

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, August 14, 2025

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

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

6200 Park Ave, Des Moines IA 50321

Walnut Woods Conf Rm

Thursday, August 14, 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. Donations *7. Contract with Brown's Tree Service LLC dba BTS Sanitation *13. Contract with Ronald Kneip (IHAP) *14. Contract with Bruce Bradshaw (IHAP) *15. Contract with Cynthia Ferris (IHAP) *16. Contract with Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust (IHAP) *17. Contract with Lonnie Stein (IHAP) *18. Contract with Charles H Lindhorst North (IHAP) *19. Contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust South (IHAP) *20. Contract with Patricia Bouska (IHAP) *24. Public Land Management Projects (24.1-24.2)	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.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
6.	Contract with Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc.	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*7.	Contract with Brown's Tree Service LLC dba BTS Sanitation	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
8.	Subrecipient Grant Agreement with National Audubon Society	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Iowa State University	Decision	Todd Bishop
10.	Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Wildlife Management Institute	Decision	Todd Bishop
12.	Contract with The Ruffed Grouse Society-Focal Area Forester	Decision	Todd Bishop
*13.	Contract with Ronald Kneip (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*14.	Contract with Bruce Bradshaw (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*15.	Contract with Cynthia Ferris (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*16.	Contract with Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*17.	Contract with Lonnie Stein (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*18.	Contract with Charles H Lindhorst North (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*19.	Contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust South (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*20.	Contract with Patricia Bouska (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
21.	Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Todd Bishop
22.	Small Construction Project-Odesa Wildlife Management Area Shoreline Restoration	Information	Travis Baker
23.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker

23.1	Triboji Dock Management Area Shoreline Repair & Stabilization – Dickinson County		
23.2	Steamboat Rock Dam Mitigation – Hardin County		
23.3	Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, Campground Improvements – Linn County		
23.4	Lake Keomah State Park, Spillway Floor Concrete – Mahaska County		
*24.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
24.1	Chapter 17 Lease — Dino Gingerich – Clayton County		
24.2	Permanent Fish Barrier Easement – Wright County – Theresa McGivern		
25.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
25.1	Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area, Tama County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Decision	Travis Baker
25.2	Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area, Tama County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
26.	Contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Springbrook Geotech and Design)	Decision	Travis Baker
27.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, September 11, Des Moines • Thursday, October 8-9, Allamakee County 			

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

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

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

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

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, English-language proficiency, disability, or age in the administration of its programs or activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DNR will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

July 10 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 July 10, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Long, Request to increase license fees in Iowa for hunting, fishing and trapping
Ross Baxter, Request to increase license fees in Iowa for hunting, fishing and trapping
Terry Thompson, Request to increase license fees in Iowa for hunting, fishing and trapping

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *Contract with Tri-Est Ag Group=Soil Fumigation and State Forest Nursery
- *Timber Sale Contract with Lansing Forest Products, L.L.C. for Loess Hills State Forest
- *Public Land Management Projects (11.1-11.3)

Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

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 informed Commissioners about a recent public meeting hosted by Iowa DNR regarding Blue Lake and lake levels in Onawa.
- Director Lyon invited Commissioners to attend DNR Family Night at the State Fair to be held on Tuesday, August 5th from 5-7pm.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth announced that Red Haw State Park campground reopened as of July 1st after being closed for three years due to major flooding damage. DA Hildreth highlighted some of the features and upgrades as a result of the campground renovations.
- DA Hildreth mentioned that DNR is gearing up for the Pheasant Roadside Survey (August 1-15). DA Hildreth highlighted the successful results from the 2024 hunt and also mentioned that 2025 is the 100th year anniversary of pheasant hunting in Iowa.
- DA Hildreth provided a high level overview of the new hunting and fishing license opportunities for Iowans that resulted from laws passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.
- DA Hildreth announced the upcoming open house at Heritage Hills that DNR will host on July 16th.
- DA Hildreth finalized his remarks by recognizing Kim Bogenschutz for her success in being named the MAFWA 2025 Fisheries Biologist of the year.

CONTRACT WITH FOOD BANK OF IOWA-HUSH

Todd Bishop requested Commission approval for a contract with the Food Bank of Iowa for their assistance with the Iowa HUSH program.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH CONSERVATION CORPS-WILDLIFE CREWS

Katy Fullin requested Commission approval for a contract with Conservation Corps for wildlife crews to assist with wildlife management work on state managed areas.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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

Travis Baker presented a variety of informational items related to small construction projects at Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit, Cedar Wapsi Wildlife Unit, Green Valley State Park and the Missouri River Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS PHASE 7 - FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker presented a request for a flood damage repair project for the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR PHASE 8 – FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for an additional phase of the flood damage repair project for the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher 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

HAWKEYE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, SWAN LAKE ROAD & JAMES AVENUE ROAD MAINTENANCE PHASE 1 – JOHNSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a road maintenance project at Hawkeye Wildlife Unit.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK, GATE VALVE REPLACEMENT – MAHASKA COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a gate valve replacement at Lake Keomah State Park.

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

CONTRACT WITH THE KOSSUTH COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (SMITH LAKE PARK)

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with the Kossuth County Conservation Board for an assessment for lake restoration efforts. Michelle Balmer responded to questions regarding current beach advisories throughout the state.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH HORIZON ARCHITECTURE (CODY SHOOTING COMPLEX)

George Antinou requested Commission approval for a contract with Horizon Architecture for the planning and design for facilities at the Cody Shooting Complex.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher 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>
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APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF GRINNELL (ARBOR LAKE & LAKE NYANZA)

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with City of Grinnell for the planning, engineering, permitting, cost estimation, and easement acquisition services associated with meeting the restoration goals and objectives for Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza.

Public Comments-None

Written Comments – None

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

PROPOSED COUNTY ANTLERLESS QUOTA CHANGES FOR THE 2025-26 SEASONS

Jace Elliott requested Commission approval for the proposed antlerless quota changes for the 2025-26 deer hunting seasons.

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Heath Delzell provided an update regarding the Brushy Creek campground. Commissioner Buck requested a regional media update regarding the campground construction.
- Commissioner Buck shared recent outdoor experiences including his recent experience goose banding with DNR staff. He also gave kudos to DNR employee Stacey Bragg for a recent recovery and rehab of a stranded owl. He also brought up educating the public more on the slow moving sign requirement for UTVs. Commissioner Buck concluded his remarks by sharing his thoughts on license fee increases.

