

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, July 10, 2025

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

Video Conference: meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva

Thursday, July 10, 2025

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 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) *5. Contract with Tri-Est Ag Group-Soil Fumigation and the State Forest Nursery *6. Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest *11. Public Land Management Projects (11.1-11.3)	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Contract with Tri-Est Ag Group-Soil Fumigation and the State Forest Nursery	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*6.	Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
7.	Contract with Food Bank of Iowa-HUSH	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	Contract with Conservation Corps-Wildlife Crews	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Small Construction Projects: Shallow Water Excavation for Upper Iowa and Cedar Wapsi Wildlife Units, Roadway Repair and Green Valley State Park, and The Missouri River Wildlife Unit	Information	Travis Baker
10.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	10.1 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repairs Phase 7 - Fremont County		
	10.2 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repair Phase 8 – Fremont County		
	10.3 Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Swan Lake Road & James Avenue Road Maintenance Phase 1 – Johnson County		
	10.4 Lake Keomah State Park, Gate Valve Replacement – Mahaska County		
*11.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	11.1 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Cargill, Incorporated – Scott County		
	11.2 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Hendricks River Logistics, LLC – Lee County		
	11.3 Chapter 17 (Use of State Owned Land) Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Muscatine County		
12.	Contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board (Smith Lake Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
13.	Contract with Horizon Architecture (Cody Shooting Complex)	Decision	Travis Baker
14.	Contract with the City of Grinnell (Arbor Lake & Lake Nyanza)	Decision	Travis Baker
15.	Proposed County Antlerless Quota Changes for the 2025-26 Seasons	Decision	Todd Bishop
16.	General Discussion		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- Thursday, August 14, Des Moines

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.

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

June 12 2025

**Video Teleconference
and
6200 Park Ave, Des Moines**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

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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 Tom Prickett at 9:30 am on June 12, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Uriah Hansen
Tom Prickett
Tammi Kircher
Bill Moritz
Collin Brecher
Laura Kudej

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

KR Buck

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *5. Donations
- *9. Larson Logging Company, LLC-Invasive Species Management
- *10. Redman Services d/b/a Jason Brewer-Invasive Species Management
- *11. Contract with Ducks Unlimited Inc.-Waterfowl Habitat Projects, Prairie Pothole Region of Canada
- *12. Pass It On: Outdoor Mentors, In-Shooting Shorts Outreach Program
- *13. Public Land Management Projects (13.1-13.3)
- *17. Contract Amendment-1, Salter Wetlands Associates, LLC-Road Repair, Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit
- *18. Contract with the Story County Conservation Board (Hickory Grove Park)- Proposed Beach Area Improvements
- *19. Contract with Iowa State University-Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee Study
- *20. Contract with Watersmith Engineering-Waubonsie Water Supply Improvement
- *21. Publicly Owned Lakes Watershed Eligibility Program-FY25
- *22. Contract with the City of Marshalltown and Iowa River OHV Club-Nicholson Ford OHV Park

Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes. Tammi Kircher-abstain due to role as a Board Member for Duck's Unlimited, noting a Duck's Unlimited contract is on the consent agenda.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- Director Lyon announced the recent designation of a new water trail on Beaver Creek and the Des Moines River. She made special note of partner involvement and the collaboration it took leading up to the designation. With this new trail, Iowa now has a total of 1,241 state designated miles of water trails.
- Director Lyon also highlighted the release of 32 Blanding's turtles, done in cooperation with Iowa State University, at the Blank Park Zoo.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth thanked Commissioners for their understanding and flexibility hosting a June virtual meeting. Mr. Hildreth provided a high level overview of the tour planned for the Fall of 2025.
- DA Hildreth noted that approximately 80% of the campsites were reserved during Memorial Day and he anticipates a similar high occupancy during the Fourth of July weekend.
- DA Hildreth highlighted that last weekend was free fishing weekend in Iowa, and that Summer is a busy time outdoors for DNR staff. He especially thanked Law Enforcement staff for their work out on Iowa's waters to make sure everyone is safe while they recreate.
- DA Hildreth announced the release of a new and improved interactive fishing atlas.
- DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by sharing results of the 2025 Scholastic Clay Program State Championship. In his remarks, he shared that there were 118 teams involved in the event, and that around 3000 athletes shot more than 3/4 million targets during the week.

