

# Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Teleconference: 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

Video Conference: [meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva](https://meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva)

6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Pine Lake Conf Room

Thursday, May 9, 2024

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov) or 6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *6. Donations *7. Contract with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. *14. Public Land Management Projects (13.1-13.6) *15. Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Decision	Commission
2.	Natural Resource Commission Annual Election of Officers		
3.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
4.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
5.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*6.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
*7.	Contract with JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
8.	Contract Amendment with Trees Forever, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
9.	Subrecipient Agreement Iowa State University-Iowa Women's Woodland Stewardship Network	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
10.	Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	Small Construction Projects-Reseeding of Levee at Odessa Wildlife Unit, Roadway Maintenance at Cedar Rock State Park, and Concrete Joint Repair at Union Grove State Park	Information	Travis Baker
12.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
12.1	Black Hawk Marsh WMA Dike Repair-Sac County	Decision	Travis Baker
12.2	Rock Creek State Park Shoreline Stabilization-Jasper County	Decision	Travis Baker
12.3	Rathbun WMU Road Maintenance-Appanoose, Lucas and Wayne Counties	Decision	Travis Baker
13.	Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
13.1	Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area, Jones County-Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
13.2	Wapello Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Louisa County-Loren W. Humphrey	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.1	Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Renewal-Mississippi River, Louisa County	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.2	Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Renewal (2)-Mississippi River, Louisa County	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.3	Management Agreement Renewal, Middle Raccoon River Access-Guthrie County Conservation Board	Decision	Travis Baker

*14.4	Management Agreement, Wood Duck Bottoms WMA-Linn County Conservation Board	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.5	Flowage Easement-Jared and Jennie Randles-Coal Creek Marsh-Warren County	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.6	Property Conveyance-Springbrook WMA-Guthrie County-Fidler	Decision	Travis Baker
*15.	Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Decision	Travis Baker
16.	Contract with Houston Engineering, Inc.-Lake Manawa Pipe Outlet	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	General Discussion		
<p>Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wednesday, June 12 and Thursday June 13, Scott County Tour and Business Meeting</li> <li>● Thursday, July 11, Des Moines</li> </ul>			

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](mailto:Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov), and advise of specific needs.

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**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**April 11, 2024**

**Video Teleconference  
and  
Wallace State Office Building**

**Approved by the Commission **TBD****

DRAFT

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Kayla Lyon, Director

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## Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Marcus Branstad at 9:33am on April 11, 2024, via a combination of in-person and video/teleconference attendees.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Laura Foell  
 Laura Kudej  
 Marcus Branstad  
 Tammi Kircher  
 Uriah Hansen

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tom Prickett  
 KR Buck

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the following agenda items:

5. Contract Amendment with Absolute Waste Removal LLC-Clear Lake State Park Waste Management Services
- \*6. Contract with Willetta Johannesen (IHAP)
- \*7. Contract with Wohlers Fire Equipment LLC (IHAP)
- \*9. Contract with HMG Land Management LLC-Whitebreast Unit Tree Planting
- \*16. Chapter 10, "Forfeited Property" – Final Rule
- \*17. Chapter 12, "Conservation Education" – Final Rule
- \*18. Chapter 13, "Permits and Easements for Construction and Other Activities on Public Lands and Waters" – Final Rule
- \*19. Chapter 14, "Concessions" – Final Rule
- \*20. Chapter 15, "General License Regulations" – Final Rule
- \*21. Chapter 16, "Docks and Other Structures on Public Waters" – Final Rule
- \*22. Chapters 17, 18, and 19, "Leases and Permits" – Final Rule
- \*23. Chapter 20, "Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin" – Final Rule
- \*24. Chapter 21, "Habitat Lease Program" – Final Rule
- \*25. Chapter 22, "Habitat and Public Access Program" – Final Rule
- \*26. Chapter 23, "Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program" – Final Rule
- \*27. Chapter 24, "Blufflands Protection Program and Revolving Loan Fund" – Final Rule
- \*28. Chapter 25, "Certification of Land as Native Prairie or Wildlife Habitat" – Final Rule
- \*29. Chapter 26, "Relocation Assistance" – Final Rule
- \*30. Chapter 27, "Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program" – Final Rule
- \*31. Chapter 28, "All-Terrain Vehicle Registration Revenue Cost-Share Program" – Final Rule
- \*32. Chapter 29, "Local Recreation Infrastructure Grants Program" – Final Rule
- \*33. Chapter 30, "Waters Cost-Share and Grant Programs" – Final Rule
- \*34. Chapter 31, "Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Program" – Adopted and Final Rule
- \*35. Chapter 32, "Private Open Space Lands" – Final Rule
- \*36. Chapter 33, "Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City, Private Open Spaces and Conservation Education Grant Programs" – Final Rule
- \*37. Chapter 34, "Community Forestry Grant Program" – Final Rule
- \*38. Chapter 35, "Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Boards" – Final Rule
- \*40. Chapters 94 and 106, "Deer Hunting" – Final Rule

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Laura Foell.</i>
<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.</i>

<b>AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED</b>
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

<i>Commissioner Laura Foell requested that Uriah Hansen be added to the list of Commissioner in attendance at the March NRC meeting. Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the March 14, 2024, NRC minutes as amended. Seconded by Laura Foell.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the minutes by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.</i>
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<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED</b>
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**DIRECTOR’S REMARKS**

- Deputy Director, Alex Moon, gave an update on the DNR office relocation in Des Moines including the new address and moving details.

**DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR’S REMARKS**

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth provided updates to the Commissioners regarding several late Spring Department activities including gillnetting, raccoon and deer spotlight surveys, prescribed burns on public land and the Spring Youth Turkey season.
- Division Administrator Hildreth turned it over to Chris Ensminger to provide an overview of the February hunter/trapper listening sessions that took place at 18 locations throughout the state. In his update, Mr. Ensminger noted 432 were in attendance and around 300 comments were collected. Mr. Ensminger provided a high level overview of trending comments received for a variety of species including deer, waterfowl, turkey, and various furbearers.