- Commissioner Kudej shared her recent camping experiences.
- Commissioner Brecher shared his appreciation for the public comments regarding hunting and fishing license fee increase requests. Commissioner Brecher also mentioned that he is excited for the Iowa State Fair.
- Commissioner Moritz asked Pete Hildreth to speak to the process and the role of the Commission to follow through with a request to increase license fees. DA Hildreth recommended an information presentation at the August meeting regarding the process.
- Commissioner Kircher shared recent outdoor experiences.
- Commissioner Hansen also shared his appreciation for the public comments regarding hunting and fishing license fee increase requests. Commissioner Hansen requested a more detailed timeline of next steps regarding the nonresident small game license comments and feedback received at the hunter listening session.
- Chair Prickett shared his recent outdoor experiences. He also shared his appreciation for the public comment received during the business meeting and seconded Commissioner Hansen's request for more information at the August meeting regarding the nonresident small game license comments.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:50 am on July 10, 2025.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

***Item #5** (**indicates proposed consent item*)

Donations

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

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
DNR Fire Program	\$50,636.20	One 2025 Chevy Silverado to be used by the fire program as a Type 6 engine aiding in prescribed fire, wildlife, and training.	Joey Gallion
Lake Darling State Park	\$672.76	Donation of a 75" Samsung TV and Sound Bar for Lake Darling State Park Lodge.	Friends of Lake Darling
Ledges State Park	\$254.95	White oak memorial tree and engraved plaque for Ledges State Park.	Jan Pederson
Pine Lake State Park	\$1,750.00	250 Tree Tubes, 250 Tree Tube Stakes for Pine Lake State Park.	Ann and Less Raisch
Ledges State Park	\$1,412.83	Lumber for the new park kiosk.	Friends of the Ledges
Clear Lake Wildlife Management Unit	\$10,000.00	Donation of \$10,000 toward the purchase of a tree shear.	John Hunchis
Parks	\$15, 256.09	Donation total through the Parks Reservation System for June and July, 2025.	Multiple Donors
Big Trees Program	\$25.00	Donation to the Big Trees Program.	Liz Juarez Parra
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in dedication to Tim Eggers.	Diana Eggers
Parks and Forestry	\$100.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Lexy Bledsoe
Parks and Forestry	\$200.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Cameron Jensen
Parks and Forestry	\$25.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund from the firewood donations at Maquoketa.	Sean Lucas
Wildlife Diversity	\$250.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Program.	Phillip Hascall
Parks and Forestry	\$250.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Michael Bricker
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$125.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in dedication to Jim Baker.	Jerry Renner
Wildlife Diversity	\$25.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Program.	Kyle Hansen

Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in dedication to Jack Tullis.	Ashley Curtiss
Parks and Forestry	\$25.00	Donation to the Parks and Forestry Fund.	Gregory Roll

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

6. Contract with Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc., **of** Hampton, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$187,507

Dates: August 15, 2025 to December 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): 40% Parks Infrastructure, 60% Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc.

Contract Purpose: Beeds Lake State Park and the Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc. are partnering to purchase and install new playground equipment to replace an existing playground. The existing playground equipment reached the end of its usable life and did not provide accessible play opportunities to the public.

The new playground will feature modern, inclusive equipment that meets current accessibility standards, along with an adjacent sidewalk and parking area to improve access. Playground facilities at Beeds Lake State Park are a valued amenity for families and children who visit the park.

Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc., a nonprofit organization established to promote and enhance Beeds Lake State Park and the Iowa State Parks system, is playing a key role in this effort. The equipment identified in this contract will be procured and installed using the professional services of a contracted vendor under a Department of Administrative Services Master Agreement.

Sherry L. Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***7. Contract with Brown's Tree Service LLC dba BTS Sanitation**

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Brown's Tree Service LLC dba BTS Sanitation of Fairfield, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: \$35,295.00

Dates: December 1, 2025 to November 30, 2027

Funding Source(s): General Fund

Contract Purpose: This contract provides services for year-round collection, hauling and disposal of garbage from Lake Darling State Park. Brown's Tree Service LLC, doing business as BTS Sanitation based in Fairfield, Iowa, is the current service provider. The company has consistently responded to service requests and fulfilled them in a timely manner.

Lake Darling State Park has five designated areas with dumpsters, one of which is a campground that generates a high volume of trash. During peak season, trash removal service is essential for general park users, renters of our day-use facilities, and campers. This service is vital for continuing to provide the quality and standards that park users have come to expect from Iowa State Parks while also allowing park staff to maintain their facilities and grounds.

Contract tasks include:

- Peak Season Collection (April - October): Weekly service to empty 9 dumpsters at all 5 locations (1 time per week).
- Extra Rec Use Collection (April - September): Weekly service to empty 9 dumpsters at all 5 locations (1 time per week).
- Off Season Collection (November - March): Weekly service to empty 3 dumpsters at 3 locations (1 time per week).
- On-call Collection: As requested.

Selection Process Summary: The Department issued a Request for Quote (RFQ) in 2023 by posting on the Department of Administrative Services Bid Opportunities website.

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included adhering to the tasks as laid out in the bullet points above, completion and timely submission of the RFQ Cost Proposal, as well as being a responsive and responsible bidder.

Proposal Due Date: 11/30/2023

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Brown's Tree Service LLC dba BTS Sanitation

Sherry L. Arntzen, Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

8. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with National Audubon Society

Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with National Audubon Society, of Roseville, Minnesota.

Agreement Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$240,874

Dates: August 15, 2025 to September 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): America the Beautiful Challenge grant

Agreement Purpose: Prairies and savannas in the Midwest continue to be lost due to agricultural and urban development and invasive species resulting in the degradation of ecosystem services, including preventing soil erosion, improving soil development, filtering and recharging groundwater, increasing streamflow and sequestering carbon. Improved management of these systems increases their drought resilience, soil carbon storage, nutrient reduction and water retention, which supports human communities across Iowa and the Midwest. The Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem hosts more than 70 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Since these species inhabit fragmented habitats across multiple states, it is crucial to conserve them through landscape-level, interjurisdictional and public-private efforts to conserve grasslands. The Midwest portion of the Tallgrass Ecosystem serves as a major migration corridor and summer breeding range for monarch butterflies, other insects, birds and bats, and increasing connectivity to enhance migration habitat within this critical corridor can only be accomplished through landscape-level coordinated efforts. Conservation efforts will be targeted in focal areas with concentrations of at-risk species and implement management practices, including invasive plant control, prescribed fire, planned grazing and prairie restoration that benefit these species. Also, by working strategically to restore grasslands and remove invasive trees and shrubs from existing prairies and oak savannas/woodlands, this project will re-establish connectivity and corridors to benefit these species. Additionally, enhancing and restoring these plant communities will enhance a range of ecosystem services, benefiting local citizens.

