structure, along with providing more access in this popular area, will help reduce wave action shoreline erosion.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6.2 Prairie Rose State Park, Spoil Site Decommissioning – Shelby County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Prairie Rose State Park was dedicated in 1962, and encompasses 422 acres, including a 218-acre lake. Existing facilities include two picnic shelters, two campgrounds, two cabins, and approximately 7 miles of multi-purpose trails.

The existing spoil site is a constructed basin that was used to settle out sediment from the hydraulic dredging operation that occurred in 2014. Upon completion of the dredging project, the containment site held approximately 200,000 CY of sediment and 14.9 million gallons of water. Over the last seven years, the site has been allowed to drain and the dredged sediment has consolidated. Because the basin is no longer needed, this project will change the existing topography to more natural shape with positive drainage so it can be managed as an upland prairie. This project consists of decommissioning a dredge spoil site by removing the perimeter fence, excavation of material from the basin and dike to create a 5:1 slope on the east side of the site and seeding all disturbed areas.

Engineering Project #: 21-04-83-01

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 05/31/2023

Number of Bids Received: 13

Bidders

Elite Excavating	Omaha, NE	\$210,298.60
B & S Tiling Excavation	Lake City, IA	\$218,056.50
Healy Excavating	Lake View, IA	\$221,223.55
Final Grade Const. and Conservation LLC	Plattsmouth, NE	\$232,375.90
Niewohner Construction Inc	Onawa, IA	\$245,272.50
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$253,821.60
IA Builders LLC	Albia, IA	\$270,007.10
Nagel Construction	Allerton, IA	\$285,633.30
Mount Farm Drainage LLC	Riverton, IA	\$295,551.31
Aaron Crane Construction LLC	Manchester, IA	\$303,892.95
Carley Construction LLC	Council Bluffs, IA	\$315,354.75
Binder Irrigation Inc	Table Rock, NE	\$343,085.89
C J Moyna & Sons LLC	Elkader, IA	\$464,794.10

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Elite Excavating.

Motion – Commissioner Foell
 Seconded – Commissioner Kircher
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6.3 Lake Darling State Park, Concrete Trail – Washington County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Darling State Park is 1,417 acres in size and includes a recently restored beautiful 302-acre lake with almost 18 miles of shoreline. There are numerous hiking opportunities including a 1.5 mile paved fishing trail that is ADA accessible and runs along the south shoreline of the lake.

In 2018, a 140' long bridge was constructed and spans across the in-lake silt dam, completing a trail around the lake. In 2020, 0.5 miles of rocked trails were paved. This project will continue to pave areas of mowed paths connecting the 2020 trail project to an existing parking lot off a park road. This will provide ADA access to large retention ponds that are stocked with fish. Also, the existing rock parking lot will be paved providing seven parking stalls, two of which will be ADA accessible. Paving will reduce the need for maintenance and provide multi-functional use. This project consists of constructing 1,577 feet of trail, ten feet wide, within Lake Darling State Park and 300 SY of a new concrete parking lot. Work includes subgrade preparation, culvert installations, and concrete placement.

Lake Darling's Friends' Group has provided funding support for large projects within the Park (a new lodge, cabins, and other amenities) and will be donating the funds for this project. As part of the agreement, the Friends Group has asked for Delong Construction, Inc., a local contractor, to complete the project. The DNR has designed this trail project and the contractor will complete construction using DNR design plans with DNR oversight. The DNR has successfully worked with Delong on other projects and they meet the State's Targeted Small Business requirements.

Engineering Project #: 22-06-92-01

Cost Estimate: \$140,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Donation (Lake Darling Friends Group)

Construction Completion Date: 5/26/2023

Bidders

Delong Construction, Inc.	Washington, IA	\$176,200
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IDNR recommends awarding the contract to Delong Construction, Inc.

Motion – Commissioner Kircher
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Discussion – Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief, shared that the Friends Group will be covering the cost of the project related to the difference between the estimate and project cost.
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6.4 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Office Addition – Warren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Ahquabi was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern restrooms/ showers, a beach with a CCC shelter and concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps.

The current office/shop at Lake Ahquabi State Park is a CCC era horse-barn and is in need of replacement. Water intrusion through the roof and siding has cause significant mold growth and compromised the timber structure of the building. The stone portion of the building is also deteriorating due to the soft nature of the local sandstone used in the original construction. Park staff have temporarily moved their office from the CCC building into the adjacent CCC residence.

For this project, a 23' x 39' office will be added to an existing cold-storage pole building, and will consist of an office, conference room, restroom, and mechanical room. The structure of the cold-storage pole building (constructed in 2004) is in good condition and will have new siding and roofing to match the new addition. Upon completion of the new office, the CCC residence, which is in poor shape, will be demolished. The demolition of both CCC structures was discussed with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The conclusion of those discussions was that the demolition of the structures will alleviate public health and safety concerns associated with the structures' poor condition, and an interpretive display showcasing historic items and documents from the buildings will be constructed in the vestibule of the new office addition.

Engineering Project #: 21-05-91-01

Cost Estimate: \$610,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Special Appropriations

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 05/31/2023

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Burkett Construction	DeSoto, IA	\$632,656.00
Vieco Construction Inc.	St Joseph, MO	\$696,440.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Burkett Construction.

<p>Motion – Commissioner Prickett</p> <p>Seconded – Commissioner Hansen</p> <p>Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote</p>
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CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6.5 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Road Reconstruction – Warren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Ahquabi was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern restrooms/showers, a beach with a CCC shelter and concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps.

The asphalt roads within the state park have deteriorated and are in need of replacement. This project consists of the removal of the existing 1.6 miles of asphalt roads and removal of trees and vegetation that are in conflict within the work zone, grading the project site, installing new Portland Cement Concrete roads and parking areas for the existing boat ramp and beach areas, and storm sewer and intakes.