**CHAPTER 33, RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM: COUNTY, CITY, PRIVATE OPEN SPACES AND CONSERVATION
EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS-ADOPTED AND FINAL RULE**

Michelle Wilson requested Commission approval for the Chapter 33 final rule.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

2025-2026 DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE HUNTS

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the 2025-2026 Deer Management Zone Hunts.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PROPOSED COUNTY ANTLERLESS QUOTA CHANGES FOR THE 2025-26 SEASONS

Chris Ensminger presented an information item outlining the proposed county antlerless quota changes for the 2025-26 seasons.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

INFORMATION

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Travis Baker presented an information item on three small construction projects including an addition to one of Ledges State Park's boat ramps, road and parking lot repair at Pikes Peak State Park, and roadside erosion repair at Pammel State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

INFORMATION

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT-FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS PHASE 6-FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for flood damage repairs within the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>
--

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS PHASE 5-FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for additional flood damage repairs within the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>
--

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

VIKING LAKE AND LAKE OF THREE FIRES STATE PARKS, PAVEMENT PRESERVATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project that includes pavement preservation and Viking Lake State Park and Lake of Three Fires State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK, STEEL ROOF REPLACEMENTS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for roof replacements at Lewis and Clark State Park. Travis Baker explained the Executive Council to new Commissioners.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION FISH FARM MOUNDS WMA

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the purchase of a tract of land adjacent to Fish Farm Mounds Wildlife Management Area.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by requesting a roll call vote. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT-TURKEY VALLEY WMA, GREENE COUNTY-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to the Ruth Hansen Wildlife Area.

Public Comments-None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by requesting a roll call vote. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT-EAGLE FLATS WETLAND COMPLEX, HANCOCK COUNTY-MATTOX FARMS L.L.C.

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a tract of land adjacent to Eagle Flats Wetland Complex. Mr. Baker clarified that the funding source information in the brief should read \$155,000 from the Habitat Stamp fund and \$189,000 from NAWCA. Todd Bishop explained how funding sources are chosen when executing land acquisitions.

Public Comments-None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.</i>
--

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by requesting a roll call vote. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH CARAHSOFT TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION-ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Andy Place requested Commission approve a contract with the Carahsoft Technology Corporation for an asset management system. Mr. Place responded to several questions regarding the contract, including the ability to expand the usage of the system to other bureaus within the Department and the costs associated with expansion. Mr. Place highlighted several benefits of the technology including inventory tracking, tracking of operational costs related to each asset, and asset degradation prediction. Mr. Place also explained the timeline for integration of the technology as well as details regarding training for the use of the system.

<i>Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners share their recent outdoor adventures
- Commissioner Moritz noted that he is tracking the federal budget and its effect on conservation education and research
- Several Commissioners thanked Jace Elliott for the work done on the CWD report that was shared to Commissioners via email

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:30 am on June 12, 2025.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***5. Contract Amendment #3 with TriEst Ag Group**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with TriEst Ag Group, Inc., of Greenville, NC.

Amendment # 3

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$ 40,000

Amendment Dates: August 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

Funding Source(s): Nursery Seedling Sales.

Amendment Purpose: To provide the same soil fumigation service at the State Forest Nursery as the previous year. TriEst Ag Group, Inc. will fumigate up to 6 acres of Nursery fields. Soil fumigation is a management technique that is widely used in the nursery industry to eliminate soil pathogens and weed infestations prior to planting nursery crops.

Original Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is for the contractor to provide soil fumigation services to the Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery to aid in growing quality tree seedlings. The contractor will perform soil fumigation using methyl bromide and chloropicrin products according to Federal and State Law. The rate to be applied is 350lb/acre at an injection depth of 10 inches using 67% methyl bromide and 33% chloropicrin. Contractor shall cover the fields using a totally impervious film. Soil fumigation helps reduce management costs during the growing season. Soil fumigation helps reduce the amount of pesticides applied and associated labor costs of spraying and pulling weeds.

Original Selection Process: In 2022, the DNR issued an RFQ and reviewed bids for services requested. TriEst Ag Group, Inc. was selected based on their ability to meet the needs of the State Forest Nursery. The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$24,999; Timeframe: August 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

Amendment- #1 Terms: Amount \$40,000; Timeframe: 8/1/23-9/30/24; Purpose: Extend contract for 1 year

Amendment- #2 Terms: Amount \$50,000; Timeframe: 8/1/24-9/30/25; Purpose: Extend contract for 1 year

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

***6. Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C, for Loess Hills State Forest.

Contract Terms

Income: \$27,000.00

Dates: 7/11/25 to 3/31/26

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: A timber sale will be used to salvage trees damaged or killed in the 2023 Jones Creek Wildfire. This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 39,287 board feet in 438 trees at Loess Hills State Forest in Monona County. Seedlings will be planted following the harvest to supplement natural regeneration of bur oak and walnut. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