The purpose of this Agreement with National Audubon Society is to deliver technical assistance and coordinate grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement projects on private lands in northwestern Iowa through Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program. The Audubon Conservation Ranching Program supports producers and landowners in implementing regenerative grazing practices that restore grassland bird populations, water retention, and living soils while also increasing grazing system resiliency and market benefit for producers. This Agreement with National Audubon Society is one of four to support the larger project described above to restore and enhance grassland and savannas across western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The goals of this project are to reverse grassland bird population declines, improve ecosystem services provided by grasslands (e.g., improved water quality and water retention, improved soil quality), and enhance grazing systems resiliency and habitat quality on private lands.

Summary: DNR is receiving a subaward from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in to accomplish grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received a subaward from National and Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As stated above, this Agreement is one of four to support the larger project in Iowa. The four entities that DNR will enter into Agreements with to assist in supporting this project were specified in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission subaward narrative.

Recommendation: Approval of this Agreement to pass through funding is recommended in order to allow grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

9. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Iowa State University

Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with Iowa State University, of Ames, Iowa.

Agreement Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$325,987

Dates: August 15, 2025 to September 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): America the Beautiful Challenge grant

Agreement Purpose: Prairies and savannas in the Midwest continue to be lost due to agricultural and urban development and invasive species resulting in the degradation of ecosystem services, including preventing soil erosion, improving soil development, filtering and recharging groundwater, increasing streamflow and sequestering carbon. Improved management of these systems increases their drought resilience, soil carbon storage, nutrient reduction and water retention, which supports human communities across Iowa and the Midwest. The Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem hosts more than 70 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Since these species inhabit fragmented habitats across multiple states, it is crucial to conserve them through landscape-level, interjurisdictional and public-private efforts to conserve grasslands. The Midwest portion of the Tallgrass Ecosystem serves as a major migration corridor and summer breeding range for monarch butterflies, other insects, birds and bats, and increasing connectivity to enhance migration habitat within this critical corridor can only be accomplished through landscape-level coordinated efforts. Conservation efforts will be targeted in focal areas with concentrations of at-risk species and implement management practices, including invasive plant control, prescribed fire, planned grazing and prairie restoration that benefit these species. Also, by working strategically to restore grasslands and remove invasive trees and shrubs from existing prairies and oak savannas/woodlands, this project will re-establish connectivity and corridors to benefit these species. Additionally, enhancing and restoring these plant communities will enhance a range of ecosystem services, benefiting local citizens.

The purpose of this Agreement with Iowa State University (ISU) is to expand native seed production capacity of the Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center. ISU will survey public and private prairies in Iowa to identify local-ecotype seed sources for harvest and propagation. ISU students will also work with Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center staff to maintain production plots at the ISU Horticulture Research Farm as well as collect, harvest, and process seed from more than 100 conservative prairie plant seeds for propagation in production plots at the ISU Horticulture Research Farm. This Agreement with Iowa State University is one of four to support the larger project described above to restore and enhance grassland and savannas across western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The goals of this project are to reverse grassland bird population declines, improve ecosystem services provided by grasslands (e.g., improved water quality and water retention, improved soil quality), and enhance grazing systems resiliency and habitat quality on private lands.

Summary: DNR is receiving a subaward from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in to accomplish grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received a subaward from National and Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As stated above, this Agreement is one of four to support the larger project in Iowa. The four entities that DNR will enter into Agreements with to assist in supporting this project were specified in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission subaward narrative.

Recommendation: Approval of this Agreement to pass through funding is recommended in order to allow grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

10. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University

Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with Upper Iowa University, of Fayette, Iowa.

Agreement Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$115,000

Dates: August 15, 2025 to September 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): America the Beautiful Challenge grant

Agreement Purpose: Prairies and savannas in the Midwest continue to be lost due to agricultural and urban development and invasive species resulting in the degradation of ecosystem services, including preventing soil erosion, improving soil development, filtering and recharging groundwater, increasing streamflow and sequestering carbon. Improved management of these systems increases their drought resilience, soil carbon storage, nutrient reduction and water retention, which supports human communities across Iowa and the Midwest. The Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem hosts more than 70 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Since these species inhabit fragmented habitats across multiple states, it is crucial to conserve them through landscape-level, interjurisdictional and public-private efforts to conserve grasslands. The Midwest portion of the Tallgrass Ecosystem serves as a major migration corridor and summer breeding range for monarch butterflies, other insects, birds and bats, and increasing connectivity to enhance migration habitat within this critical corridor can only be accomplished through landscape-level coordinated efforts. Conservation efforts will be targeted in focal areas with concentrations of at-risk species and implement management practices, including invasive plant control, prescribed fire, planned grazing and prairie restoration that benefit these species. Also, by working strategically to restore grasslands and remove invasive trees and shrubs from existing prairies and oak savannas/woodlands, this project will re-establish connectivity and corridors to benefit these species. Additionally, enhancing and restoring these plant communities will enhance a range of ecosystem services, benefiting local citizens.

This purpose of this Agreement with Upper Iowa University (UIU) is to expand native seed production capacity of the Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center. UIU will collect and process seed from conservative prairie plant species for propagation and production in UIU's greenhouse and production plots. UIU students will also work with Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center staff to harvest and process seed from public and private prairies across Iowa for propagation at the Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center. This Agreement with UIU is one of four to support the larger project described above to restore and enhance grassland and savannas across western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The goals of this project are to reverse grassland bird population declines, improve ecosystem services provided by grasslands (e.g., improved water quality and water retention, improved soil quality), and enhance grazing systems resiliency and habitat quality on private lands.

Summary: DNR is receiving a subaward from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in to accomplish grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received a subaward from National and Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As stated above, this Agreement is one of four to support the larger project in Iowa. The four entities that DNR will enter into Agreements with to assist in supporting this project were specified in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission subaward narrative.

Recommendation: Approval of this Agreement to pass through funding is recommended in order to allow grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

11. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Wildlife Management Institute

Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with Wildlife Management Institute, of Cabot, Vermont.