**CONTRACT WITH ECOLOGICAL AND GIS SERVICES-IOWA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN REVISION ASSISTANCE**

Katy Fuller requested Commission approval for a contract with Ecological and GIS Services to assist with the revision of Iowa’s Wildlife Action Plan.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

<i>Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.</i>
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<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED</b>
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**SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS-FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT AT WAPSIPINICON AND PALISADES KEPLER STATE PARKS; CULVERT REPLACEMENT AT LAKE DARLING STATE PARK**

Travis Baker provided an information brief regarding two small construction projects including fuel tank replacement at Wapsipinicon and Palisades Kepler State Parks and a culvert replacement at Lake Darling State Park.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

<b>INFORMATION</b>
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**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LAKE OF THREE FIRES STATE PARK, JETTY REPAIR**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for jetty repair at Lake of Three Fires State Park.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance at Yellow River State Forest.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-WIESE SLOUGH WMA, ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance at the Wiese Slough Wildlife Management Area.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER WATER MITIGATION**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project to mitigate water at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center.

Mr. Baker and Sherry Arntzen responded to questions regarding the extent of the water damage, including any finished spaces in the basement of the facility.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-WAPSIPINICON STATE PARK AND PALISADES-KEPLER STATE PARK, FUEL TANKS REPLACEMENT**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to replace fuel tanks at both Wapsipincon and Palisades-Kepler State Parks.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-SEDAN BOTTOMS WMA, BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval of a project that includes several building improvements at Sedan Bottoms WMA.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**RUBIO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, WASHINGTON AND KEOKUK COUNTIES-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located in Washington and Keokuk Counties adjacent to the Rubio Wildlife Management Area.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-absent, Laura Foell-nay, Uriah Hansen-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Tom Prickett-absent, Marcus Branstad-aye. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, SAUK RAIL TRAIL-SAC COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval of a management agreement with Sac County Conservation Board regarding the Sauk Rail Trail.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**CONTRACT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY-REPLACEMENT BRIDGE DESIGN, VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval of a contract with Shive-Hattery for the replacement bridge design at Volga River State Recreation Area.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**CHAPTER 1, "OPERATIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION"-ADOPTED AND FINAL RULE**

Kelli Book requested Commission approval of the Adopted and Final Rule for Chapter 1, "Operations of Natural Resource Commission." Mrs. Book provided clarification on the real estate language that was added to the final rule.

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**CHAPTER 61 "STATE PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND STATE FOREST CAMPING"-ADOPTED AND FINAL RULE**

Jessica Manken requested Commission approval of the Adopted and Final Rule for Chapter 61, "State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping."

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**CHAPTERS 94 AND 106 "DEER HUNTING," ADOPTED AND FINAL RULE**

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval of the Adopted and Final Rule for Chapters 94 and 106, "Deer Hunting."

**Public Comments--None**

**Written Comments – None**

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.*

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the motion by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Motion passes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioners shared a variety of updates about their recent experiences and what they are looking forward to this Spring, including shed hunting, turkey hunting, fly fishing, mushroom hunting, Spring planting, visits to Iowa’s State Parks, and camping.
- Commissioner Kircher requested an executive leadership discussion regarding the Law Enforcement alignment process that is currently underway at the Department. Commissioner Kircher expressed disappointment that the Commission was not involved and shared concerns regarding the decision, citing Iowa Code section 455A.7. Pete Hildreth responded to several Commissioner questions about the alignment and provided a high level overview of the changes. General Counsel Tamara McIntosh provided clarification on the Department’s interpretation of Iowa Code section 455A.7 and its applicability to the Law Enforcement alignment. Commissioner Kircher encouraged more proactive communication with the commissioners in the future pertaining to large Departmental topics and changes.

**ADJOURN**

*The Chairperson adjourned the Natural Resource Commission meeting at 11:10 am on April 11, 2024.*

**ADJOURNED**

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

**Decision Item**

**\*Item #6** (*\*indicates proposed consent item*)

**Donations**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

<b>Donation to:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Donation Provided by:</b>
Law Enforcement	\$1,400.00	Front replacement bumper for a DNR Law Enforcement vehicle.	Guthrie County Sheriff's Office
Parks	\$170.00	White Oak Tree for Ledges State Park.	Cali Frees
Parks	\$750.04	Tracker Topper 14, Flat Bottom Boat for Palisades-Kepler State Park.	Chad Frahm
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund In memory of Kenny McKeen.	Patricia Thomsen
Parks and Forestry	\$25.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Shari Grace
Wildlife Diversity	\$10.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund in honor of Timothy M. Fairchild, V.	Christa Fairchild
Wildlife Diversity	\$50.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Cheryl Hanway
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Kelli Socknat (Keller).	Bonnie Cook
Parks and Forestry	\$70.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund in honor of Douglas A. Ashbaugh.	Kathi Piper
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$40.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.	David Barnes
Parks and Forestry	\$25.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	James Anderson
Wildlife Diversity	\$100.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Jean Tool
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Rodney J. Kickbush.	Laura Axman
Parks and Forestry	\$100.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund in memory of Wilfred E. Smithson of Bellevue, Iowa.	Lyle & Peg Kloft
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$5.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of Nohugff.	Ali Abdo
Parks and Forestry	\$25.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Janet Scharnberg
Wildlife Diversity	\$100.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Kathy Wilker

Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$250.00	In Memory of my father Robert Rentz	Christy Doornick
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Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*\*indicates proposed consent agenda*)

**\*7. Contract with JEO Consulting Group, Inc.**

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**Commission approval is requested for a contract with JEO Consulting Group of Ankeny, IA.**

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed **\$59,490.00**

**Dates:** May 10, 2024 to May 31, 2025

**Funding Source(s):** Woodland Health Initiative and Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

**Contract Purpose:** To assist 15 Iowa communities with planning and managing their urban tree resources, development of response to the presence of Emerald Ash Borer and other tree pests and problems. As a part of the project each Iowa community included in the contract will receive an inventory of street and park trees, a visual survey of forest health symptoms, a summary of benefits those trees, and an urban forest management plan. Tasks include:

- Inventory street and park trees in identified communities. Collect data for each tree that includes all required categories for data collection, i.e., GPS derived locations for each tree and data elements for each tree.
- Visually survey all trees for signs and symptoms of invasive pest and disease in the identified communities, return data to DNR in shapefile format via e-mail.
- Calculate the benefit of the street and park trees using the most current version of i-Tree and create maps of the trees for each urban forest management plan.
- Finalize urban forest management plans for the identified communities and submit plans to DNR for approval.
- Presentation of the urban forest management plans to each community.