Wildlife den trees will not be marked and will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of an adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Selection Process Summary: An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 2/14/25

Number of Bids Received: 2

Recommendation: Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C.	Lansing, IA	\$27,000.00
Eric Freihage	Pisgah, IA	\$21,400.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 10, 2025



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

Decision Item

7. Contract with Food Bank of Iowa

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Food Bank of Iowa, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$2,100,000 (\$350,000 annually)

Dates: July 14, 2025 to July 13, 2031

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (HUSH Program)

Contract Purpose:

- The DNR and the Food Bank of Iowa are directed by 571 Iowa Administrative Code 116.5(2) to enter into annual agreements to operate the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. The program is fully funded by deer hunters and provides high quality protein for Iowans in need. For efficiency purposes, the parties are mutually agreeing to this six-year term.
- The Food Bank of Iowa will communicate with meat lockers, pay the lockers \$105.00 per deer processed, collect hunter cards, distribute venison to participating members and maintain accurate records of all deer processed and paid for.

Selection Process Summary: Sole source, 571 Iowa Administrative Code 116.2 names the Iowa Food Bank as the venison distributor.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

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

Decision Item

8. Contract with Conservation Corps

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Conservation Corps, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$400,000

Dates: July 11, 2025 to June 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): REAP 30%, Woodland Health Initiative 25%, State Parks & Preserves Appropriation 15%, Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund 15%, Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund 15%

Contract Purpose: Under this three-year agreement, the Conservation Corps will hire and employ crews trained in chainsaw operation and safety, invasive species identification and eradication, trail maintenance, and other natural resource management activities. These crews will work closely with DNR project leaders to complete work on a variety of short-term projects. Projects where these crews would be utilized are typically short in duration and are timed to correlate with availability of materials and conditions on site. These crews will be used for labor intensive projects where DNR teams do not have the number of staff needed to complete the task.

The Conservation Corps is a non-profit entity that contracts for hire with public agencies, providing service learning opportunities and conservation and natural resources work skills development for young adults. They provide crews equipped with equipment, tools, and vehicles for many types of projects. Field assistants are project management liaisons with DNR staff so that proper materials and equipment are stationed at project sites, assist with project development, and help supervise the crew's work in the field. Conservation Corps members are able to work in locations that would be difficult for standard contractors to access. In some cases, they camp at the project site.

The Department has worked with the Conservation Corps since 2009. In previous work for the DNR, the Corps constructed water accesses and remote campsites, cut hazard trees and logjams, hung navigational warning signage, restored stream banks, assisted with restoration plantings and prescribed prairie or woodland burns, reduced gully erosion, conducted biological monitoring, managed state-owned lands for invasive species control, collected fish and wildlife samples, collected information for the forest health program, provided skilled chainsaw work, placed monitoring equipment, and collected bat species data.

Under this agreement, the Conservation Corps will hire and employ crews that will work closely with DNR project leaders to complete diverse work including sign installation, collecting fish and wildlife samples, manual labor, skilled chainsaw work, trail maintenance, landscaping, restoration planting, prairie or woodland prescribed fires, and operating small equipment such as brush hogs and walk-behind skid steers. Besides managing staffing and providing oversight, Conservation Corps is also supporting this project by organizing crew logistics according to DNR project manager specifications for appropriate staging of project resources, including crew, equipment, and materials such as stones, posts, signs, and seed.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental Agreement. DNR enters into this Cooperative Agreement based on statutory authority provided in Iowa Code section 456A.24. Conservation Corps Iowa AmeriCorps through the Conservation Corps is recognized as an approved Iowa National Service Corps program as authorized by Iowa Code 15H.9. Approved Iowa National Service Corps programs are considered governmental entities in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code 11—118.4(8A).

Contract History with This Contractor:

- Contract 21CRDWBKREED-0001: September 15, 2021 to June 30, 2024; \$400,000; one amendment to clarify allowable expenses; one amendment to extend the ending date without additional funds, to specify allowable expenses, and to add a provision on compliance with Iowa Code section 80.45A.