Agreement Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$406,987

Dates: August 15, 2025 to September 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): America the Beautiful Challenge grant

Agreement Purpose: Prairies and savannas in the Midwest continue to be lost due to agricultural and urban development and invasive species resulting in the degradation of ecosystem services, including preventing soil erosion, improving soil development, filtering and recharging groundwater, increasing streamflow and sequestering carbon. Improved management of these systems increases their drought resilience, soil carbon storage, nutrient reduction and water retention, which supports human communities across Iowa and the Midwest. The Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem hosts more than 70 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Since these species inhabit fragmented habitats across multiple states, it is crucial to conserve them through landscape-level, interjurisdictional and public-private efforts to conserve grasslands. The Midwest portion of the Tallgrass Ecosystem serves as a major migration corridor and summer breeding range for monarch butterflies, other insects, birds and bats, and increasing connectivity to enhance migration habitat within this critical corridor can only be accomplished through landscape-level coordinated efforts. Conservation efforts will be targeted in focal areas with concentrations of at-risk species and implement management practices, including invasive plant control, prescribed fire, planned grazing and prairie restoration that benefit these species. Also, by working strategically to restore grasslands and remove invasive trees and shrubs from existing prairies and oak savannas/woodlands, this project will re-establish connectivity and corridors to benefit these species. Additionally, enhancing and restoring these plant communities will enhance a range of ecosystem services, benefiting local citizens.

The purpose of this Agreement with Wildlife Management Institute to organize grassland conservation technical assistance workshops for land managers, tribal staff, and private landowners, conservation coordination meetings among partner organizations, and develop and implement both an internal and external communication plan for grassland conservation in the Midwest. This Agreement with Wildlife Management Institute is one of four to support the larger project described above to restore and enhance grassland and savannas across western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The goals of this project are to reverse grassland bird population declines, improve ecosystem services provided by grasslands (e.g., improved water quality and water retention, improved soil quality), and enhance grazing systems resiliency and habitat quality on private lands.

Summary: DNR is receiving a subaward from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in to accomplish grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received a subaward from National and Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As stated above, this Agreement is one of four to support the larger project in Iowa. The four entities that DNR will enter into Agreements with to assist in supporting this project were specified in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission subaward narrative.

Recommendation: Approval of this Agreement to pass through funding is recommended in order to allow grassland and savanna restoration and enhancement in Iowa.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

12. Contract with The Ruffed Grouse Society

Commission approval is requested for a contract with The Ruffed Grouse Society, **of** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$387,836

Dates: August 14, 2025 to June 30, 2030

Funding Source(s): Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose: Under this five-year agreement, The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) will hire and employ a Focal Area Forester to work on activities that are in support of the DNR Wildlife Bureau's mission. The purpose of this agreement is to increase professional forestry capacity to increase the quantity and quality of forest management and restoration in Iowa.

The Ruffed Grouse Society is a non-profit entity that works with private landowners, forest products industrial partners, and government agencies to establish critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices. RGS has a history of partnering with the Iowa DNR on discrete habitat projects and providing technical advice for ruffed grouse and other resource management. As an international conservation organization, RGS frequently works with federal, state, and local government agencies through state grant programs, stewardship agreements, and collaborations to improve, enhance, and maintain critical wildlife habitat in the state.

Under this agreement, the Ruffed Grouse Society will hire and employ a Focal Area Forester that will provide boots-on-the-ground support for key activities including forest stand mapping, meeting with public land managers and private woodland owners to discuss forest management objectives and methods, forestry project plan development, reviewing work completed by contractors, and maintaining detailed records of work completed under the initiative. The work will center around a focal area, anchored by public land but inclusive of public and private ownership.

DNR wildlife management biologists and foresters are actively continuing the process of completing forest stewardship plans for all wildlife areas that have a forest component. These plans focus on creating wildlife habitat and healthy forests. They are developed with assistance from DNR District Foresters that provide timber stand inventory, harvest, and reforestation expertise. In certain focal areas, the DNR now has ambitious forest management plans that will require constant attention to ensure that the implementation stays on track. We developed this agreement in order to increase technical capacity to focus on forest project identification, design, and delivery in an identified focal landscape centered around public land with forest wildlife stewardship plans needing focused implementation.

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

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included contractor's professional experience, capacity to deliver the project, approach to implementation, hiring plan, alignment with Iowa priorities, and cost.

Proposal Due Date: June 13, 2025

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: The Ruffed Grouse Society

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***13. Contract with Ronald Kneip (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Ronald Kneip, of Le Mars, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$25,272.00

Dates: 8-15-2025 to 12-1-2033

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

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

Property Description: Ronald Kneip owns a 93.6-acre property in Monona County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 8-1-2025 to 5-31-2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***14. Contract with Bruce Bradshaw (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Bruce Bradshaw of Scottsdale, AZ.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$28,640.00

Dates: 9/1/2025 to 5/31/2030

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

Contract Purpose: This 5 year contract with Bruce Bradshaw will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Bruce Bradshaw owns a 274-acre property in Story County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025-5/31/2030.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***15. Contract with Cynthia Ferris (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Cynthia Ferris, of Onawa, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$106,615.00

Dates: August 15, 2025 to May 1, 2035

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

Contract Purpose: This 10-year contract with Cynthia Ferris will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Cynthia Ferris owns a 393-acre property in Monona County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from September 1, 2025 to May 31, 2035.

Land Management Tasks: The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks for this property. Tasks for this contract include herbicide application, prescribed fire, food plots, and brush management. The DNR will assist the contractor with land management planning, provide technical assistance, and evaluate the completion of the land management tasks.

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***16. Contract with Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust (Cristi Lewis) of Fallbrook, CA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$39,260.00

Dates: 8/15/2025 to 5/31/2025

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

Contract Purpose: This ten-year contract with Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Cristi Marie Lewis Revocable Trust owns a 195-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025-5/31/2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***17. Contract with Lonnie Stein (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Lonnie Stein of What Cheer, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$43,325.00

Dates: 9/1/2025 to 5/31/2035

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

Contract Purpose: This 10-year contract with Lonnie Stein will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Lonnie Stein owns a 153-acre property in Keokuk County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025-5/31/2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***18. Contract with Charles H Lindhorst North (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust (Charles Lindhorst) of Carter Lake, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$25,555.00

Dates: 8/1/2025 to 7/1/2033

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

Contract Purpose: This eight-year contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Charles H Lindhorst Trust owns a 137-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025 - 5/31/2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***19. Contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust South (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust (Charles Lindhorst) of Carter Lake, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$28,540.00

Dates: 8/1/2025 to 7/1/2035

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

Contract Purpose: This ten-year contract with Charles H Lindhorst Trust will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Charles H Lindhorst Trust owns a 125.2-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025-5/31/2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***20. Contract with Patricia Bouska (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Patricia Bouska of Protivin, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$42,561.20

Dates: 10/1/2025 to 10/1/2035

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

Contract Purpose: This ten-year contract with Patricia Bouska will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: Patricia Bouska owns a 156-acre property in Winneshiek County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2025-5/31/2035.

