

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**October 9, 2025**

**Video Teleconference  
and  
Cobblestone Inn & Suites, Marquette, IA**

**Approved by the Commission November 13, 2025**

RECORD COPY	
File Name	Admin 01-05
Sender's Initials	ap

## Table of Contents

Call To Order .....	2
Commissioners Present .....	2
Commissioners Absent.....	2
Public Comment.....	2
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda .....	2
Approved as Amended .....	2
Approval of Minutes .....	2
Approved as Presented .....	2
Director's Remarks.....	3
Division Administrator's Remarks.....	3
Contract with Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District (IGLSD) .....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
FY 2027 Budget Request .....	3
Information.....	3
Small Construction Projects: Dike Repair at Crystal Hills WMA; Gate Repair at Pilot Knob State Park; Water Control Structure Replacement at Rathbun Wildlife Unit.....	3
Information.....	3
Large Construction Projects-Red Haw State Park, Road Maintenance-Lucas County.....	3
Approved as Presented .....	4
Large Construction Projects-Clear Lake State Park, Restroom and Shower Building-Cerro Gordo County .....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
Chapter 17 Lease-Koch Fertilizer Wever LLC, and Chapter 17 Lease-Zen-Noh American Holdings Corporation.....	4
Items Tabled .....	4
Contract with Iowa State University (ISU)-Study Oxygen and Temperature Dynamics in Reservoirs; Management REcommendations of Future Restoration Projects .....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
General Discussion .....	4
Adjourn .....	5
Adjourned.....	5

## 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 October 9, 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

- Chair Prickett invited Kelli Boylen with the Yellow River State Forest Friends Group to speak to the Commission regarding their investment into Yellow River including, but not limited to, the development of an ADA accessible trout fishing area in Little Paint, solar array, soil bank improvements, and printed maps.
- Larry Stone expressed concerns regarding the DNR budget, advocating for an increase in funding. Mr. Stone also expressed his opinion on state laws that he would like to see changed, referencing proximity of agricultural operations near Iowa's streams.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- \*5. Contract with J.D. Weed, Inc.-Waste Management Services at Lake of Three Fires State Park
- \*7. Contract with Eric Brenden (IHAP)
- \*9. Timber Sale Contract with Brad Anthony Logging, LLC for White Pine Hollow State Preserve
- \*12. Public Land Management Projects (12.1-12.4)

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to removed items 12.1 and 12.2 from the consent agenda. Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the removal of items 12.1 and 12.2. Seconded by Laura Kudej.*

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

APPROVED AS AMENDED

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes 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

**DIRECTOR'S REMARKS**

- Director Lyon Director thanked staff for the tour on October 7<sup>th</sup> and shared her gratitude for the natural resources in the area.
- Commissioner Buck expressed his appreciation of the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp event.

**DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS**

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth also shared his gratitude for the tour on October 7<sup>th</sup>. DA Hildreth thanked staff for their assistance and complimented the resource.
- DA Hildreth also made mention of the hunting and fishing opportunities currently underway in Iowa.

**CONTRACT WITH IOWA GREAT LAKES SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT (IGLSD)**

Sherry Arntzen requested Commission approval for a contract with the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District for sewer line improvements to Templar State Recreation Area.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

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

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

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**FY 2027 BUDGET REQUEST**

Jennifer Nelson presented the DNR's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request, which is a status quo budget, as an information item to the Commission. Ms. Nelson provided background information on various fund accounts, including the general fund. Ms. Nelson, Director Lyon, and General Counsel McIntosh responded to several Commissioner questions regarding the sustainability of the budget, the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, and the rule change that removed the annual budget request as an action item before the Commission.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments-None**

**INFORMATION**

**SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: DIKE REPAIR AT CRYSTAL HILLS WMA; GATE REPAIR AT PILOT KNOB STATE PARK; WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT AT RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT**

Travis Baker presented the small construction projects to the Commission as an information item.

**INFORMATION**

**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS-RED HAW STATE PARK, ROAD MAINTENANCE-LUCAS COUNTY**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a road maintenance project in Red Haw State Park.