- Contract 19CRDWBKREED-0004: March 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021; \$ 300,000; one amendment to extend the ending date without additional funds
- Contract 16CRDLWBNHOOG-0002: September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019; \$495,000, one amendment to extend the ending date and to add additional tasks for additional funds.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

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

Information Item

9. Construction - Small Projects

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

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
6/12/25	25-03-96-01	UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT	WINNESHIEK	Shallow water excavation for the Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit - Cardinal Marsh	\$29,000.00	\$20,039.79 \$20,512.18 \$22,231.20 \$23,392.00 \$25,909.60 \$26,909.60 \$40,532.03 \$47,040.64
6/12/25	25-03-09-02	CEDAR-WAPSI WILDLIFE UNIT	BREMER	Shallow water excavation at the Cedar Wapsi Wildlife Unit - Aldo Leopold Southern Marsh	\$34,000.00	\$21,148.00 \$24,950.00 \$25,729.00 \$27,025.00 \$28,000.00 \$31,075.00 \$48,359.00 \$59,600.00
5/29/25	25-04-88-01	GREEN VALLEY STATE PARK	UNION	This project's purpose is to add new granular surfacing material to an existing granular surfaced roadway.	\$16,000.00	\$10,362.50
5/29/25	26-04-43-01	MISSOURI RIVER WILDLIFE UNIT	HARRISON	This project's purpose is to add new granular surfacing material to an existing granular surfaced roadway.	\$42,000.00	\$30,970.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

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

Decision Item

Large Construction Item

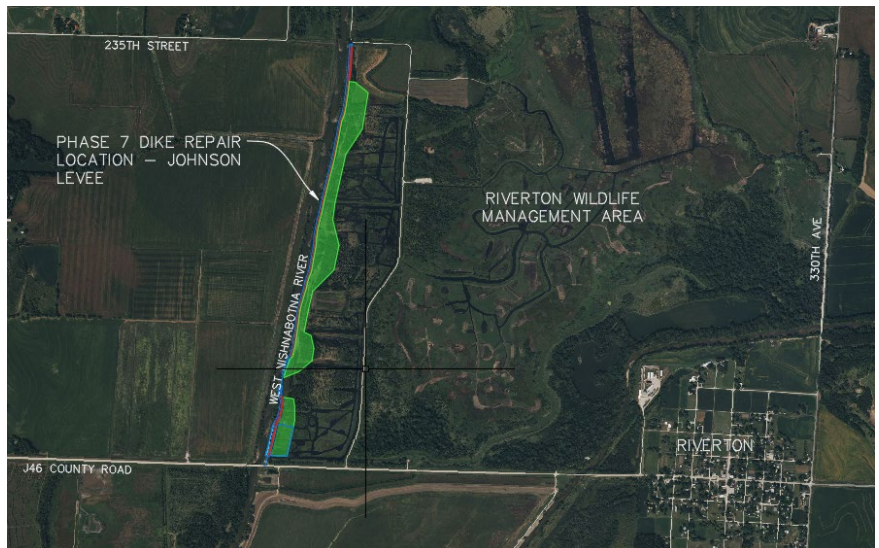
10.1 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repairs Phase 7 - Fremont County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Missouri River flooding in 2019 caused infrastructure damage on multiple Wildlife Management Areas in the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit. The DNR worked to receive FEMA public assistance funds for the repairs. FEMA obligated the initial repair project in 2021. However, due to the remote locations of the damages, Engineering and field staff determined that it would be difficult to source enough commercial fill to complete the repairs. Therefore, we asked FEMA for approval to borrow fill from adjacent areas. This triggered an archaeological review and a new version of the project, which was obligated in 2023. This project has a significant number of damaged sites that need to be designed, permitted and bid out; therefore, Engineering has been designing the repairs in phases to get the work completed.

This project involves repairing washouts to a 6,000-foot section of the Johnson Levee and building 600-feet of new levee approximately 40' to the east.

Phase 7 Repair Locations:



Engineering Project #: 22-04-36-08

Cost Estimate: \$220,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 75% FEMA, 25% Executive Council

Bid Letting Date: 6/19/2025

Construction Completion Date: 10/6/2025

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Leroy & Sons Inc.	Arcadia, IA	\$147,751.00
Legacy Grading LLC	Unionville, MO	\$148,661.00
DCLI LLC	Leon, IA	\$160,422.00
Empire Excavation	Odebolt, IA	\$180,264.20
MDX LLC	Sidney, IA	\$191,948.60
Ashland Road Excavating LLC	Plattsmouth, NE	\$192,728.15
Three Oaks Construction, Inc.	North Sioux City, SD	\$201,096.00
Hendrickson Transportation, LLC	Hamburg, IA	\$228,131.34

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Leroy & Sons Inc.