Engineering Project #: 21-05-91-02

Cost Estimate: \$2,900,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: IA DOT Park & institutional Road Fund-85%, Parks Infrastructure-15%

Bid Letting Date: 7/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 5/30/2023

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Iowa Civil Contracting, Inc.	Victor, IA	\$3,121,791.70
CJ Moyna & Sons, LLC	Elkader, IA	\$3,580,284.80
Concrete Technologies, Inc.	Grimes, IA	\$3,681,999.99

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Iowa Civil Contracting, Inc.

Motion – Commissioner Kircher
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

6.6 George Wyth State Park, Trail Repair – Black Hawk County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: George Wyth State Park is located adjacent to the Cedar River within the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metropolitan area, and is a popular destination for fishing, relaxing, boating, wildlife watching and trail use. The trail system is linked to a 100-mile trail network promoted by The Cedar Falls Partnership and links playgrounds, lakes, shopping districts and neighborhoods between Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

This section of the existing asphalt bike trail is 1.3 miles long, eight feet wide, and was constructed in the early 1980's. Over the years, oxidation, thermal expansion/contraction, as well as tree roots have made the trail fairly rough. This project will remove the existing trail and replace it with reinforced concrete. The trail width will be increased from eight feet to ten feet to align with current multi-purpose trail standards.

Engineering Project #: 22-03-07-02

Cost Estimate: \$690,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Federal Highway Administration COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program-92%, Donation (Cedar Trails Partnership)-8%

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 9/15/2023

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Wick's Construction, Inc.	Decorah	\$515,190.00
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$633,894.75
Lodge Construction, Inc.	Clarksville, IA	\$635,872.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$656,896.00
Owen Contracting, Inc.	Cedar Falls, IA	\$686,995.50
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$833,107.00
Vieth Construction Corporation	Cedar Falls, IA	\$941,089.50

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Wick's Construction, Inc.

Motion – Commissioner Hansen
 Seconded – Commissioner Underwood
 Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

***7. Contract with RLC Roberts Trust (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with RLC Roberts Trust (Randall Roberts) of Omaha, NE.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$28,260.00

Dates: 8/15/2022 to 9/1/2030

Funding Source(s): Voluntary Public Access Grant – Iowa Habitat Access Program

Contract Purpose: This eight-year contract with RLC Roberts LLC will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: RLC Roberts Trust owns a 157-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2022-5/31/2030.

Land Management Tasks: The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks, which include prescribed fire. The DNR will assist the contractor with land management planning, provide technical assistance, and evaluate the completion of the land management tasks.

Selection Process Summary: IHAP contracting authorized under 483A.3B(3)c(1).

CARRIED UNDER CONSENT

8. Contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC/Luke Terry, of Robinson, KS.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$29,820

Dates: October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal 319 Clean Water Act State Land Grant (70%), Lakes Restoration Program (30%)

Contract Purpose The purpose of this contract is to remove and treat invasive brush and tree species from the grassland areas on the designated area on 12 Mile Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Eastern red cedar, bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, and many other invasive tree and brush species have invaded the grasslands around the lake. Work to address these invasive species will include mowing, shearing, piling, and herbicide stump treatment on 35.5 designated acres. Future maintenance of the acres will be under the management plans for the area. This project is part of a larger effort to improve the 12 Mile WMA watershed. The purpose of removing the invasive brush and tree species is to restore grassland habitat, thus improving infiltration rates and wildlife habitat for grassland wildlife species. This will result in better water quality for the lake and improved fishing and hunting opportunities. This project falls in line with the current management plan in place for 12 Mile Lake WMA.

Selection Process Summary: The Department used the Informal Request for Quotes process and emailed RFQ to potential contractors. Proposals were scored based on ability to complete the tasks and cost for 35.5 acres.

Date bids received: June 30, 2022

Bids received: 6

Recommendation: Custom Forestry Applications LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Bid	Rank
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, KS	\$29,820.00	1
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$49,700.00	2
Redman Services	Greenfield, IA	\$53,250.00	3
Maple Valley Tree Service	Drakesville, IA	\$71,000.00	4
Smith Landworx	New Virginia, IA	\$72,775.00	5
Clanton Creek Land Improvement	Peru, IA	\$86,052.00	6

Motion – Commissioner Kircher

Seconded – Commissioner Hansen

Discussion – Josh Rusk, Wildlife Bureau, provided information about the bid process and how project costs were calculated on an average project cost, versus man hours, estimating \$150/\$200 per hour for operator and machine with approximately 200 hours per project. He reported that, once the trees are removed, the prairie grass will respond and that the bureau is better equipped with machinery and a prescribed fire plan to continue management of the invasive species.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

9. Contract with JNC Construction LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract with JNC Construction LLC/Jared Mains, of Clearfield, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$30,000

Dates: October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal 319 Clean Water Act State Land Grant (70%), Lakes Restoration Program (30%)

Contract Purpose The purpose of this contract is to remove and treat invasive brush and tree species from the grassland and oak savanna areas on the designated area on Lake Icaria Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Eastern red cedar, bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, and many other invasive tree and brush species have invaded the grasslands and oak savanna around the lake. Work to address these invasive species includes mowing, shearing, piling, and herbicide stump treatment on 37.5 designated acres. Future maintenance of the acres will be under the management plans for the area. This project is part of a larger effort to improve the Lake Icaria WMA watershed. The purpose of removing the invasive brush and tree species is to restore grasslands and oak savanna habitats, thus improving infiltration rates and wildlife habitat for grassland and oak savanna species. This will result in better water quality for the lake and improved fishing and hunting opportunities. This project falls in line with the current management plan in place for Lake Icaria WMA.

Selection Process Summary: The Department used the Informal Request for Quotes process and emailed RFQ to potential contractors. Proposals were scored based on ability to complete the tasks and cost for 37.5 acres.