**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
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**LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS-CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK, RESTROOM AND SHOWER BUILDING-CERRO GORDO COUNTY**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the construction of a restroom and shower building at Clear Lake State Park.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

<i>Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
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APPROVED AS PRESENTED
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**CHAPTER 17 LEASE-KOCH FERTILIZER WEVER LLC, AND CHAPTER 17 LEASE-ZEN-NOH AMERICAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION**

Travis Baker requested commission approval for a lease with Koch Fertilizer Wever LLC. Commissioners discussed lease fees and interest in the process for adjusting lease fees in the future. Commissioners also discussed risks of the nature of business under the lease in relationship to the nearby resource. Miss McIntosh responded to questions regarding the process of updating the fee formula in Rule. Commissioners decided to table the agenda item, along with 12.2, a lease with Zen-Noh American Holdings Corporation.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

<i>Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz. A follow up motion was made by Tammi Kircher to table the agenda items until the November 2025 Commission meeting until a representative from the Attorney General's office is present to answer additional questions. Seconded by Laura Kudej.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote to table the agenda item by saying aye. Collin Brecher-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, Laura Kudej-aye, Bill Moritz-aye, KR Buck-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.</i>
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ITEMS TABLED
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**CONTRACT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY (ISU)-STUDY OXYGEN AND TEMPERATURE DYNAMICS IN RESERVOIRS; MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF FUTURE RESTORATION PROJECTS**

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with ISU to study oxygen and temperature dynamics in reservoirs. Ms. Balmer responded to questions regarding the budget outline within the contract.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

<i>Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
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APPROVED AS PRESENTED
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**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioners shared their recent outdoor experiences and thanked staff for the tour of Pikes Peak State Park and Yellow River State Forest. Several Commissioners commented on the local resources. Commissioner Kircher requested additional tours focusing on each quadrant of the state for Commissioners. Commissioner Moritz provided an update on the monarch migration based on the Monarch Watch website.

**ADJOURN**

*Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:45 am on October 9, 2025.*

**ADJOURNED**

# Agenda

## Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, October 9, 2025

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

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

Cobblestone Inn & Suites Meeting Room

100 North Street, Marquette, IA, 52158

### Thursday, October 9, 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@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov) up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting. NRC Commissioners will be attending an option tour of Pikes Peak State Park and Yellow River State Forest on October 8th. Members of the public wishing to attend the tour should register with Alicia Plathe no later than 4:00pm on Monday, October 6.

1.	Approval of Agenda Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *5. Contract with J.D. Weed, Inc.-Waste Management Services at Lake of Three Fires State Park *7. Contract with Eric Brenden (IHAP) *9. Timber Sale Contract with Brad Anthony Logging, LLC for White Pine Hollow State Preserve *12. Public Land Management Projects (12.1-12.4)	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 J.D. Weed, Inc.-Waste Management Services at Lake of Three Fires State Park	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
6.	Contract with Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District (IGLSD)	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*7.	Contract with Eric Brenden (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	FY 2027 Budget Request	Information	Jennifer Nelson
*9.	Timber Sale Contract with Brad Anthony Logging, LLC for White Pine Hollow State Preserve	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
10.	Small Construction Projects: Dike Repair at Crystal Hills WMA; Gate Repair at Pilot Knob State Park; Water Control Structure Replacement at Rathbun Wildlife Unit	Information	Travis Baker
11.	Large Construction Projects 11.1 Red Haw State Park, Road Maintenance - Lucas County 11.2 Clear Lake State Park, Restroom and Shower Building – Cerro Gordo County	Decision	Travis Baker
*12.	Public Land Management Projects 12.1 Chapter 17 Lease — Koch Fertilizer Wever LLC – Lee County 12.2 Chapter 17 Lease - Zen-Noh American Holdings Corporation – Des Moines County 12.3 Easement Conveyance – Interstate Power and Lights Company - Union County 12.4 Buffalo Shores Access– Management Agreement - Scott CCB	Decision	Travis Baker
13.	Contract with Iowa State University (ISU) -Study Oxygen and Temperature Dynamics in Reservoirs; Management Recommendations for Future Restoration Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
14.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
● Thursday, November 13, Des Moines			

- Thursday, December 11, 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](mailto: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**

**September 11 2025**

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

**Approved by the Commission TBD**

RECORD COPY	
File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
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## Table of Contents