10.2 Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repair Phase 8 – Fremont County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Missouri River flooding in 2019 caused infrastructure damage on multiple Wildlife Management Areas in the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit. The DNR worked to receive FEMA public assistance funds for the repairs. FEMA obligated the initial repair project in 2021. However, due to the remote locations of the damages, Engineering and field staff determined that it would be difficult to source enough commercial fill to complete the repairs. Therefore, we asked FEMA for approval to borrow fill from adjacent areas. This triggered an archaeological review and a new version of the project, which was obligated in 2023. This project has a significant number of damaged sites that need to be designed, permitted and bid out; therefore, Engineering has been designing the repairs in phases to get the work completed.

This project involves repairing blowouts and sloughing sides at Cooper Creek, Botna Bottom - Kruse and Botna Bottom – Deng levees.

Engineering Project #: 22-04-36-06

Cost Estimate: \$57,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 75% FEMA, 25% Executive Council

Bid Letting Date: 6/19/2025

Construction Completion Date: 10/8/2025

Number of Bids Received: 6

Bidders

Legacy Grading LLC	Unionville MO	\$49,820.75
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City SD	\$49,845.00
Ashland Road Excavating LLC	Plattsmouth NE	\$59,236.10
Dovel Construction LLC	Hamburg IA	\$62,807.00
DCLI LLC	Leon IA	\$67,575.00
Hendrickson Transportation LLC	Hamburg IA	\$84,505.73

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Legacy Grading LLC.

10.3 Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Swan Lake Road & James Avenue Road Maintenance Phase 1 – Johnson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, located near North Liberty, Iowa, has approximately 14,000 acres of timber, upland and marsh. The area is popular with bird watchers, hunters, anglers, photographers and is known for birding during spring migration and duck hunting during fall.

Two gravel roads, Swan Lake Road and James Avenue, need maintenance and are essential for access to this area. This project consists of granular roadway maintenance. It includes placement of crushed stone, blading, shaping, compacting, and ditch mowing for approximately 8 miles of roadway.

Looking east on Swan Lake Road in May 2025:

Engineering Project #: 25-06-52-01

Cost Estimate: \$340,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 100% P&I

Bid Letting Date: 6/19/2025

Construction Completion Date: 10/31/2025

Number of Bids Received: 11



Bidders

Adam Laubenthal DBA Laubenthal Excavation
Neuzil & Sons, Inc.
Boomerang Corp of Iowa
Chris Jones Trucking
Barnhart's Custom Services, LLC
Nagel Construction
Connelly Construction, Inc.
Veith Construction Corporation
Peterson Contractors, Inc.
Cole Construction Co, Inc
Triple B Construction

Bradgate, IA	\$226,323.93
Oxford, IA	\$240,120.68
Anamosa, IA	\$249,020.00
West Branch, IA	\$258,961.48
West Branch, IA	\$264,211.45
Allerton, IA	\$285,830.00
Peosta, IA	\$295,406.78
Cedar Falls, IA	\$298,856.40
Reinback, IA	\$309,298.00
Keosauqua, IA	\$311,745.30
Wilton, IA	\$312,165.25

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Adam Laubenthal DBA Laubenthal Excavation.

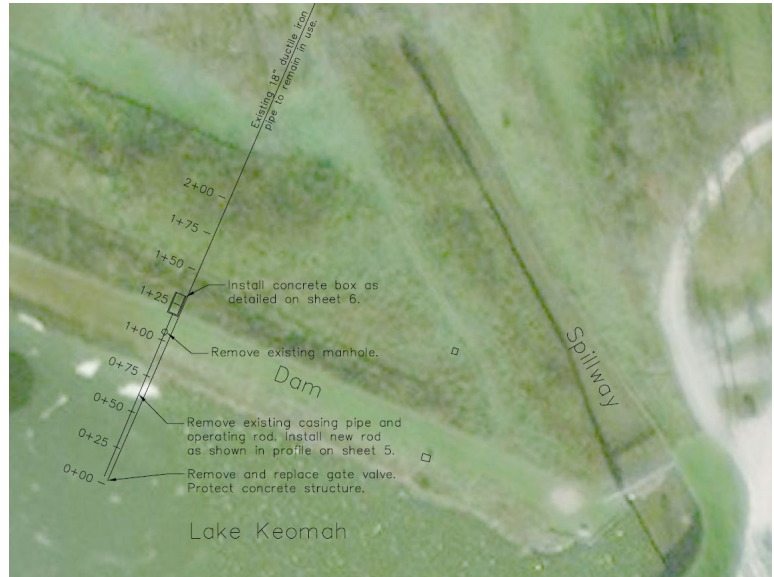
10.4 Lake Keomah State Park, Gate Valve Replacement – Mahaska County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Lake Keomah State Park was dedicated in 1934 and was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park is 366 acres with an 84-acre lake, 52 campsites, and a lodge.