Date bids received: June 30, 2022

Bids received: 5

Recommendation: JNC Construction LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Bid	Rank
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$30,000.00	1
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, KS	\$33,975.00	2
Maple Valley Tree Service	Drakesville, IA	\$56,250.00	3
Smith Landworx	New Virginia, IA	\$98,125.00	4
Clanton Creek Land Improvement	Peru, IA	\$106,625.00	5

Motion – Commissioner Foell

Seconded – Commissioner Prickett

Discussion – Josh Rush, Wildlife Bureau, reported the project is not cutting mature oaks, but any that are moved are low market quality. Most of the removal work will be for the invasive species under the oaks.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

10. Contract with Iowa State University (Deer Study)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University (ISU), of Ames, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$190,000.

Dates: October 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this Contract is to conduct a study to estimate county-specific densities of white-tailed deer in Iowa and investigate the ecological and economic impacts of white-tailed deer on various stakeholder interests. Tasks include:

- Using historical data from the spring spotlight survey, ISU will determine an approach for estimating white-tailed deer density for each county in Iowa.
- ISU will investigate the influence of potential design modifications for the spring spotlight survey on the accuracy and precision of county deer density estimates.

- ISU will investigate different data integration approaches for estimating long-term deer population trends in Iowa using various longitudinal data sets collected by the Iowa DNR and other state agency partners.
- ISU will evaluate the economic and environmental impact of white-tailed deer on various stakeholder interests in Iowa including but not limited to impacts to crops and nut, fruit, Christmas, and lumber trees.
- ISU will include an investigation of property loss, medical costs, and fatalities due to deer-vehicle collisions and incidents of airport runway incursions.
- ISU will contrast these costs with benefits realized by Iowa hotels, restaurants, sporting goods retailers, guides and outfitters, and any other stakeholders directly benefitting from Iowa's white-tailed deer population.

Selection Process Summary: The Department was legislatively directed to contract with ISU for this study.

Motion – Commissioner Hansen

Seconded – Commissioner Underwood

Discussion – Chris Ensminger and Tyler Harms, Wildlife Bureau, reported that the funding will support staff to conduct the study and provided information regarding the historic data available and stakeholders identified in the legislation.

Decision – Approved (1 nay – Commissioner Hansen)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

11. Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (West Swan Lake)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), of Dexter Michigan.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$822,261

Dates: September 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal NAWCA Prairie Lakes X (125,000), Prairie Lakes XI Grant (\$168,200), Lake Restoration Program (\$529,061)

Contract Purpose: DU has completed the survey, engineering, and design work of the enhancement of the East Slough, West Swan Marsh, and West Swan Lake, a large chain of wetlands in Emmet County. The 377 Ingham Lake outlets into East Slough which outlets into Snipe Meadow Marsh; which has been restored in a previous NAWCA grant. Snipe Meadow Marsh outlets to the 169.4 acre West Swan Marsh. Finally, the entire system ends in West Swan Lake. All of these marshes were drained in the late 1930's as part of a private agricultural drainage project where a surface ditch was constructed to channelize flow and drain wetlands between the two lakes. Following the drainage project these marshes were utilized for grazing and hay production and supported a mix of meadow and seasonal wetland habitats.

The project includes installing a fish barrier located on the downstream side of East Slough to prevent rough fish from entering East Slough from Ingham Lake. Due to the interconnectedness of this system, the placement of a rock fish barrier on the downstream side of East Slough will not only keep undesirable fish species out of East Slough but also Snipe Meadow and West Swan Marsh. Silt will be removed from interior marsh channels upstream and downstream of East Slough and downstream of Snipe Meadow in order to have the ability to completely dewater the marshes. Finally, existing water control structure at the outlet of West Swan Lake will be replaced with a new water control structure. This would allow active management of the lake including draining the lake as necessary to consolidate sediment, decreasing turbidity, increasing emergent and submergent vegetation, providing for improved waterfowl and other wetland dependent species habitat.

For this contract, DU will oversee the bidding and management of the construction project. They will provide construction oversight and inspection services for:

- Construction of a fish barrier
- Removal of silt
- Construction of water control structure

DNR tasks include:

- Routinely inspect the construction site and keep DU advised of any updates to the project's construction.
- Managing the site to provide habitat that is beneficial to migratory birds in conformance of NAWCA standards.

Selection Process Summary: Cooperative Agreement contracting is authorized under 11 IAC 117.5(5) and 118.7.

Motion – Commissioner Underwood
 Seconded – Commissioner Hansen
 Decision – Approved (1 abstained – Commissioner Kircher due to Ducks Unlimited affiliation)

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

12. Chapter 101, Falconry Regulations – Permit Lottery Drawing

Chapter 101 regulates the capture and use while hunting (as a method of take) of federally-protected raptors in Iowa. Raptors are migratory and therefore subject to the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is overseen by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS determined that Peregrine Falcons, particularly the northern management population, is sufficiently stable to support a limited take, and authorized the nation's four flyway zones to issue permits to their member states. Iowa is part of the Mississippi Flyway, whose oversight Council has decided to allocate its 48 total available permits roughly equally to all 10 of its member states.

In the spring of 2018, Chapter 101 was amended to include Peregrine Falcons as an approved species based upon an allocation of permits to Iowa through the USFWS and the Mississippi Flyway. The new amendments added five new Peregrine Falcon falconry permits for eligible falconers to obtain via a lottery system and also established special releasing and reporting requirements for any banded (i.e. tagged) raptors of any kind. These amendments became final on June 13, 2018.

Permit applicants must be General or Master Falconers with five current consecutive years of field experience. Iowa currently has thirty-four active Master Falconers and ten active General Falconers who would be eligible for the lottery. A person who has obtained a falconry permit under 571 IAC 101 may apply for the status of General Falconer when they are at least 18 years of age and have at least two years of field experience. A General Falconer may apply to become a Master Falconer once they have at least five years of field experience as a General Falconer. The DNR will review the applications to ensure those entering the lottery meet the eligibility requirements.

As outlined in Chapter 101, applications are due to the DNR by July 31st and, during the August commission meeting, the Department will hold the random drawing. A permit will allow the falconer to attempt to trap a passage Peregrine Falcon in the fall of 2022.