Communities include: Alton, Clarksville, Gilbert, Gilmore City, Glidden, Greenfield, Hawarden, La Porte City, Murray, New Albin, New Sharon, Remsen, Schaller, Wheatland and Winthrop.

This process has been done annually since 2012 for 207 other communities in total. These inventories and plans have aided communities with current information to make tree care and budget decisions. The data collected in these assessments have helped prioritize removal and treatment of ash trees as well as monitor for pests like walnut twig beetle which is necessary for Iowa to continue the international sale of wood products.

**Selection Process Summary:** The Department solicited proposals from 194 in-state arborists and national tree inventory companies. Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFP which included cost of service and experience conducting street tree inventories and writing urban forestry management plans which includes work plan, past work projects, capacity of respondent and mechanism for GIS collection.

**Criteria Reviewed:** Cost, brief company overview including capacity to complete the Statement of Work Work Plan including time frame, experience conducting street inventories and writing urban forestry management plans, experience and references that demonstrate the expertise and ability of the respondent to provide the Statement of Work described in the Informal RFP, the capacity of the respondent to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work, and the mechanism for creation and delivery of GIS file geodatabase.

**Proposal Due Date:** April 12, 2024

**# of Proposals Received:** 4

**Recommendation:** JEO Consulting Group, Inc.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Vendor Location (city, state)</b>	<b>Score of 150 (115 points technical + 35 points cost)</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Eocene Environmental Group	West Des Moines, IA	86	4	\$73,645.00
Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC.	Johnston, IA	107	2	\$36,240.00
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	Ankeny, IA	113	1	\$59,490.00
Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.	Tomahawk, WI	87	3	\$84,551.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester, Forestry Section  
 Conservation and Recreation Division  
 NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

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

**Decision Item**

**8. Contract Amendment with Trees Forever, Inc.**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract amendment with Trees Forever, Inc., of Marion, Iowa.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$ 350,000.00

**Dates:** May 10, 2024 through October 14, 2026

**Funding Source(s):** General Fund (Woodland Health) ,US Forest Service Federal Funds

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR Forestry Section maintains Forest Health and Urban Forestry programs to assist communities with analysis, planning, and management of their tree resources. Trees Forever, Inc., is a conservation organization that works to improve the environment of Iowa and Illinois by promoting stewardship. The DNR and Trees Forever, Inc., have a history of working together to advance shared priorities.

The DNR's purpose in entering into this cooperative agreement is for the DNR to provide funding for Trees Forever to hire and employ up to four Community Forest Health Technicians. The DNR will provide the structure of a Forestry Program within which the Technicians will work, monitor the day-to-day work of the Technicians, and provide training, vehicles, computers, communications, and GIS support. The DNR and Trees Forever will coordinate efforts and determine work and location priorities for the Technicians. These priorities will be consistent with the goals and objectives in the State Forest Action Plan. This partnership will help achieve joint goals and objectives with DNR to grow healthy community forests in the state. Tasks for the Community Forest Health Technicians include:

- Assist communities by conducting tree inventories, canopy cover assessments, and preparing management plans
- Perform risk tree assessments to help communities and public areas maximize safety
- Coordinate volunteer efforts and help implement replanting programs for communities

This amendment adds additional money and time to the cooperative agreement.

**Selection Process Summary:** This contract is authorized by 11 Iowa Administrative Code sections 117.5(5) and 118.7.

**Contract History:**

**Original Contract Terms:** Amount \$434,527.87; Timeframe October 15, 2020 to October 14, 2022

**Amendment 1 Terms:** Amount: No cost; Timeframe: October 13, 2022 through October 14, 2024

**Amendment 2 Terms:** Amount: \$350,000.00; Timeframe: May 10, 2024 through October 14, 2026

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

**9. Subrecipient Agreement with Iowa State University**

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**Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with Iowa State University.**

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$43,093.00

**Dates:** May 10, 2024 to December 31, 2026

**Funding Source(s):** Landscape Scale Restoration Grant from U.S. Forest Service

**Contract Purpose:** As part of a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, Iowa State University is collaborating with Iowa DNR in delivering programming to female woodland owners, as part of the Iowa Women's Woodland Stewardship Network. Iowa State University will provide targeted outreach, hands-on training, and networking to female woodland landowners and decision-makers in Iowa. In addition, Iowa State University will develop and administer surveys and analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the outreach and training events conducted by project partners, including DNR.

**Selection Process Summary:** DNR may enter into this Subrecipient Agreement with ISU under the authority of Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University, 11 Iowa Administrative Code section 118.4.

**Criteria Reviewed:** Criteria reviewed for this work included the respondent's professional experience, their capacity to complete the responsibilities described in the statement of work, and the thoroughness of their response to the RFP.

**Recommendation:** DNR recommends the approval of this Subrecipient Agreement with Iowa State University in the amount of \$43,093.00.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester

**Conservation and Recreation Division**

**NRC Meeting Date:** May 9, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

**Decision Item**

**10. Contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc.**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc., of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

**Contract Terms:**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$7,440,709.00

**Dates:** July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2030

**Funding Source(s):** Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR is partnering with Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF) to provide up to twenty Wildlife Management Specialists to carry out habitat improvement and wildlife management activities on public and private lands.