The purpose of this project is to replace the lake's drawdown valve. The existing valve is an 18" gate valve made by Iowa Valve Company in Oskaloosa, Iowa. The Iowa Valve Company is now known as Clow Valve Company, and still exists in Oskaloosa. Now 91 years old, the valve needs replacement.

The valve will be replaced with a Clow Valve, new operating rod to the top of the dam, and a new operating access point to eliminate the confined space of the existing manhole.



Engineering Project #: 20-05-62-06

Cost Estimate: \$110,000

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 06/19/2025

Construction Completion Date: 10/31/2025

Number of Bids Received: 10

Bidders

Construction Leaders Co LLC	Urbandale IA	\$78,170.00
Cushman Excavation LLC	Knoxville IA	\$93,528.00
Leffler Dirtworks LLC	Oskaloosa IA	\$102,850.00
IA Builders Dirt Work LLC	Albia IA	\$103,640.00
Gross Construction LLC	Woodburn IA	\$103,721.00
Jones Contractors & Associates LLC	Dyersville IA	\$104,000.00
Shift General Contracting	Cedar Rapids IA	\$107,880.00
JB Holland Construction Inc	Decorah IA	\$121,260.00
On Track Construction LLC	Nevada IA	\$130,000.00
Nagel Construction LLC	Allerton IA	\$139,250.00

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
July 10, 2025

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

Public Land Management Projects

***11.1 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Cargill, Incorporated – Scott County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 5-R with Cargill, Incorporated.

Location: The lease covers an area with 740 feet of frontage and 100 feet of depth located at Mississippi River mile 469.8 in Section 19, Township 77 North, Range 2 East of the 5th P.M. in Scott County.

Site Purpose: The site contains earth fill and shoreline protections and conveyance structures associated with barge loading and unloading

Lease History: The location has been under lease since 1977.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$4,736.00 The term of the lease will be five years.

***11.2 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Hendricks River Logistics, LLC – Lee County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 6-R with Hendricks River Logistics, LLC.

Location: The lease covers an area with 1,000 feet of frontage and 450 feet of max depth located along the Mississippi River in Section 19 and 30, Township 66 North, Range 4 East of the 5th P.M. in Lee County.

Site Purpose: The site contains a warehouse and conveyance structures associated with barge loading and unloading.

Lease History: The location has been under lease since 1975.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$22,194.60. The term of the lease will be five years.

***11.3 Chapter 17 (Use of State Owned Land) Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Muscatine County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an Assignment of Chapter 17 Lease 109-R with River Trading Company LTD. to WME Holding Company, LLC.

Location: The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi River bed including approximately 500 feet of frontage by 30 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 451.4 in SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 22, Township 76 North, Range 2 West of the 5th P.M., Muscatine County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: River Trading Company, LTD is selling a property in Muscatine County with an associated Chapter 17 lease to WME Holding Company, LLC. This site will continue to be used as a commercial barge loading and unloading terminal.

Location History: This area has been under lease since 2001.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$3,000.00. The term of the lease will be five years.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

12. Contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board (Smith Lake Park)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board, Algona, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$85,834.00

Dates: July 10, 2025 – December 31, 2025

DNR shall have the option to extend this Contract for up to six years from the beginning date of the original contract by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of this Contract.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Smith Lake is a 57-acre lake in a 775-acre watershed, which is primarily composed of row crop agriculture. The lake was constructed in 1965/1966, and it is located within the 124-acre Smith Lake County Park. The park is a destination for camping, fishing, and is regional hub for recreation. The park is also home to the Kossuth County Conservation Board (KCCB) and nature center.

Smith Lake is currently listed on Iowa's Impaired Waters List poor water quality attributed to excessive algae growth. The lake was first impaired in 2002, and a TMDL for the lake was completed in 2005. Smith Lake continues to struggle with algae blooms, excessive sedimentation, and poor water quality. Because the lake has also lost considerable depth over time (average depth today is just under 5ft), the lake also has challenges with excessive vegetation, which negatively impact recreation and the fishery. A watershed assessment was completed in 2023 and was to identify areas in the watershed that would benefit from additional watershed BMPs. As a result of this assessment, the CCB constructed a bioswale on park property to capture runoff from the parking lot and nature center directly above the lake.