Chris Ensminger, Wildlife Bureau Supervisor, provided information about the drawing of names for permits as outlined by Code. Four qualified falconers applied for a permit this year. The following are names of falconers that will be offered permits in order of names drawn:

1. James A. Beechtree
2. Raymond H. Conn
3. Thomas P. Deckert
4. David E. Fulks

INFORMATIONAL

13. Contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC of Redfield, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$36,750

Dates: August 12, 2022 to December 1, 2023

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Contract Purpose: This contract will adhere to Section 4.2, Task 3 of the IHAP agreements held between the DNR and multiple landowners located in Harrison County to provide maintenance to the improved property by performing foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees. The contractor will grid search 525 acres of land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County and perform foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited bids from qualified providers to provide the services according to policy for Informal Requests for Quotes. Criteria included ability to perform the task and cost.

Proposal Due Date: 7/27/2022

of Proposals Received: 2

Recommendation: Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Rank	Cost
Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	Redfield, Iowa	1	\$36,750.00
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, Iowa	2	\$42,000.00

Motion – Commissioner Kircher

Seconded – Commissioner Hansen

Discussion – Nick Baumgarten, Wildlife Bureau, provided information regarding two separate contracts being pursued for this item and item #14 due to the scope of work being different; one needs mechanical removal and the other needs different equipment for foliage removal. By having separate contracts, it opened the bid opportunities up to other bidders.

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

14. Contract with Armodus, LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Armodus, LLC of Mondamin, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$25,075.00

Dates: August 12, 2022 to December 1, 2023

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Contract Purpose: This contract will adhere to Section 4.2, Task 3 of the IHAP agreements held between the DNR and multiple landowners located in Harrison County to provide maintenance to the Improved Property by performing brush management to control volunteer trees. Contractor will:

- Mechanically remove and follow up with herbicide application of 35 acres of volunteer trees on land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County.
- Grid search 235 acres of land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County and perform foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited bids from qualified providers to provide the services according to policy for Informal Requests for Quotes. Criteria included ability to perform the task and cost.

Proposal Due Date: 7/27/2022

of Proposals Received: 3

Recommendation: Armodus, LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Rank	Cost
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, Iowa	1	\$25,075.00
Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	Redfield, Iowa	2	\$26,700.00
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, Kansas	3	\$35,600.00

Motion – Commissioner Underwood

Seconded – Commissioner Foell

Decision – Approved by Unanimous Vote

CARRIED AS PRESENTED

15. General Discussion

- **NRC Discussion of Administrative Law Judge Case(s):** Commissioner Branstad opened discussion for Commissioner input to determine if there needs to be an NRC review of the ALJ cases. No Commissioner requests for review were made; no action will be taken on the cases.
- **Commissioner Comments:** Commissioners shared general comments and natural resource related experiences. Commissioners discussed their formal response to the concerned citizens in northwest Iowa; Commissioner Prickett will finalize the letter and send it out. The next NRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7,

2022, with a field tour after the business meeting and a field tour the morning of Thursday, September 8, 2022, in Scott County, Iowa.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Commissioner Kircher

Second – Commissioner Hansen

Decision - Approved by Unanimous Vote

With no further business to come before the Natural Resource Commission, Chair Branstad adjourned the meeting on 08/11/22 at 10:50am

Post Meeting Topical Information Presentation: Wildlife Bureau's Turkey Project (Chris Ensminger, Wildlife Bureau)

CARRIED – MEETING ADJOURNED

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- Wed, 09/07/22, 12:00pm, Business Meeting (Scott County)
- Thu, 09/08/22, 9:00am, Field Tour (Scott County)
- Thu, 10/13/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)
- Thu, 11/10/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)

VISITORS/ATTENDEES - SIGN IN SHEET

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 8/11/22

PLEASE PRINT

If you wish to speak before the NRC, also complete a Public Speaker Form.

NAME, CITY, STATE	GROUP REPRESENTING (if applicable)	TOPIC OF INTEREST

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION**

NRC Business Meeting – Thursday, August 11, 2022

Meeting Convenes at 9:30am

Meeting Location: Iowa DNR, 502 E 9th St, 2nd Floor Conference Rm, Des Moines, IA

To attend virtually, join via

Video Link: <https://meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva>

or

Telephone: call 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

Public Participation begins at approximately 10:00 am

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (<i>*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item</i>) *5. Easement Conveyance, Cedar River - Linn County *7. Contract with RLC Roberts Trust (IHAP) *8. Contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC *9. Contract with JNC Construction LLC *13. Contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC *14. Contract with Armodus, LLC	Decision	Commission
2.	Approve Minutes of 07/13/22 NRC Public Meeting	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Public Land Management Project: Easement Conveyance, Cedar River - Linn County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.	Construction – Large Projects		
6.1	Green Valley State Park, Fishing Pier – Union County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.2	Prairie Rose State Park, Spoil Site Decommissioning – Shelby County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.3	Lake Darling State Park, Concrete Trail – Washington County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.4	Lake Ahquabi State Park, Office Addition – Warren County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.5	Lake Ahquabi State Park, Road Reconstruction – Warren County	Decision	Travis Baker
6.6	George Wyth State Park, Trail Repair – Black Hawk County	Decision	Travis Baker
*7.	Contract with RLC Roberts Trust (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*8.	Contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC	Decision	Todd Bishop
*9.	Contract with JNC Construction LLC	Decision	Todd Bishop
10.	Contract with Iowa State University (Deer Study)	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (West Swan Lake)	Decision	Todd Bishop
12.	Chapter 101, Falconry Regulations – Permit Lottery Drawing	Information	Todd Bishop
*13.	Contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	Decision	Todd Bishop
*14.	Contract with Armodus, LLC	Decision	Todd Bishop
15.	General Discussion • NRC Discussion of Administrative Law Judge Cases		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- Wed, 09/07/22, 12:00pm, Business Meeting, Field Tour (Scott County)
- Thu, 09/08/22, 9:00am, Field Tour (Scott County)
- Thu, 10/13/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)
- Thu, 11/10/22, 9:30am, Business Meeting (Polk County)

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx>

Comments during the public participation period regarding proposed rules or notices of intended action are not included in the official comments for that rule package unless they are submitted as required in the Notice of Intended Action.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***5. Public Land Management Project: Easement Conveyance, Cedar River - Linn County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for a flood control system along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Linn County.