Call To Order .....	2
Commissioners Present .....	2
Commissioners Absent.....	2
Public Comment.....	2
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda .....	2
Approved as Presented .....	2
Approval of Minutes .....	2
Approved as Presented .....	3
Director's Remarks.....	3
Division Administrator's Remarks.....	3
Contract with Friends of Beeds Lake State Park, Inc. ....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Approved as Presented .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting"-Notice of Intended Action.....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
Chapter 106, "Deer hunting" -Notice of Intended Action .....	3
Approved as Presented .....	3
Chapter 7, "Rules of Practice in Contested Cases,"; Chapter 8, "Contracts for Services and Public Improvements"; and Chapter 11, "Waivers from Administrative Rules"-Notice of Intended Action.....	3
Approved as Presented .....	4
Chapter 33, "Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: County, City, Private Open Spaces and Conservation Education Grant Programs-Competitive Grant Program Selection Criteria" .....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
Small Construction Projects .....	4
Information.....	4
Iowa Great Lakes, Shoreline Stabilization.....	4
Approved as Presented .....	4
Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Knapp Creek Dike Repairs-Johnson County.....	4
Approved as Presented .....	5
Public Land Acquisition Project-Rathbun WMA, Lucas County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation .....	5
Approved as Presented .....	5
Public Land Acquisition Project-Rathbun WMA, Lucas County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation .....	5
Approved as Presented .....	5
Contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc.-Design Stormwater and Beach Treatment options at Big Creek and Brushy Creek State Parks .....	5
Approved as Presented .....	5
License Fee Discussion .....	5
The Commission held a discussion regarding the possibility of raising license fees. They discussed next steps, reporting deadlines, and the idea of broadening the user pay model beyond hunters, anglers and trappers to other outdoor enthusiasts. Commissioners discussed recommending a 5% increase across the board for license fees and requested that a license fee discussion be placed on the NRC agenda at least once annually at the June or July Commission meeting. Commissioners encouraged the Department to increase efforts on marketing the Habitat Stamp.....	5
Information.....	6
General Discussion.....	6
Adjourn .....	6
Adjourned.....	6

## 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 September 11, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees. Chair Prickett opened up the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance: License Fee Increase  
Jim Wooly, Pheasants Forever: License Fee Increase  
William Smith: License Fee Increase  
Tomas Heidenwirth: License Fee Increase  
Josh Divan: License Fee Increase

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- \*5. Donations
- \*8. Contract with Willey (IHAP)
- \*9. Contract Amendment 4 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc.-Seedling Delivery
- \*10. Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, LLC for Shimek State Forest
- \*11. Timber Sale Contract with Nisley Woodwork, LLC for Stephens State Forest
- \*12. Timber Sale Contract with Meister Log and Lumber Co. for Yellow River State Forest
- \*14. Contract Amendment-1 with Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC- Print and Distribution of Iowa Fishing Regulations
- \*15. Contract Amendment- 24CRDPFPETHACK-0005 A01 with The Trash Man, LLC. -Brushy Creek Waste Management Services
- \*19. Public Land Management Project- Boundary Correction, Monona County – Loess Hills State Forest

*Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.*

*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 KR Buck to approve the August 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.*

*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 provided an overview of the DNR presence at the 2025 Iowa State Fair, thanking staff for all of their efforts. Director Lyon reported that both visitors and the State Fair Board were complimentary of the new display in the DNR building.
- Director Lyon announced that REAP Congress will be held in the Summer of 2026 instead of the typical January timeframe.

**DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS**

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth gave an update on the derecho that swept through parts of Iowa on July 29<sup>th</sup>, noting closures and damages assessed on DNR managed property.
- DA Hildreth highlighted the upcoming Iowa State Parks Campground Host Picnic to be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- DA Hildreth invited Commissioners and the public to participate in the Public Lands Day activities to be held throughout the state on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The DNR celebrates by hosting a variety of volunteer opportunities.
- DA Hildreth provided several other highlights including the pheasant season outlook, an update on EHD, information on ordering forestry seedlings from the State Forest Nursery, and that a Pallid Sturgeon was reported in the Des Moines River.
- DA Hildreth recognized DNR employee Mark Flammang for his recent induction into the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Management Section Hall of Excellence.
- DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by sharing the passing of DNR employee, Jeff Glaw.

**CHAPTER 108, "WILD FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING"-NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 108.

**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

**CHAPTER 106, "DEER HUNTING" -NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 106.

**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

**CHAPTER 7, "RULES OF PRACTICE IN CONTESTED CASES,"; CHAPTER 8, "CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS"; AND CHAPTER 11, "WAIVERS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES"-NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Tamara McIntosh requested Commission approval for the Notice of Intended Action for Chapters 7, 8 and 11.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

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

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

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**CHAPTER 33, “RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM: COUNTY, CITY, PRIVATE OPEN SPACES AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS-COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA”**

Michelle Wilson requested Commission approval for grant selection for the REAP Grants.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

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

*The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. Bill Moritz, abstained due to role at the Wildlife Management Institute. There were no nay votes.*

**APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Travis Baker presented the road repair at Backbone State Park and the road culvert replacement at Hawkeye Wildlife Unit as small construction projects to the Commission.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

**INFORMATION**

**IOWA GREAT LAKES, SHORELINE STABILIZATION**

Travis Baker requested commission approval for a shoreline stabilization project at the Iowa Great Lakes.