The lake restoration program began meeting with the Kossuth County Conservation Board in 2022 in hopes of developing a larger scale restoration project. Since the group first started meeting, project partners have been working to develop a list of desired outcomes for the project, but they need additional engineering resources to help build a comprehensive restoration plan for the lake and park.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with the KCCB to hire a qualified consultant for assessing potential lake restoration practices to improve water quality, infrastructure, habitat, and recreational opportunities associated with the restoration of Smith Lake. The hired consultant will include an assessment of current conditions in the lake, a cost-benefit analysis, and preliminary engineering for restoration practices.

Budget:

DNR Contribution (75%)	\$ 85,834.00
Kossuth County Conservation Board Contribution (25%)	\$ 28,611.00
Total budget	\$ 114,445.00

Anticipated Future Work: The DNR and CCB intend to partner on a comprehensive restoration plan to improve water quality and recreational opportunities at Smith Lake Park. Total anticipated costs for restoration construction is around \$3-4 million, and will likely include a combination of targeted dredging, shoreline restoration, dam and outlet upgrades, wetland restoration, and fish habitat work.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the KCCB is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10th, 2025

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

Decision Item

13. Contract with Horizon Architecture (Cody Shooting Complex)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Horizon Architecture of Iowa City, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$109,418.00

Dates: July 10, 2025 to September 30, 2027

Funding Source(s): Federal; Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund; and, Marine Fuel Tax

Contract Background: The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Architectural and Engineering services from a qualified architectural firm. Services include building and systems design, creation of construction plans, technical specifications, and cost estimates. Services will also include construction administration support services for a proposed new building and incidental work at two existing pole barns, located at the Cody Shooting Complex, Scott County, Iowa. In addition to the structures, design will also include parking areas, site grading, on-site wastewater treatment, liquid propane connection, and utility connections to water and electric services.

Contract Purpose: Horizon Architecture will prepare final designs, including drawings, specifications and cost estimates. The firm will be responsible for all aspects of design, from developing the facility plans through the construction bidding process, and will be retained to provide construction administration support during the construction process.

Horizon Architecture will be responsible for coordinating the process with DNR staff, obtain all permits, prepare bid documents, develop addenda, answer pre-bid questions, conduct one onsite preconstruction meeting, and will also be retained during construction for any needed clarifications from the DNR Field Engineer. The DNR will incorporate final plans and technical specifications into the standard DNR construction contract. The DNR will facilitate the bidding process and all the day-to-day construction inspection duties.

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: 6/17/2025

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: 4

Recommendation: Horizon Architecture

Consultant	Location (City, State)	Total Score (100 pts)	Cost
Horizon Architecture	Iowa City, IA	80	\$109,418.00
Imprint Architecture	Ankeny, IA	75	\$153,203.00
Substance Architecture	Des Moines, IA	66	\$254,636.00
Studio Architecture	North Liberty, IA	62	\$136,000.00

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

14. Contract with the City of Grinnell (Arbor Lake & Lake Nyanza)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the City of Grinnell, Iowa (Poweshiek County).

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$600,300.00

Dates: July 10, 2025 – December 31, 2027

DNR shall have the option to extend this Contract for up to six years from the beginning date of the original contract by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of this Contract.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza complex (totaling 27 acres) are two linked impoundments that anchor popular city parks in Grinnell, Iowa. Lake Nyanza drains directly into Arbor Lake; therefore, any improvements made to Lake Nyanza will also benefit Arbor Lake. Both lakes are popular local destinations, supporting a variety of recreational uses.

Arbor Lake is currently on the State of Iowa's impaired waters list for algae (high chlorophyll-a concentrations), which has been attributed to high phosphorus levels in the lake and sedimentation. The Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Section produced a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report in 2003 to identify sources of pollution to Arbor Lake and suggested ways of improving water quality with the goal of removing the impairment at the Lake. The TMDL cited that phosphorus being transported to the lake from the watershed needed to be reduced by 56% to reach water quality goals. Additionally, sedimentation in the last 20 years alone has resulted in the max depth of the lake going from 20 feet in 2003 to 16.5 feet in 2022 and losing a foot of mean depth (going from 7 feet in 2003 to 5.9 feet in 2022).