Project Description: The City of Cedar Rapids is requesting an easement to install a flood control system along the Cedar River adjacent the I-380 Bridge. The size of the easement will be .58 acres in total. This easement will allow the City, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, to install a new levee, flood wall, gate closure, and a new sandbag closure improvement. Local fisheries staff have reviewed the request and given their approval.

Compensation: \$0

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item

6. Construction Projects

6.1 Green Valley State Park, Fishing Pier – Union County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Green Valley State Park in southwest Iowa is a popular destination for fishing and boating. The park is a family-friendly hub for camping, picnicking or any outdoor pursuit. Green Valley's 390-acre lake is stocked with walleye, bluegill, channel catfish and more. It has six fishing jetties, two ADA accessible fishing piers on the north and south shorelines, and a section of shoreline is designated as 24-hour fishing access.

The jetty, located in the campground, is being upgraded from a rock surfaced fishing jetty to a 12'x 12' ADA accessible fishing pier with steel substructure, wood joints and composite decking. Construction consists of grading the existing fishing jetty, driving steel piling, and constructing the fishing pier. Additionally, a new ADA parking space will be constructed as well as a concrete sidewalk to the pier.



Engineering Project #: 22-04-88-06

Cost Estimate: \$128,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Federal-Land and Water Conservation Fund-57%, Parks Infrastructure-43%

Bid Letting Date: 7/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 04/30/2023

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

United Construction Services Corp.	Atlantic, IA	\$161,232.00
Minturn, Inc.	Brooklyn, IA	\$197,230.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to United Construction Services Corp.

6.2 Prairie Rose State Park, Spoil Site Decommissioning – Shelby County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Prairie Rose State Park was dedicated in 1962, and encompasses 422 acres, including a 218-acre lake. Existing facilities include two picnic shelters, two campgrounds, two cabins, and approximately 7 miles of multi-purpose trails.

The existing spoil site is a constructed basin that was used to settle out sediment from the hydraulic dredging operation that occurred in 2014. Upon completion of the dredging project, the containment site held approximately 200,000 CY of sediment and 14.9 million gallons of water. Over the last seven years, the site has been allowed to drain and the dredged sediment has consolidated. Because the basin is no longer needed, this project will change the existing topography to more natural shape with positive drainage so it can be managed as an upland prairie. This project consists of decommissioning a dredge spoil site by removing the perimeter fence, excavation of material from the basin and dike to create a 5:1 slope on the east side of the site and seeding all disturbed areas.



Engineering Project #: 21-04-83-01

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 05/31/2023

Number of Bids Received: 13

Bidders

Elite Excavating	Omaha, NE	\$210,298.60
B & S Tiling Excavation	Lake City, IA	\$218,056.50
Healy Excavating	Lake View, IA	\$221,223.55
Final Grade Const. and Conservation LLC	Plattsmouth, NE	\$232,375.90
Niewohner Construction Inc	Onawa, IA	\$245,272.50
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$253,821.60
IA Builders LLC	Albia, IA	\$270,007.10
Nagel Construction	Allerton, IA	\$285,633.30
Mount Farm Drainage LLC	Riverton, IA	\$295,551.31
Aaron Crane Construction LLC	Manchester, IA	\$303,892.95
Carley Construction LLC	Council Bluffs, IA	\$315,354.75
Binder Irrigation Inc	Table Rock, NE	\$343,085.89
C J Moyna & Sons LLC	Elkader, IA	\$464,794.10

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Elite Excavating.

6.3 Lake Darling State Park, Concrete Trail – Washington County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Darling State Park is 1,417 acres in size and includes a recently restored beautiful 302-acre lake with almost 18 miles of shoreline. There are numerous hiking opportunities including a 1.5 mile paved fishing trail that is ADA accessible and runs along the south shoreline of the lake.

In 2018, a 140' long bridge was constructed and spans across the in-lake silt dam, completing a trail around the lake. In 2020, 0.5 miles of rocked trails were paved. This project will continue to pave areas of mowed paths connecting the 2020 trail project to an existing parking lot off a park road. This will provide ADA access to large retention ponds that are stocked with fish. Also, the existing rock parking lot will be paved providing seven parking stalls, two of which will be ADA accessible. Paving will reduce the need for maintenance and provide multi-functional use. This project consists of constructing 1,577 feet of trail, ten feet wide, within Lake Darling State Park and 300 SY of a new concrete parking lot. Work includes subgrade preparation, culvert installations, and concrete placement.



Lake Darling's Friends' Group has provided funding support for large projects within the Park (a new lodge, cabins, and other amenities) and will be donating the funds for this project. As part of the agreement, the Friends Group has asked for Delong Construction, Inc., a local contractor, to complete the project. The DNR has designed this trail project and the contractor will complete construction using DNR design plans with DNR oversight. The DNR has successfully worked with Delong on other projects and they meet the State's Targeted Small Business requirements.

Engineering Project #: 22-06-92-01

Cost Estimate: \$140,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Donation (Lake Darling Friends Group)

Construction Completion Date: 5/26/2023

Bidders

Delong Construction, Inc.

Washington, IA

\$176,200

IDNR recommends awarding the contract to Delong Construction, Inc.

6.4 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Office Addition – Warren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Ahquabi was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern restrooms/ showers, a beach with a CCC shelter and concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps.

The current office/shop at Lake Ahquabi State Park is a CCC era horse-barn and is in need of replacement. Water intrusion through the roof and siding has caused significant mold growth and compromised the timber structure of the building. The stone portion of the building is also deteriorating due to the soft nature of the local sandstone used in the original construction. Park staff have temporarily moved their office from the CCC building into the adjacent CCC residence.