The DNR Wildlife Bureau actively manages public land and wildlife populations statewide to maintain biological balance and for the benefit of the public. This cooperative agreement will allow the Department to work with PF to fill critical needs in a fiscally responsible manner that can be adjusted depending upon the availability of funding as well as the land and wildlife management needs on the ground. Similar contracts between the Department and PF have been implemented.

Under this contract, PF will hire and employ up to 20 Wildlife Management Specialists for a period of up to six years. The Wildlife Management Specialists will work closely with DNR Wildlife staff to conserve and enhance wildlife habitat on DNR-managed lands. They will perform a variety of activities (e.g., invasive species removal, assisting with prescribed fire, maintaining infrastructure such as fence or parking lots, and assisting with long-term wildlife monitoring activities such as bird banding or CWD sample collection). Pheasants Forever, Inc. is managing staffing and providing oversight with leadership and guidance on activities from DNR. The DNR will provide these specialists with any necessary training, equipment, and safety gear needed to perform their functions as well as facilitate collaboration with DNR field staff.

**Selection Process Summary:** Development of agreements is authorized under Iowa Code section 455A.4(6) and 456A.24.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
May 9, 2024

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

**Information Item**

**11. Construction - Small Projects**

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

<b>Bid Date</b>	<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Bids</b>
3/28/24	24-06-58-01	Odessa Wildlife Unit	Louisa	Reseeding of levee on the Mississippi River including seeding, fertilizer, and erosion control matting.	\$35,000	<b>\$14,142.50</b> \$18,899.50 \$29,399.30
4/11/24	23-03-10-01	Cedar Rock State Park	Buchanan	This project consists of granular roadway maintenance - blading/shaping roadway, shoulder work, pothole repair, minor ditch cleaning, spreading, blading, rolling new rock, and the replacement of one culvert.	\$36,000	<b>\$28,498.40</b> \$34,224.30 \$44,700.25
4/11/24	24-05-86-02	Union Grove State Park	Washington	This project consists of cleaning and sealing concrete joints in the spillway, as well as filling voids under the spillway concrete with foam.	\$25,000	<b>\$24,850.00</b> \$27,480.00 \$30,360.00 \$31,250.00 \$33,572.00 \$44,755.50

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: 5/9/2024

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

**Decision Item**

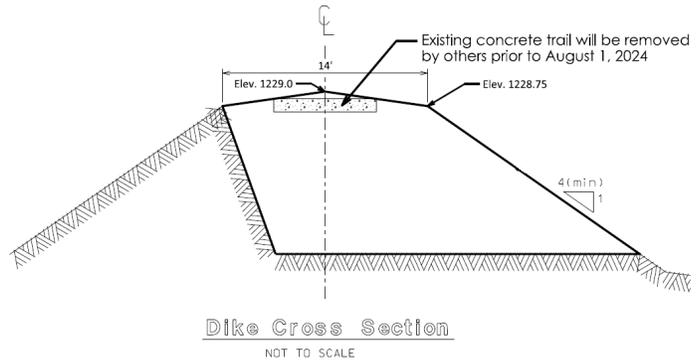
**12. Large Construction Projects**

**12.1 Black Hawk Marsh WMA, Dike Repair – Sac County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** The Black Hawk Marsh wildlife management area covers over 2,000 acres and consists of marsh, timber, and upland wildlife habitat which provides for multi-use outdoor recreation. The WMA is located approximately 7 miles south of Sac City and is adjacent to Black Hawk State Park.

The main dike for the marsh was constructed in 1993. Over the years, muskrats have burrowed voids in the dike, causing uneven settlement and damage to approximately 4,000 feet of the dike. This project will remove and recompact the dike soils. The Sac County Conservation Board is responsible for removing and replacing the existing concrete trail that runs along the top of the dike.



**Engineering Project #:** 25-01-81-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$170,000

**Operating Bureau:** Wildlife

**Funding Source:** 100% Federal Inflation Reduction Act grant

**Bid Letting Date:** 04/18/2024

**Construction Completion Date:** 04/15/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 11

**Bidders**

John Healy dba Healy Excavating	Lake View, IA	\$101,827.50
Bedrock Gravel Inc	Schleswig, IA	\$144,853.00
Armodus LLC	Mondamin, IA	\$146,851.75
Aaron Crane Construction LLC	Manchester, IA	\$156,457.00
Johnston Excavating LLC	Sloan, IA	\$157,465.36
Richards Construction Co Inc	Sac City, IA	\$171,061.00
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City, SD	\$180,249.80
Riely Armstrong Plumbing and Heating	Fort Dodge, IA	\$202,224.00
L.A. Carlson Contracting Inc	Hinton, IA	\$216,245.60
Legacy Corporation of IL	East Moline, IL	\$279,913.00
Jay-R Corporation	Mount Ayr, IA	\$302,394.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to John Healy dba Healy Excavating.

**12.2 Rock Creek State Park, Shoreline Stabilization – Jasper County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Located about 6 miles northwest of Kellogg, Rock Creek State Park is approximately 1,697 acres in size, and was dedicated in 1952. The 175-site campground borders the lake and includes electrical hookups and modern restrooms. The park offers trails to accommodate a wide variety of activities, including hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling.

The lake experiences periods of high turbidity and low visibility due to shoreline erosion and resuspension of solids due to wave action. Many of the areas experiencing wave-action erosion have never been armored. This project will armor approximately 17,685 linear feet of shoreline with rock revetment.