DNR and other project partners began meeting with the City to address water quality concerns and recreational opportunities at both lakes in 2021, forming a small working group to address concerns and start formulating a plan to improve one or both lakes. Project partners included city staff, DNR watershed improvement and lake restoration, IDALS, and several interested citizens from the community. In 2022, the City hired FYRA Engineering (now HEI) to complete a water quality monitoring study at Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza. Monitoring results showed high concentrations of total phosphorus in both lakes that fuel frequent summer algae blooms. Additionally, both lakes have accumulated about 50,000 CY of soft sediment each, reducing depth and function in each of the lakes. Using the preliminary information collected as a part of the monitoring study, the City and DNR hired HEI to complete a full diagnostic and feasibility study for both lakes (\$122,800; City \$61,400; LRP \$61,400). Recommended best management practices (BMP's) and preliminary costs estimates were provided in the final report. The DNR and City intend to partner on a comprehensive restoration plan for to improve water quality and recreational opportunities.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with the City of Grinnell to hire a qualified consultant to provide the City of Grinnell with planning, engineering, permitting, cost estimation, and easement acquisition services associated with meeting the following restoration goals and objectives for Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza. Engineering services provided under this contract include the evaluation of potential watershed and in-lake restoration practices that may include targeted dredging, shoreline stabilization, dam and outlet upgrades, sediment basin construction, wetland restoration, phosphorus inactivation, and enhanced recreational opportunities (such as fishing jetties).

Budget:

DNR Contribution (75%)	\$ 600,300.00
<u>Poweshiek County Conservation Board Contribution (25%)</u>	<u>\$ 200,100.00</u>
Total budget	\$ 800,400.00

Anticipated Future Work: Future work will include implementation of watershed bmp's and in-lake restoration practices selected through this evaluation process. Total anticipated costs for construction is around \$5 million, and will likely include a combination of targeted dredging, shoreline restoration, dam and outlet upgrades, watershed bmp's, and recreational opportunities.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the City of Grinnell is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: July 10th, 2025

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

Decision Item

15. Proposed County Antlerless Quota Changes for the 2025-26 Seasons

The following county antlerless quota changes are proposed for the 2025-26 deer hunting seasons. Changes are proposed where population indices, wildlife bureau staff and hunter observations indicate the population is above or below goal.

County	Quota	County	Quota	County	Quota
Adair	1200 <u>950</u>	Floyd	250	Monona	0
Adams	750 <u>500</u>	Franklin	100	Monroe	2500 <u>2250</u>
Allamakee	3800	Fremont	0	Montgomery	1500 <u>0</u>
Appanoose	2800 <u>2500</u>	Greene	1000 <u>0</u>	Muscatine	900 <u>1000</u>
Audubon	0	Grundy	0	O'Brien	0
Benton	325	Guthrie	2350 <u>2000</u>	Osceola	0
Black Hawk	0	Hamilton	100	Page	0
Boone	600 <u>500</u>	Hancock	100	Palo Alto	0
Bremer	300	Hardin	200	Plymouth	0
Buchanan	400	Harrison	0	Pocahontas	0
Buena Vista	0	Henry	1050	Polk	1350 <u>1200</u>
Butler	300 <u>400</u>	Howard	450	Pottawattamie	0
Calhoun	0	Humboldt	0	Poweshiek	200
Carroll	0	Ida	0	Ringgold	1600 <u>1350</u>
Cass	0	Iowa	450	Sac	0
Cedar	775	Jackson	1100	Scott	200
Cerro Gordo	100	Jasper	400	Shelby	0
Cherokee	0	Jefferson	1500	Sioux	0
Chickasaw	375 <u>475</u>	Johnson	950 <u>1100</u>	Story	150
Clarke	2400 <u>2100</u>	Jones	1100	Tama	300 <u>200</u>
Clay	0	Keokuk	500	Taylor	1500 <u>1200</u>
Clayton	4000	Kossuth	0	Union	1400 <u>1100</u>
Clinton	400	Lee	1800 <u>1900</u>	Van Buren	2400 <u>2300</u>
Crawford	0	Linn	850 <u>1000</u>	Wapello	1600 <u>1500</u>
Dallas	1900 <u>1700</u>	Louisa	775 <u>875</u>	Warren	3000
Davis	2000 <u>1900</u>	Lucas	2500 <u>2250</u>	Washington	1200

County	Quota	County	Quota	County	Quota
Decatur	2500 <u>2200</u>	Lyon	0	Wayne	2700 <u>2450</u>
Delaware	4400 <u>1300</u>	Madison	3300	Webster	200 <u>100</u>
Des Moines	4000 <u>1100</u>	Mahaska	475	Winnebago	0
Dickinson	0	Marion	2050	Winneshiek	2700
Dubuque	1200	Marshall	150	Woodbury	0
Emmet	0	Mills	0	Worth	0
Fayette	2500	Mitchell	400 <u>200</u>	Wright	400 <u>0</u>

Proposed quotas were published on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting on June 02, 2025 as required by IAC 571-106.10(5).

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 7/10/2025