Current Pole Building and CCC Shop and Office



Current Residence



Parks Design Guide Example



For this project, a 23' x 39' office will be added to an existing cold-storage pole building, and will consist of an office, conference room, restroom, and mechanical room. The structure of the cold-storage pole building (constructed in 2004) is in good condition and will have new siding and roofing to match the new addition. Upon completion of the new office, the CCC residence, which is in poor shape, will be demolished. The demolition of both CCC structures was discussed with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The conclusion of those discussions was that the demolition of the structures will alleviate public health and safety concerns associated with the structures' poor condition, and an interpretive display showcasing historic items and documents from the buildings will be constructed in the vestibule of the new office addition.

Engineering Project #: 21-05-91-01

Cost Estimate: \$610,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Special Appropriations

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 05/31/2023

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Burkett Construction	DeSoto, IA	\$632,656.00
Vieco Construction Inc.	St Joseph, MO	\$696,440.00

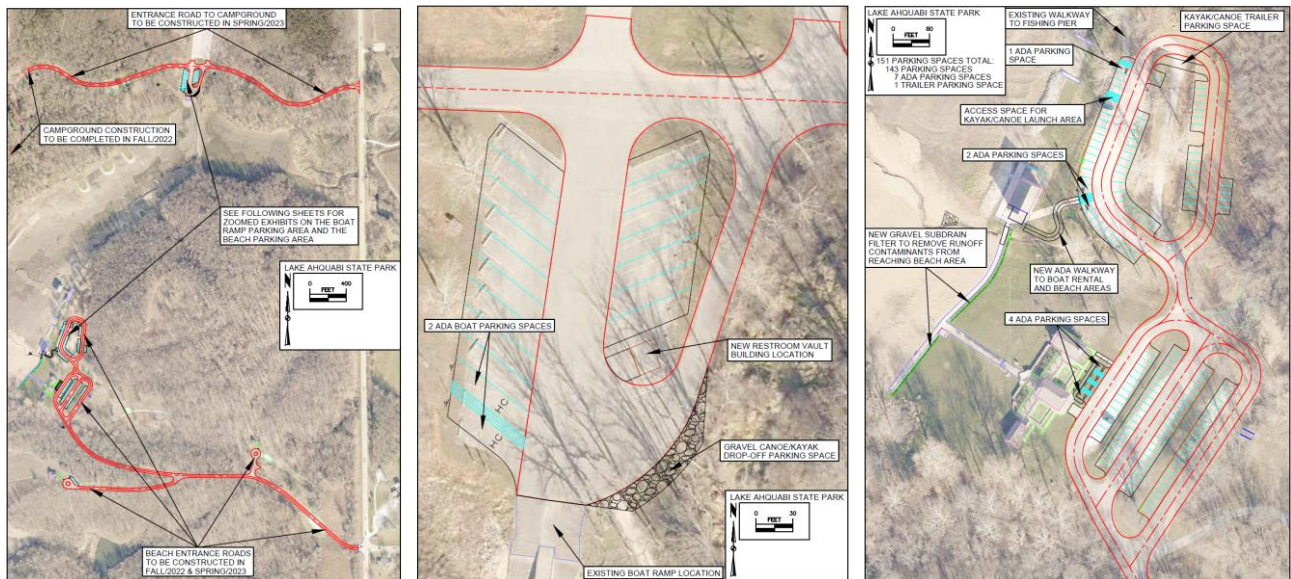
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Burkett Construction.

6.5 Lake Ahquabi State Park, Road Reconstruction – Warren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Ahquabi was dedicated in 1936 and is approximately 770 acres in size, including the 115 acre lake. Existing facilities include a lakeshore campground with modern restrooms/showers, a beach with a CCC shelter and concessionaire, a CCC lodge, an enclosed fishing pier, hiking trails, and two boat ramps.

The asphalt roads within the state park have deteriorated and are in need of replacement. This project consists of the removal of the existing 1.6 miles of asphalt roads and removal of trees and vegetation that are in conflict within the work zone, grading the project site, installing new Portland Cement Concrete roads and parking areas for the existing boat ramp and beach areas, and storm sewer and intakes.



Engineering Project #: 21-05-91-02

Cost Estimate: \$2,900,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: IA DOT Park & institutional Road Fund-85%, Parks Infrastructure-15%

Bid Letting Date: 7/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 5/30/2023

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Iowa Civil Contracting, Inc.	Victor, IA	\$3,121,791.70
CJ Moyna & Sons, LLC	Elkader, IA	\$3,580,284.80
Concrete Technologies, Inc.	Grimes, IA	\$3,681,999.99

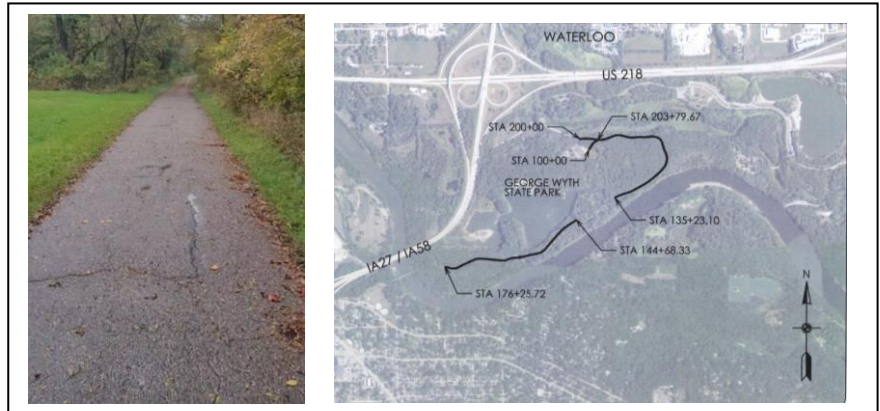
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Iowa Civil Contracting, Inc.