**Engineering Project #:** 24-05-50-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$2,000,000

**Operating Bureau:** Lake Restoration/Fisheries

**Funding Source:** \$125,000 319 funds, \$439,000 MFT, \$662,032 Lake Restoration

**Bid Letting Date:** 04/18/2024

**Construction Completion Date:** 11/30/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 22



**Bidders**

Jay-R Corporation	Mount Ayr, IA	\$1,226,032.78
Cornerstone Excavating	Washington, IA	\$1,274,755.81
TK Concrete, Inc	Pella, IA	\$1,320,095.75
Con-Struct Inc	Marshalltown, IA	\$1,349,587.50
RW Excavating Solutions LC	Prairie City, IA	\$1,380,275.95
Nagel Construction LLC	Allerton, IA	\$1,383,808.63
Graff Excavating Inc	Toledo, IA	\$1,391,841.63
Nail Excavating LLC	Bethany, MO	\$1,433,808.63
Boulder Contracting LLC	Grundy Center, IA	\$1,509,300.38
Peterson Contractors Inc	Reinbeck, IA	\$1,526,963.00
Berkley Homebuilders Inc dba Concrete Professional	Altoona, IA	\$1,623,689.13
JNC Construction LLC	Clearfield, IA	\$1,649,013.25
Cole Construction Co Inc	Keosauqua, IA	\$1,687,886.19
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$1,739,322.30
Steele Excavating Inc	Montezuma, IA	\$1,741,082.56
Legacy Corporation of IL	East Moline, IL	\$1,749,134.38
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City, IA	\$1,797,947.25
HGS LLC	Grimes, IA	\$1,804,259.13
Miller Trucking & Excavating Co	Silvis, IL	\$1,831,963.75
Iowa Contracting Inc	Indianola, IA	\$1,895,201.38
Scott Nikkel Trucking LLC	Sully, IA	\$1,970,074.78
C J Moyna & Sons LLC	Elkader, IA	\$2,640,241.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Jay-R Corporation.

**12.3 Rathbun WMU, Road Maintenance – Appanoose, Lucas and Wayne Counties.**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:**

The Rathbun Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) is located in 5 different counties – Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Wayne and Appanoose. These 5 counties contain 17 different Wildlife Management Areas, and comprise of 29,407 acres of habit. This habitat includes: lake, timber, upland, ponds and marsh. The diversity of these areas attracts hunters, anglers, hikers, backpackers, bird watchers, horseback riders, mountain bikers.

This project includes 5 different roads throughout the Rathbun WMU. One road is the only access to Browns Slough and two of the roads provide launch access to Rathbun Lake. The road to the HQ building will need one culvert dug up and pinned back together due to separation. The separation is causing erosion of the roadway embankment. Roadway blading, shaping and additional rock will be added. The second road will have a rusted-out CMP culvert replaced by an RCP culvert with footing. Erosion stone and rip rap will also be added at the inlet and outlet to prevent future erosion. Blading, shaping and additional rock will complete this road. The third road will be bladed, shaped and have additional rock placed. The fourth road will need brush cleared out of the ROW ditches and have additional rock placed after blading. The fifth road will have some minor ditch cleaning to improve drainage, a rusted-out CMP culvert replaced with an RCP culvert. Erosion stone and rip rap will be place at the inlet and outlet as well. Roadway blading, shaping and the addition of rock will complete the work on this road.



**Engineering Project #: 23-05-59-01**

**Cost Estimate: \$160,000**

**Operating Bureau: Wildlife**

**Funding Source: Parks and Institutional Road Fund**

**Bid Letting Date: 4/18/2024**

**Construction Completion Date: 8/31/2024**

**Number of Bids Received: 5**

**Bidders**

IA Builder Dirtwork LLC	Albia, IA	\$118,419.75
Leffler Dirtworks LLC	Oskaloosa, IA	\$139,690.00
Jay-R Corporation	Mount Ay,r IA	\$150,102.70
Cornerstone Excavating	Washington, IA	\$174,489.00
Denny Construction	Osceola, IA	\$178,618.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to IA Builder Dirtwork LLC.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division  
May 9, 2024

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

**Decision Item**

**13. Public Land Acquisition Project**

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**13.1 Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area, Jones County – Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Jones County adjacent to Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Seller:** Eastern Iowa Conservation Foundation