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

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

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

21. Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to 571 IAC Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grants.

Grant Purpose: In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. All revenue derived from the sale of habitat stamps are used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, leasing of land, obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas. Beginning in 2019, in accordance with Iowa Code 483A.3, a portion of the revenues resulting from the increase in wildlife stamp fees are restricted from use on land acquisition projects. Grant applicants must provide at least 25% cost share for all projects. By Iowa Code, grant applications are reviewed twice a year.

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Grant Funding Available: \$654,273 (\$182,482 restricted)

Summary of Selection Process: As directed by criteria under 571 IAC Chapter 23, the grant review and selection committee met 6/26/2025 to evaluate and score applications and provide recommendations for the grant awards.

Selection Committee Members: The review and selection committee consists of five members:

- County Conservation Boards (4)
- DNR Staff (1)

Number of Applications Received: 3 (2 additions to new/existing Wildlife Areas and 1 Habitat Development project)

Recommendations: The committee recommends offering full funding to the Hamilton CCB – Metcalf Wildlife Management Area with the remaining \$15,491.00 being offered to the Savage Acquisition; however, Poweshiek CCB has declined the partial funding. Additionally, the committee recommends offering full funding to the Metcalf Wildlife Management Area development project. The minimum score for eligible projects is 45. Any unused funds will carry forward for use in future projects.

Ranked by Score	Percent Match	Grant Applicant (County)	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
51.8	56%	Hamilton	<i>Metcalf Wildlife Management Area</i> – This unique area lies along 1.7 miles of the Boone River and consists of 112-acres, of which 86.6-acres will be restored to upland and wetland habitat, 2 acres are in CRP and 23.4 acres of native timber along the Boone River. This project also includes an 86-acre permanent public use easement on the adjacent property resulting in a total of 198-acres of public access. The various habitat types included in the project will benefit a wide variety of game and nongame wildlife species.	\$456,300.00	\$456,300.00
45	45%	Poweshiek	<i>Savage Acquisition</i> – This 28-acre project would provide expanded public recreational opportunities at Millgrove Wildlife Area (currently 620 acres) along the North Skunk River corridor. The property offers habitat restoration opportunities for wildlife while additionally buffering existing wetlands in the floodplain.	\$82,500.00	-0-
49.6	58%	Hamilton	<i>Metcalf Wildlife Management Area</i> — This project would restore wetland basins on the property as well as plant a diverse mix of prairie grasses, sedges, and forbs on the remaining acres (86 ac total). Once fully restored, the Metcalf property	\$50,031.00	\$50,031.00

			will be an excellent example of mixed natural habitats along the ecologically significant Boone River including prairie (dry mesic and wet mesic), wetland, and riparian forest.		
Total				\$588,831.00	\$506,331.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 August 14, 2025

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

Information Item

22. 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
7/24/2025	25-06-58-01	Odessa Wildlife Management Area	Louisa	This project consists of placing approximately 492 tons of Class E riprap, with 8-inches of 1A gradation #3 subbase, along a levee embankment and site restoration.	\$55,000.00	\$39,490.00 \$39,889.00 \$47,240.00 \$48,431.96 \$58,056.00 \$89,810.28

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

23. Construction Item

23.1 Triboji Dock Management Area Shoreline Repair & Stabilization – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

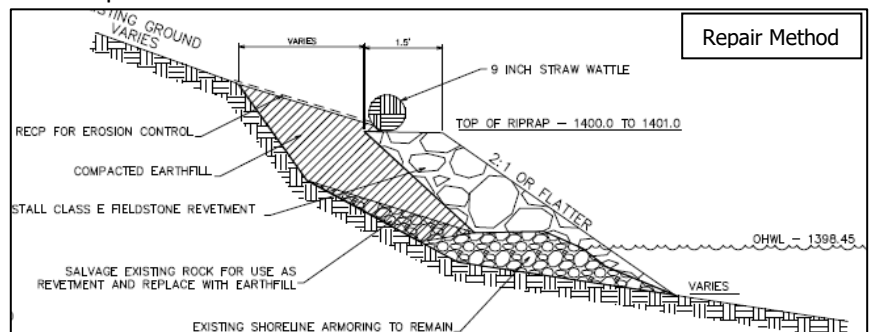
Project Summary: In the summer of 2024 the Iowa Great Lakes Region received heavy precipitation that raised the water level of the lakes causing erosion and bank collapses along the shorelines. The Triboji Dock Management Area (DMA), located just south of the Triboji boat ramp, was one of the DNR owned public areas that this damage occurred. About 400' of West Okoboji Lake Shoreline was damaged by the high water and then subsequent wave action. This project is being done separate of the upcoming larger Great Lakes Shoreline Repair project due to this being publicly owned and accessible from land. The larger future project will be mostly completed with barge access and that is the reason the projects are being contracted separately.

This project will repair the bank erosion by refilling the eroded areas with soil and then installing rock revetment to prevent future erosion. An additional 200' of shoreline beyond the damaged area will also receive additional armoring so that the entire DMA area is stabilized for the next high water event.

In addition to the shoreline repair, 10 Ash trees will be removed from the DMA as they are showing signs of stress and dying from Ash borer infestation and/or need to be remove to complete the repairs.



Engineering Project #: 25-01-30-12
Cost Estimate: \$58,000.00
Operating Bureau: Parks
Funding Source: 100% Lakes Restoration
Bid Letting Date: 7/24/2025
Construction Completion Date: 12/1/2025
Number of Bids Received: 8



Bidders

Laubes Backhoe and Hauling, LLC	Greene, IA	\$63,871.00
Sioux Valley Construction	Rock Valley, IA	\$65,755.00
Three Oaks Construction Inc	N Sioux City, SD	\$69,850.00
Country Landscapes, Inc	Ames, IA	\$90,000.00
Diamond Concrete & Construction, Inc	Spirit Lake, IA	\$106,167.50
MLS Landscape & Design, Inc	Granville, IA	\$130,782.19
Schoelerman Contracting, LLC	Royal, IA	\$135,600.00
Oleson Landscape	Arcadia, IA	\$160,821.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Laubes Backhoe & Hauling, LLC.

23.2 Steamboat Rock Dam Mitigation – Hardin County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Steamboat Rock Dam is located across the Iowa River, on the west side of the town of Steamboat Rock. The dam was originally constructed of wood planks and rock in 1855 to provide power to a sawmill. This dam was replaced with a concrete structure in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, then rebuilt again to its current design in 1941. The existing structure presents a hazard to boaters and a barrier to fish passage.