6.6 George Wyth State Park, Trail Repair – Black Hawk County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: George Wyth State Park is located adjacent to the Cedar River within the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metropolitan area, and is a popular destination for fishing, relaxing, boating, wildlife watching and trail use. The trail system is linked to a 100-mile trail network promoted by The Cedar Falls Partnership and links playgrounds, lakes, shopping districts and neighborhoods between Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

This section of the existing asphalt bike trail is 1.3 miles long, eight feet wide, and was constructed in the early 1980's. Over the years, oxidation, thermal expansion/contraction, as well as tree roots have made the trail fairly rough. This project will remove the existing trail and replace it with reinforced concrete. The trail width will be increased from eight feet to ten feet to align with current multi-purpose trail standards.



Engineering Project #: 22-03-07-02

Cost Estimate: \$690,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Federal Highway Administration COVID-19 Relief Recreational Trails Program-92%, Donation (Cedar Trails Partnership)-8%

Bid Letting Date: 07/21/2022

Construction Completion Date: 9/15/2023

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Wick's Construction, Inc.	Decorah	\$515,190.00
OEL Construction Services, Inc.	Steamboat Rock, IA	\$633,894.75
Lodge Construction, Inc.	Clarksville, IA	\$635,872.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$656,896.00
Owen Contracting, Inc.	Cedar Falls, IA	\$686,995.50
Midwest Concrete, Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$833,107.00
Vieth Construction Corporation	Cedar Falls, IA	\$941,089.50

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Wick's Construction, Inc.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 08/11/2022

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***7. Contract with RLC Roberts Trust (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with RLC Roberts Trust (Randall Roberts) of Omaha, NE.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$28,260.00

Dates: 8/15/2022 to 9/1/2030

Funding Source(s): Voluntary Public Access Grant – Iowa Habitat Access Program

Contract Purpose: This eight-year contract with RLC Roberts LLC will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: RLC Roberts Trust owns a 157-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2022-5/31/2030.

Land Management Tasks: The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks, which include prescribed fire. The DNR will assist the contractor with land management planning, provide technical assistance, and evaluate the completion of the land management tasks.

Selection Process Summary: IHAP contracting authorized under 483A.3B(3)c(1).

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***8. Contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Custom Forestry Applications, LLC/Luke Terry, of Robinson, KS.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$29,820

Dates: October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal 319 Clean Water Act State Land Grant (70%), Lakes Restoration Program (30%)

Contract Purpose The purpose of this contract is to remove and treat invasive brush and tree species from the grassland areas on the designated area on 12 Mile Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Eastern red cedar, bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, and many other invasive tree and brush species have invaded the grasslands around the lake. Work to address these invasive species will include mowing, shearing, piling, and herbicide stump treatment on 35.5 designated acres. Future maintenance of the acres will be under the management plans for the area. This project is part of a larger effort to improve the 12 Mile WMA watershed. The purpose of removing the invasive brush and tree species is to restore grassland habitat, thus improving infiltration rates and wildlife habitat for grassland wildlife species. This will result in better water quality for the lake and improved fishing and hunting opportunities. This project falls in line with the current management plan in place for 12 Mile Lake WMA.

Selection Process Summary: The Department used the Informal Request for Quotes process and emailed RFQ to potential contractors. Proposals were scored based on ability to complete the tasks and cost for 35.5 acres.

Date bids received: June 30, 2022

Bids received: 6

Recommendation: Custom Forestry Applications LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Bid	Rank
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, KS	\$29,820.00	1
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$49,700.00	2
Redman Services	Greenfield, IA	\$53,250.00	3
Maple Valley Tree Service	Drakesville, IA	\$71,000.00	4
Smith Landworx	New Virginia, IA	\$72,775.00	5
Clanton Creek Land Improvement	Peru, IA	\$86,052.00	6

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***9. Contract with JNC Construction LLC**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with JNC Construction LLC/Jared Mains, **of** Clearfield, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$30,000

Dates: October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal 319 Clean Water Act State Land Grant (70%), Lakes Restoration Program (30%)

Contract Purpose The purpose of this contract is to remove and treat invasive brush and tree species from the grassland and oak savanna areas on the designated area on Lake Icaria Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Eastern red cedar, bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, and many other invasive tree and brush species have invaded the grasslands and oak savanna around the lake. Work to address these invasive species includes mowing, shearing, piling, and herbicide stump treatment on 37.5 designated acres. Future maintenance of the acres will be under the management plans for the area. This project is part of a larger effort to improve the Lake Icaria WMA watershed. The purpose of removing the invasive brush and tree species is to restore grasslands and oak savanna habitats, thus improving infiltration rates and wildlife habitat for grassland and oak savanna species. This will result in better water quality for the lake and improved fishing and hunting opportunities. This project falls in line with the current management plan in place for Lake Icaria WMA.

Selection Process Summary: The Department used the Informal Request for Quotes process and emailed RFQ to potential contractors. Proposals were scored based on ability to complete the tasks and cost for 37.5 acres.

Date bids received: June 30, 2022

Bids received: 5

Recommendation: JNC Construction LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Bid	Rank
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$30,000.00	1
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, KS	\$33,975.00	2
Maple Valley Tree Service	Drakesville, IA	\$56,250.00	3
Smith Landworx	New Virginia, IA	\$98,125.00	4
Clanton Creek Land Improvement	Peru, IA	\$106,625.00	5

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item

10. Contract with Iowa State University (Deer Study)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University (ISU), of Ames, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$190,000.

Dates: October 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this Contract is to conduct a study to estimate county-specific densities of white-tailed deer in Iowa and investigate the ecological and economic impacts of white-tailed deer on various stakeholder interests. Tasks include:

- Using historical data from the spring spotlight survey, ISU will determine an approach for estimating white-tailed deer density for each county in Iowa.
- ISU will investigate the influence of potential design modifications for the spring spotlight survey on the accuracy and precision of county deer density estimates.
- ISU will investigate different data integration approaches for estimating long-term deer population trends in Iowa using various longitudinal data sets collected by the Iowa DNR and other state agency partners.
- ISU will evaluate the economic and environmental impact of white-tailed deer on various stakeholder interests in Iowa including but not limited to impacts to crops and nut, fruit, Christmas, and lumber trees.
- ISU will include an investigation of property loss, medical costs, and fatalities due to deer-vehicle collisions and incidents of airport runway incursions.
- ISU will contrast these costs with benefits realized by Iowa hotels, restaurants, sporting goods retailers, guides and outfitters, and any other stakeholders directly benefitting from Iowa's white-tailed deer population.