**Acreage:** 13.27 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$30,000

**Appraised Value:** \$80,300

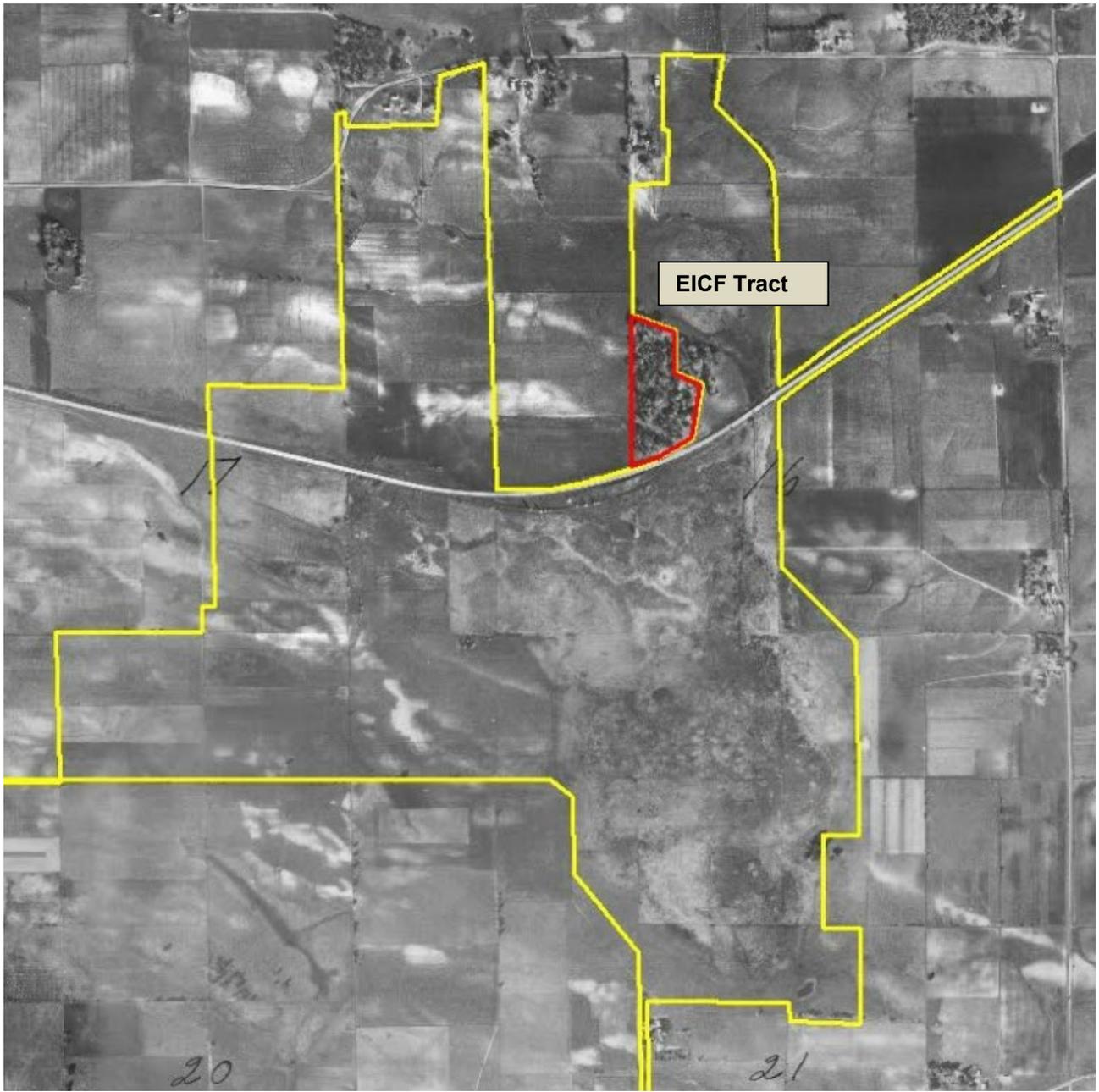
**Property Description:** This tract is an inholding within Muskrat Slough WMA located 4 miles west of Olin. Although small, this tract is a critical inholding on the public land complex. Acquisition of the tract resolves access issues that arise from the tract being privately owned. It also provides a high-quality forest component to the WMA, which is limiting factor. The tract has numerous majestic, old-growth bur oaks present, and surprisingly, more recent regeneration of younger age classes of bur oak. Based on historic aerial photography this tract has been timber/oak savanna since before the 1930's. Black cherry, hackberry and some walnut also exist in the stand.

**Purpose:** The site has great potential to be restored to an oak savanna or open oak woodland state, with potential to restore the herbaceous ground layer to native prairie species. This could benefit Rusty Patch Bumble Bee (Federally Endangered) and other pollinators, herptiles such as Eastern gray treefrog, Smooth green snake (State Species of Special Concern), and Western fox snake, birds such as the Baltimore oriole and Red-headed woodpecker, the Least shrew (State Threatened) and numerous game species. This site will be open to public hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

**DNR Property Manager:** Wildlife Bureau

**Funding Source(s):** \$30,000 Wildlife Restoration Federal Land Grant, \$50,300 Donated Value

**Incidental Costs:** Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.



### **13.2 Wapello Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Louisa County – Loren W. Humphrey Revocable Trust**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Louisa County adjacent to Wapello Bottoms Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

**Seller:** Loren W. Humphrey Revocable Trust

**Acreage:** 25.66 acres

**DNR Purchase Price:** \$25,000

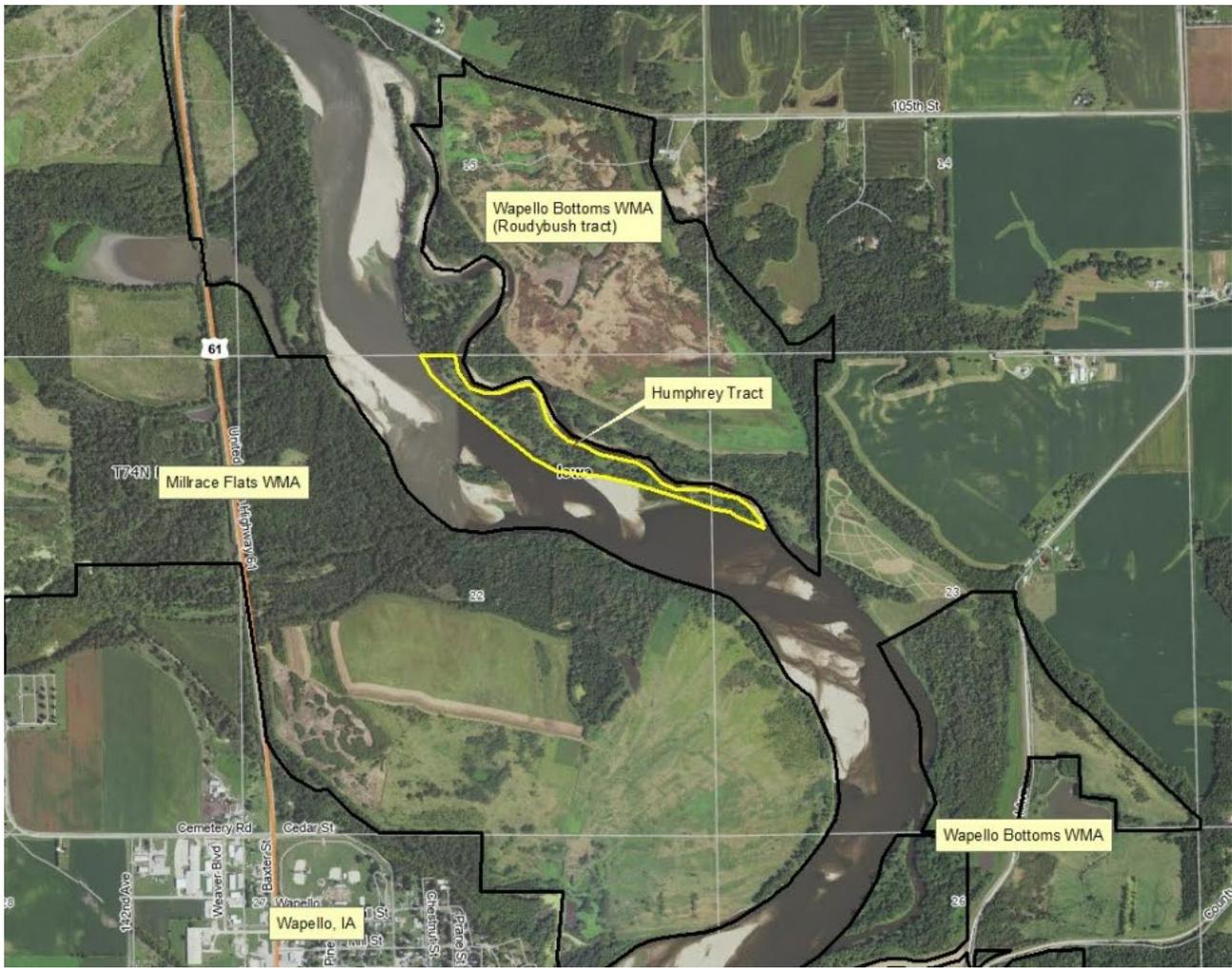
**Property Description:** This tract is an Iowa River island, just west of the Wapello Bottoms WMA (Roudybush tract), located one mile north of Wapello. This island has limited access and thus has limited potential for management.