This project will remove the existing concrete dam in four stages, in order to control downstream sediment release. A series of rock and boulder structures will be constructed upstream of the dam and the river banks will be reshaped and vegetated to stabilize the river channel. A gravel parking lot and a new canoe/kayak access will be constructed on the bank adjacent to the county campground. Another canoe/kayak access will be constructed adjacent to the county bridge.

Engineering Project #: 23-02-42-01

Cost Estimate: \$1,391,000

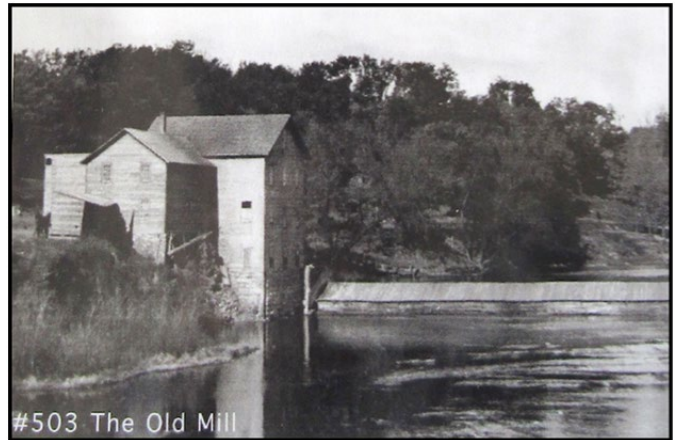
Operating Bureau: River Programs

Funding Source: 22% MFT 22% Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, 55% USFWS Fish Passage grant

Bid Letting Date: 07/24/2025

Construction Completion Date: 12/31/2028

Number of Bids Received: 7



Bidders

Three Oaks Construction, Inc.	North Sioux City, SD	\$1,089,646.34
Shift General Contracting	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$1,092,589.00
Gehrke, Inc.	Eldora, IA	\$1,163,668.30
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$1,345,433.00
Peterson Contractors, Inc.	Reinbeck, IA	\$1,608,609.95
H & H Construction & Development	Miles, IA	\$1,966,970.85
HGS, LLC	Grimes, IA	\$2,211,663.28

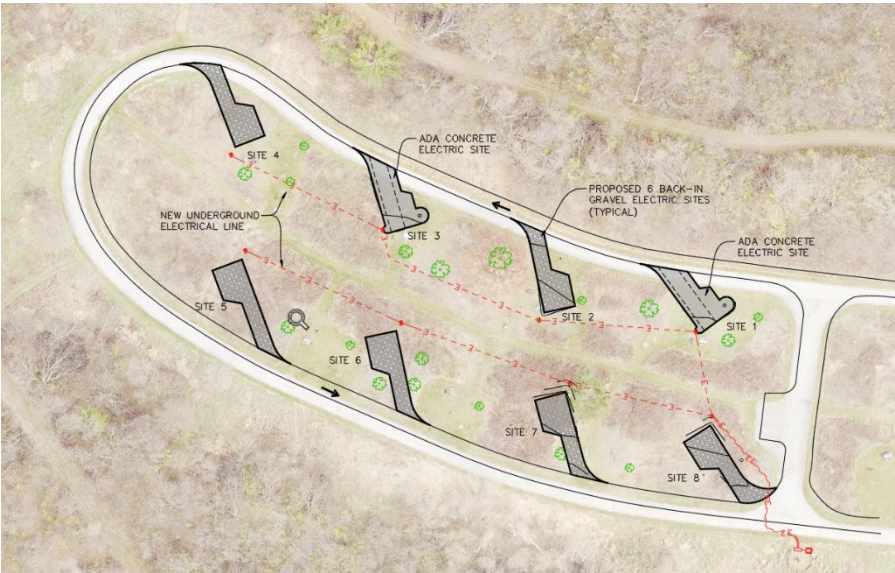
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Three Oaks Construction, Inc.

23.3 Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, Campground Improvements – Linn County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids. The area includes a 410-acre lake and more than 1500 acres of public land with many outdoor recreation activities available. The existing campground has 76 sites with 54 of those having electric outposts. The sanitary dump station is 40-years old and in need of replacement.

This project will convert eight tent sites in the northerly portion of the campground to electric including two concrete ADA accessible campsites. The deteriorated dump station will be completely removed and replaced to meet current ADA standards. A donation in the amount of \$131,000 is funding the majority of the improvements.



Engineering Project #: 24-06-57-01

Cost Estimate: \$190,000

Operating Bureau: Parks

Funding Source: Donation \$131,000, Parks Infrastructure \$36,000, Special Appropriations \$25,000

Bid Letting Date: 7/24/2025

Construction Completion Date: 4/10/2026

Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC	Cascade, IA	\$192,151.85
Midwest Concrete Inc	Peosta, IA	\$328,062.00
Boomerang Corp of Iowa	Anamosa, IA	\$342,873.60
Rathje Construction Co	Marion, IA	\$358,124.87

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC.

23.4 Lake Keomah State Park, Spillway Floor Concrete – Mahaska County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Lake Keomah dam and spillway were originally constructed in 1935 to create an 82-acre lake. The original spillway was replaced in 1966. This spillway had patch work done on the floor and new wall sections poured in 1992. The 1992 walls had surface repairs done earlier this year. The floor has also deteriorated and needs repairs.

After a sounding evaluation of the floor, it was discovered that over 50% of the surface area has become delaminated. This project will construct a new 6" concrete overlay over the existing spillway. The existing surface will be cleaned with high pressure air and rebar dowel pins will be inserted to tie old to new concrete. The overlay will be reinforced and expansion joint will be installed along the spillway walls.

Engineering Project #: 20-05-62-07

Cost Estimate: \$130,000

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 07/24/2025

Construction Completion Date: 11/30/2025

Number of Bids Received: 10



Bidders

MODCON, Inc.	Clive, IA	\$76,720.00
Caliber Concrete, LLC	Adair, IA	\$91,186.88
TK Concrete, Inc	Pella, IA	\$105,980.00
Jasper Construction Services	Newton, IA	\$108,982.00
Portland Construction Company	Ankeny, IA	\$112,052.00
McGee Concrete, LLC	Russell, IA	\$124,229.60
Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC	Washington, IA	\$137,240.00
Construction Leaders Co, LLC	Urbandale, IA	\$146,588.00
Cramer and Associates, Inc.	Grimes, IA	\$203,756.00
Godbersen-Smith Construction Co.	Ida Grove, IA	\$217,724.00

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

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

24. Public Land Management Projects

***24.1 Chapter 17 Lease — Dino Gingerich – Clayton County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 127-N with Dino Gingerich.