Selection Process Summary: The Department was legislatively directed to contract with ISU for this study

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item

11. Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (West Swan Lake)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), of Dexter Michigan.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$822,261

Dates: September 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Funding Source(s): Federal NAWCA Prairie Lakes X (125,000), Prairie Lakes XI Grant (\$168,200), Lake Restoration Program (\$529,061)

Contract Purpose: DU has completed the survey, engineering, and design work of the enhancement of the East Slough, West Swan Marsh, and West Swan Lake, a large chain of wetlands in Emmet County. The 377 Ingham Lake outlets into East Slough which outlets into Snipe Meadow Marsh; which has been restored in a previous NAWCA grant. Snipe Meadow Marsh outlets to the 169.4 acre West Swan Marsh. Finally, the entire system ends in West Swan Lake. All of these marshes were drained in the late 1930's as part of a private agricultural drainage project where a surface ditch was constructed to channelize flow and drain wetlands between the two lakes. Following the drainage project these marshes were utilized for grazing and hay production and supported a mix of meadow and seasonal wetland habitats.

The project includes installing a fish barrier located on the downstream side of East Slough to prevent rough fish from entering East Slough from Ingham Lake. Due to the interconnectedness of this system, the placement of a rock fish barrier on the downstream side of East Slough will not only keep undesirable fish species out of East Slough but also Snipe Meadow and West Swan Marsh. Silt will be removed from interior marsh channels upstream and downstream of East Slough and downstream of Snipe Meadow in order to have the ability to completely dewater the marshes. Finally, existing water control structure at the outlet of West Swan Lake will be replaced with a new water control structure. This would allow active management of the lake including draining the lake as necessary to consolidate sediment, decreasing turbidity, increasing emergent and submergent vegetation, providing for improved waterfowl and other wetland dependent species habitat.

For this contract, DU will oversee the bidding and management of the construction project. They will provide construction oversight and inspection services for:

- Construction of a fish barrier
- Removal of silt
- Construction of water control structure

DNR tasks include:

- Routinely inspect the construction site and keep DU advised of any updates to the project's construction.
- Managing the site to provide habitat that is beneficial to migratory birds in conformance of NAWCA standards.

Selection Process Summary: Cooperative Agreement contracting is authorized under 11 IAC 117.5(5) and 118.7.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Information Item

12. Chapter 101, Falconry Regulations – Permit Lottery Drawing

Chapter 101 regulates the capture and use while hunting (as a method of take) of federally-protected raptors in Iowa. Raptors are migratory and therefore subject to the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is overseen by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS determined that Peregrine Falcons, particularly the northern management population, is sufficiently stable to support a limited take, and authorized the nation's four flyway zones to issue permits to their member states. Iowa is part of the Mississippi Flyway, whose oversight Council has decided to allocate its 48 total available permits roughly equally to all 10 of its member states.

In the spring of 2018, Chapter 101 was amended to include Peregrine Falcons as an approved species based upon an allocation of permits to Iowa through the USFWS and the Mississippi Flyway. The new amendments added five new Peregrine Falcon falconry permits for eligible falconers to obtain via a lottery system and also established special releasing and reporting requirements for any banded (i.e. tagged) raptors of any kind. These amendments became final on June 13, 2018.

Permit applicants must be General or Master Falconers with five current consecutive years of field experience. Iowa currently has thirty-four active Master Falconers and ten active General Falconers who would be eligible for the lottery. A person who has obtained a falconry permit under 571 IAC 101 may apply for the status of General Falconer when they are at least 18 years of age and have at least two years of field experience. A General Falconer may apply to become a Master Falconer once they have at least five years of field experience as a General Falconer. The DNR will review the applications to ensure those entering the lottery meet the eligibility requirements.

As outlined in Chapter 101, applications are due to the DNR by July 31st and, during the August commission meeting, the Department will hold the random drawing. A permit will allow the falconer to attempt to trap a passage Peregrine Falcon in the fall of 2022.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 11, 2022

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***13. Contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC of Redfield, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$36,750

Dates: August 12, 2022 to December 1, 2023

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Contract Purpose: This contract will adhere to Section 4.2, Task 3 of the IHAP agreements held between the DNR and multiple landowners located in Harrison County to provide maintenance to the improved property by performing foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees. The contractor will grid search 525 acres of land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County and perform foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited bids from qualified providers to provide the services according to policy for Informal Requests for Quotes. Criteria included ability to perform the task and cost.

Proposal Due Date: 7/27/2022

of Proposals Received: 2

Recommendation: Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Rank	Cost
Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	Redfield, Iowa	1	\$36,750.00
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, Iowa	2	\$42,000.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 8/11/2022

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***14. Contract with Armodus, LLC**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Armodus, LLC of Mondamin, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$25,075.00

Dates: August 12, 2022 to December 1, 2023

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Contract Purpose: This contract will adhere to Section 4.2, Task 3 of the IHAP agreements held between the DNR and multiple landowners located in Harrison County to provide maintenance to the Improved Property by performing brush management to control volunteer trees.

Contractor will:

- Mechanically remove and follow up with herbicide application of 35 acres of volunteer trees on land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County.
- Grid search 235 acres of land enrolled in IHAP located in Harrison County and perform foliar herbicide application to control volunteer trees.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited bids from qualified providers to provide the services according to policy for Informal Requests for Quotes. Criteria included ability to perform the task and cost.

Proposal Due Date: 7/27/2022

of Proposals Received: 3

Recommendation: Armodus, LLC

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Rank	Cost
Armodus, LLC	Mondamin, Iowa	1	\$25,075.00
Kirkpatrick Brush and Snow LLC	Redfield, Iowa	2	\$26,700.00
Custom Forestry Applications LLC	Robinson, Kansas	3	\$35,600.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 8/11/2022