**Purpose:** The side channel of the Iowa River between the island and the mainland is threatening the infrastructure of the Roudybush wetland. Ownership of the island will allow for us to manage both sides of the channel, protecting the Roudybush infrastructure. The timing of this acquisition lines up with a NAWCA funded enhancement of the Roudybush wetland. This site will be open to public hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities.

**DNR Property Manager:** Wildlife Bureau

**Funding Source(s):** \$25,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp

**Incidental Costs:** Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. The property will remain on property tax rolls in Louisa County.



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

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

**Decision Item** (*\* indicates proposed consent item*)

**\*14. Public Land Management Projects**

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**14.1 Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Renewal - Mississippi River, Louisa County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease, No. 45-R, with Matteson Marine Service, Inc of Burlington, IA.

**Location:** The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 600 feet of frontage by 100 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 427.7 in Louisa County, Iowa.

**Site Purpose:** This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988. A Public Notice was printed in a local newspaper and no comments were received.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee is \$2,712.00 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years.

**14.2 Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Renewal - Mississippi River, Louisa County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease No. 102-R with Matteson Marine Service, Inc of Burlington, IA.

**Location:** The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 1600 feet of frontage by 175 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 430.3 in Louisa County, Iowa.

**Site Purpose:** This area has been under a barge fleeting lease since 1988. A Public Notice was printed in a local newspaper and no comments were received.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee is \$12,656.00 and will be increased annually based on the percentage increase of the consumer price index. The term of the lease will be five years.

**14.3 Management Agreement Renewal, Middle Raccoon River Access – Guthrie County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Management Agreement renewal with the Guthrie County Conservation Board for the Middle Raccoon River Access located in Guthrie County.

**Location:** This property is located 3 miles west of Linden in Section 15, Township 79 North, Range 30 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M. in Guthrie County, Iowa. This access is within the Middle Raccoon WMA.

**Site Purpose:** This 1-acre property has a boat ramp that is used for boat access to the Middle Raccoon River.

**Management History:** This property has been under a management agreement with Guthrie County Conservation Board since 1999. The previous Management agreement expired December 2023.

**Management Agreement Term:** 25 years

This agreement was approved by the Guthrie County Conservation Board on April 10, 2024.

#### **14.4 Management Agreement, Wood Duck Bottoms WMA – Linn County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Linn County Conservation Board for Wood Duck Bottoms Wildlife Management Area located in Linn County.

**Location:** This property is located 4 miles south of Center Point and 2 miles east of Pleasant Creek State Park in Section 24, Township 85 North, Range 8 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M. in Linn County, Iowa. This small parcel is adjacent to a 138 Linn County WMA.

**Site Purpose:** This 10-acre property is used for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation activities.

**Management History:** This property has historically been managed by the DNR. Linn County recently purchased a 138-acre adjacent property making the County's management of the WMA sensible.

**Management Agreement Term:** 25 years

This agreement was approved by the Linn County Conservation Board on February 26, 2024.

#### **14.5 Flowage Easement – Jared and Jennie Randles – Coal Creek Marsh, Warren County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the acquisition of a permanent flowage easement from Jared and Jennie Randles to the DNR as part of the creation of Coal Creek Marsh at Red Rock Lake, Warren County, Iowa.

**Project Description:** The DNR is constructing a water control structure across Coal Creek, north of HWY 5, to create a marsh for waterfowl habitat. The marsh is expected to be dry in the spring and summer and will be filled by Coal Creek at or below 762 feet above mean seal level (msl) to create an 800-acre wetland for migrating waterfowl in the fall.

The 1.23-acre permanent flowage easement will allow for the flooding portions of the Randles' property when the marsh is at capacity.

**Compensation:** \$7,500

#### **14.6 Property Conveyance – Springbrook WMA - Guthrie Co. - Fidler**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a property conveyance (Quit Claim issuance) located at Springbrook WMA, Guthrie County.