Location: The leased premises consists of an area with 24 feet of frontage and 8 feet of depth in Lot 13 of Block 18 of James McGregor Jr's Addition to the Town of McGregor in Clayton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site contains an 8' x 24' portion of a garage for storage.

Lease History: The location has previously been under lease with a previous tenant since 2013.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$159.44. The term of the lease will be five years

***24.2 Permanent Fish Barrier Easement – Wright County – Theresa McGivern**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to accept a donation of permanent easement from Theresa McGivern, to the DNR, as part of a velocity tube fish barrier project in Wright County, Iowa

Project Description: This donated easement is being secured as part of the preliminary development stage for the installation of a velocity tube. The velocity tube will limit the ability for fish to swim from the Iowa River into Elm Lake. This easement includes a temporary construction easement for the installation of the velocity tube. The permanent easement is for maintenance around the area of the velocity tube and for permanent access to the velocity tube for maintenance and clean out.

This easement is for 2.2 acres.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025

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

Decision Item

25. Public Land Acquisition Projects

25.1 Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area, Tama County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Tama County adjacent to Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage:122 acres

Appraised Price: \$281,000.00

DNR Purchase Price: \$196,000.00

Property Description: This property is located in southeast Tama County about 0.5 miles west of Chelsea. The property will connect two separate parcels of US Fish and Wildlife Service property (managed by Iowa DNR), creating a continuous 9 mile corridor along the Iowa River that includes the Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area (USFWS Owned) and Otter Creek Marsh (State Owned Land). This parcel is split by 360th Street. The majority of this property was recently enrolled in the USDA Wetland Reserve Easement Program. Access is provided through 360th Street.

Purpose: This property is located within the Iowa River Corridor Bird Conservation Area. This acquisition will add to the important waterfowl and bird habitat in this area and connect two blocks of habitat. The property will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

This is one of two tracts proposed to be purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The two tracts were purchased by INHF as one parcel. The Department seeks to purchase this property as two parcels – a South and a North Tract - in order to maximize the amount of available match for future NAWCA grant opportunities.

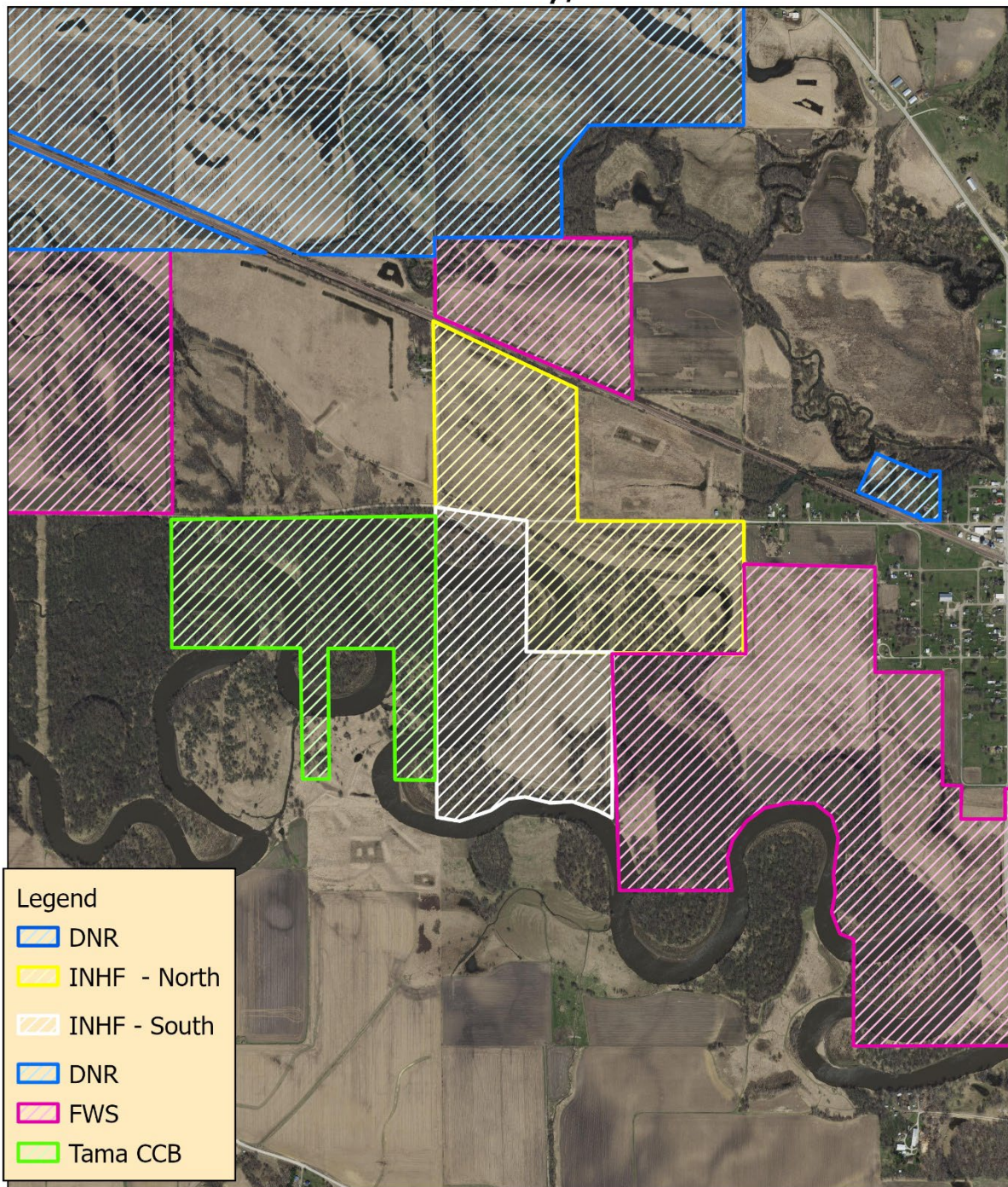
The DNR received a generous donation from the Diana Thomas Estate. She left the DNR her home and a small acreage outside of Marshalltown. The estate executor worked to sell the properties privately with the proceeds being donated to the DNR. Working with the estate executor, we identified the parameters of how the donation should be used. These two tracts fit the donor's wishes.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$41,681 Habitat Stamp, \$154,319 Estate of Dianne Thomas

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This parcel will remain on the Tama County property tax rolls.

Realty Services / Iowa River Corridor WMA Tama County/ INHF



25.2 Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area, Tama County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Tama County adjacent to the Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Management Area.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 93 acres

Appraised Price: \$324,000.00

DNR Purchase Price: \$324,000.00

Property Description: This property is located in southeast Tama County about 0.5 miles west of Chelsea. The property will connect two separate parcels of US Fish and Wildlife Service property (managed by Iowa DNR), creating a continuous 9 mile corridor along the Iowa River that includes the Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Area (USFWS Owned) and Otter Creek Marsh (State Owned Land). This parcel is split by 360th Street. The majority of this property was recently enrolled in the USDA Wetland Reserve Easement Program. Access is provided through 360th Street.

Purpose: This property is located within the Iowa River Corridor Bird Conservation Area. This acquisition will add to the important waterfowl and bird habitat in this area and connect two blocks of habitat. The property will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

This is one of two tracts proposed to be purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The two tracts were purchased by INHF as one parcel. The Department seeks to purchase this property as two parcels – a South and a North Tract - in order to maximize the amount of available match for future NAWCA grant opportunities.

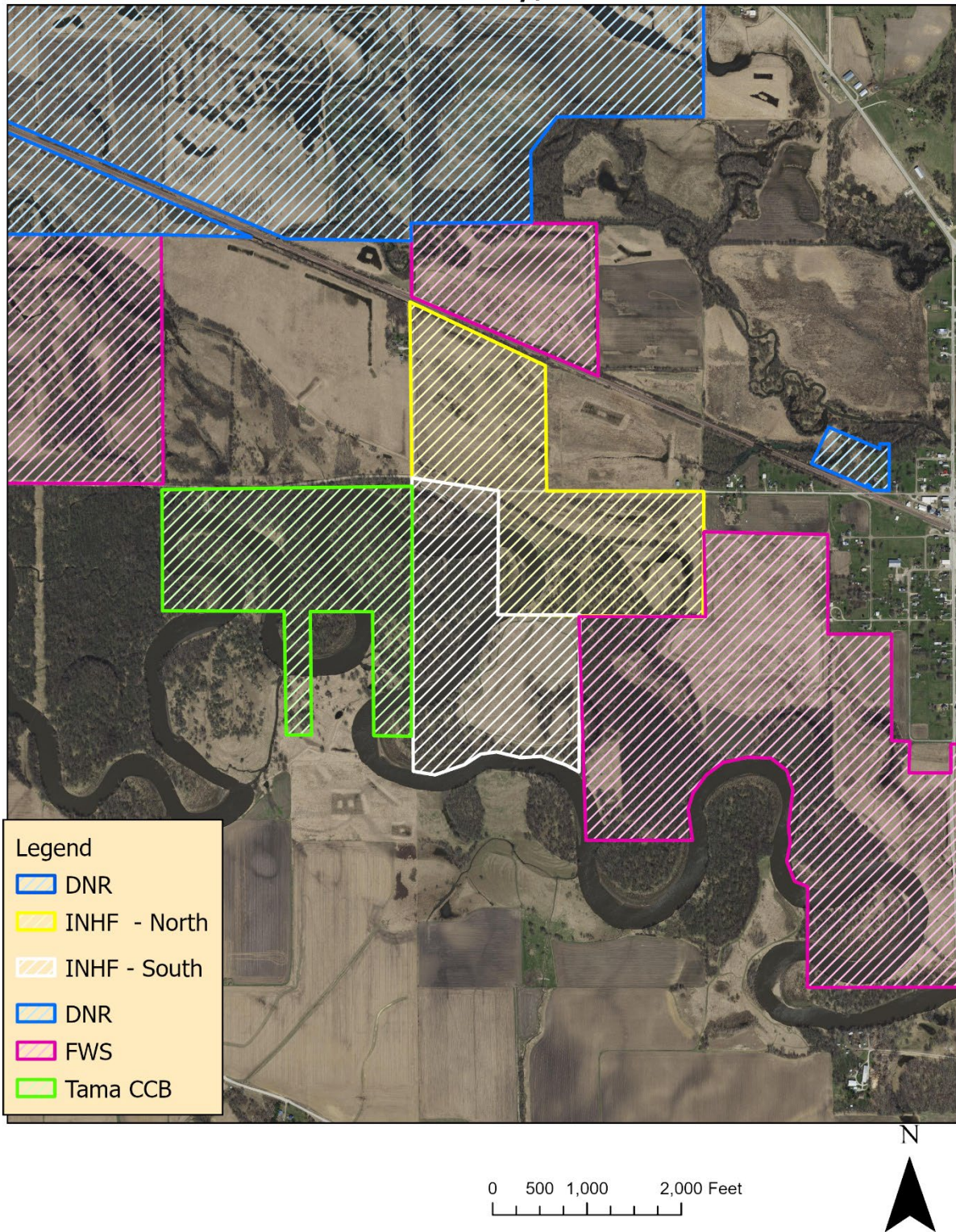
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DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$324,000 Estate of Dianne Thomas

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

Realty Services / Iowa River Corridor WMA Tama County/ INHF



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
08/14/2025

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

Decision Item

26. Contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Springbrook Geotech and Design)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. of West Des Moines, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$51,500.00

Dates: August 14, 2025 to August 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Contract Background: The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Engineering services from a qualified engineering consulting firm for a geotechnical investigation, survey, and design to repair a roadway failure that is impacting the roadway east of the Lake at the Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County.

Contract Purpose: For Phase 1 of this contract, Shive-Hattery, Inc. will provide a certified Geotechnical Investigative Report (GIR) of the site, which will include an assessment of slope stability, soil testing results, summary of standard test methods used, possible cause of roadway failure, risk of future slides at the site; and, short (~5 years) and long (>15 years) term recommendations.

At the sole discretion of the Department, the Department will make a determination on moving forward with additional services related to implementation of Phase 2, developing roadway slope stabilization construction plans and specifications that efficiently stabilize the damage. Hourly rates provided by Shive-Hattery, Inc. will be used as a basis for contracting any additional design and oversight work to be completed as a part of Phase 2.

As part of Phase 2, Shive-Hattery, Inc. will prepare final design in accordance with Iowa Department of Transportation specifications, including final plans and cost estimates. Shive-Hattery, Inc. will be responsible for coordinating the process with Department staff, obtain all permits, perform needed survey's, perform any needed additional geotechnical services, assist the Department with bid letting, conduct an onsite preconstruction meeting, perform needed materials testing during construction, and will be retained during construction for onsite inspection assistance at critical construction milestones. The Department will facilitate the construction bidding/contracting 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: June 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: 1

Recommendation: Shive-Hattery, Inc.

Consultant	Location (City, State)	Total Score (100 pts)	Cost
Shive-Hattery, Inc.	West Des Moines, IA	100	\$51,500.00

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 14, 2025