**Grantee:** Deanna L Fidler and Ricky D. Fidler

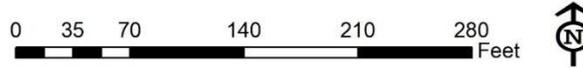
**Acreage:** 0.537 acres

The Springbrook Wildlife Management Area, containing approximately 563 acres, is located 10 miles northwest of Panora in Guthrie County. In 1998 the state acquired this 563-acre parcel from Central Iowa Energy Company. At the time of the purchase, the adjacent property was owned by Roy Middleton. A boundary fence was in place and observed as the correct boundary by all parties. Additionally, a garage, a portion of a house and a driveway existed on what turned out to be part of the property acquired by the State of Iowa / DNR. For the past 26 years the fence has been assumed to be the correct boundary. In 2020, the property was transferred from the Roy Middleton Estate to his daughter Deanna (Middleton) Fidler. Ms. Fidler is currently trying to sell their property and during their title examination process, this boundary issue was discovered.

This Quit Claim Deed would move the State's ownership to the fence that is currently recognized as the state boundary.

The state has the ability to issue a Quit Claim Deed per Iowa Code Chapter 9G.10 – Quitclaim deeds. "Whenever the governor is satisfied by proper record evidence that any tract of land which may have been deeded by virtue of any donation or sale to the state is not the land intended to have been described, and that an error has been committed in making out the transfers, in order that such error may be corrected, the governor is authorized to quitclaim the same to the proper owner thereof, and to receive a deed or deeds for the lands intended to have been deeded to the state originally."

Quit Claim Deed Map  
Springbrook WMA  
Section 4 Township 80 Range 31  
Guthrie County



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (\*indicates proposed consent item)

**\*15. Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.**

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**Commission approval is requested for a contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., of Independence, Iowa.**

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$48,000

**Dates:** May 9, 2024 to May 1, 2026

**Funding Source(s):** Federal Grant (Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act)

**Contract Purpose:** The purpose of the contract is to conduct a study to assess the current status of the Upper Wapsi population of eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*; EMR), its habitat use and availability, and risks to the species. The EMR was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in October 2016. Recovery of the EMR is reliant upon conservation partners implementing actions intending to address populations declines and increase knowledge/understand of the species as described in the *Recovery Plan for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*.

There is a need for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to collect EMR population information in order to effectively plan for and implement actions important for species recovery in Iowa. Understanding the current status of EMR, knowledge of its habitat use and availability, and risks to the species, are important considerations for developing management plans to implement effective conservation actions focused on recovery in the state. This study will monitor one of the only two known remaining populations in Iowa for comparisons with the work done in the early 2000s by the same consultant. The DNR intends to use this information for conservation and management planning.

Contract tasks include:

- A telemetry study monitoring up to five EMR through the use of radio telemetry to collect microhabitat and snake activity information. Radio-tagged specimens will be tracked throughout the 2024 active season until they enter hibernation. Radio tracking will begin again early in spring of 2025 in an attempt to determine when the snakes emerge from hibernation.
- Habitat assessment to assess summer and winter habitat conditions and evaluate habitat quality within activity range and surrounding areas.
- Risk assessment to identify and evaluate potential risks to the population.

**Selection Process Summary:** The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a Request for Proposal (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

**Criteria Reviewed:** Criteria reviewed for this work included the service provider's capacity to complete the statement of work as described in the RFP, the proposed work plan and time frame for completing the project, past performance of work identical or similar to the project, demonstration of expertise, additional services/deliverables outside the require obligations of the scope of work that support successful completion of the workplan as well as thoroughness of the technical aspects of proposal, and cost. The service provider was required to have the federal permit necessary for conducting EMR surveys.

**Proposal Due Date:** April 10, 2024

**# of Proposals Received:** 1

**Recommendation:** Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

**Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief**  
**Conservation and Recreation Division**  
**NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

**16. Contract with Houston Engineering, Inc. (Lake Manawa Pipe Outlet)**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract with Houston Engineering, Inc., of Omaha, NE.

**Contract Terms:**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$108,833.00

**Dates:** May 24, 2024 to December 31, 2025

**Funding Source(s):** Lake Restoration Program

**Contract Background:** Lake Manawa is a natural oxbow lake located within Council Bluffs, Iowa. Manawa is over 1,500 acres in size, and supports various forms of recreation, including fishing, paddle sports, power boating, and swimming. Much of the eastern shoreline is in private ownership.

In 1955, the Mosquito Creek diversion structure was constructed with the intent of providing a water source to the lake during dry periods. The diversion structure includes a roller dam on Mosquito Creek. Valves can be manipulated to divert water through an approximately 1.5 mile long, 48-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe to the outlet point located on the eastern shore of Lake Manawa. According to historical documents, the last twenty feet of pipe is corrugated metal. Currently, a significant amount of flow is coming from the joint between the concrete pipe and the metal pipe due to a structural failure.

This project consists of replacing the corrugated metal pipe with a reinforced concrete pipe. The park and lake are one of western Iowa's premiere spots for outdoor activities and maintaining the water levels through the Mosquito Creek diversion pipe is important to the community and recreational users. This structure is critical piece of infrastructure used to maintain pool elevation in the Lake.

**Contract Purpose:** The DNR is entering into this Contract with Houston Engineering, Inc., an engineering consulting company, for the design for the replacement of the Mosquito Creek diversion pipe outlet.

The selected firm will prepare final designs, including drawings, specifications, and cost estimates. The firm will be responsible for conducting needed site surveys, investigations, prepare bid documents, addenda, answer pre-bid questions, conduct one on-site preconstruction meeting, and will also be retained during construction to assist with plan and construction clarification.

**Selection Process Summary:** The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

**Proposal Due Date:** 4/16/2024

**Scoring Criteria:** Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFP, which included their ability to complete the scope of work within the desired timeline, comprehensive work plan, description and quality of previous and applicable work experience, and cost.

**Proposals Received:** 1

**Recommendation:** Houston Engineering, Inc.

Consultant	Location (City, State)
Houston Engineering	Omaha, NE

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: May 9, 2024