**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**

**HAWKEYE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KNAPP CREEK DIKE REPAIRS-JOHNSON COUNTY**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for construction project to repair the dike at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.

**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

#### **PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT-RATHBUN WMA, LUCAS COUNTY-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to acquire a tract of land from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation that is located near the Rathbun Wildlife Management Area.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

*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 item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.*

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

#### **PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT-RATHBUN WMA, LUCAS COUNTY-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to acquire a second tract of land from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation that is located near the Rathbun Wildlife Management Area.

**Public Comments – None**

**Written Comments – None**

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

#### **CONTRACT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY, INC.-DESIGN STORMWATER AND BEACH TREATMENT OPTIONS AT BIG CREEK AND BRUSHY CREEK STATE PARKS**

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for design work for stormwater and beach treatment options at Big Creek and Brushy Creek State Parks.

**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 requesting a roll call vote. There were no nay votes.*

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

#### **LICENSE FEE DISCUSSION**

The Commission held a discussion regarding the possibility of raising license fees. They discussed next steps, reporting deadlines, and the idea of broadening the user pay model beyond hunters, anglers and trappers to other outdoor enthusiasts. Commissioners discussed recommending a 5% increase across the board for license fees and requested that a license fee discussion be placed on the NRC agenda at least once annually at the June or July Commission meeting. Commissioners encouraged the Department to increase efforts on marketing the Habitat Stamp.

INFORMATION
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**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioners shared their recent outdoor experiences and upcoming Fall activities.

**ADJOURN**

*Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:35 am on September 11, 2025.*

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

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

**\*5. Contract Amendment- 22CRDPBDSLEE-0001 A03 with J.D. Weed, Inc.**

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Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with J.D. Weed, Inc., of Bedford, IA.

**Amendment-3 Terms:**

**Amendment Amount:** \$9,618.00

**Amendment Dates:** October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027

**Funding Source(s):** General Fund

**Amendment Purpose:** The purpose is to extend the current contract for an additional two years to provide year-round collection, hauling, and disposal of garbage from Lake of Three Fires State Park. J.D. Weed, Inc., located in Bedford, Iowa, is the current service provider and has consistently responded to service requests and fulfilled them in a timely manner.

**Original Contract Purpose:** To provide year-round collection, hauling and disposal of garbage from 11 dumpster locations in 7 areas at Lake of Three Fires State Park. 2 of those areas are at campgrounds that generate a lot of trash. The other areas are popular beach, picnic and horse areas. 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:

- May through September Service to empty 11 dumpsters at all 7 locations 2 times per week.
- October through April Service to empty 2 dumpsters at the shop and cabins 1 time per week.
- On-call services, providing extra pick-ups in case of an emergency.

**Original Selection Process:** The Department solicited proposals by publishing a Request for Quote (RFQ) through the Department of Administrative Services Bid Opportunities website and received one bid. J.D. Weed, Inc., was identified as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and was awarded the contract.

**Contract History:**

**Original Contract Terms:** Amount \$9,018.00; Timeframe: 10/2021 to 9/2023; Purpose: Garbage collection and disposal.

**Amendment-1 Terms:** Amount: \$9,018.00; Timeframe: 10/2023 to 9/2025; Purpose: Extend contract two years.

**Amendment-2 Terms:** Amount: No change from Amendment 1; Timeframe: 10/2023 to 9/2025; Purpose: Modify invoicing procedures.

**Amendment-3 Terms:** Amount: \$9,618.00; Timeframe: 10/2025 to 9/2027; Purpose: Extend contract two years.

Sherry L. Arntzen, Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 9, 2025

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

**Decision Item**

**6. Contract with Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District (IGLSD)**

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**Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District, of Milford, IA.**

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$200,000

**Dates:** October 15, 2025 to October 31, 2026

**Funding Source(s):** Parks Infrastructure

**Contract Purpose:**

IGLSD manages the sanitary sewer district in the great lakes area of Iowa. The DNR has made plans to improve the sewer line system at Templar State Recreation Area (SRA) in Dickinson County. The North Templar Park homeowners association is advancing private sewer improvements such that its sewer flow will not be conveyed through DNR property. IGLSD plans to make sewer improvements to serve the South Templar Park homeowners association. Since both the IGLSD and the DNR are improving their sewer systems in the same area, the DNR is partnering with IGLSD to design and construct both projects together in order to save on cost and time. Once completed, the DNR sewer line will be fully compliant and sufficient in meeting its wastewater needs for Templar SRA.

**Selection Process Summary:** The Department is proposing to use an intergovernmental service contract (8A.122) with IGLSD to obtain the services needed for the project. State agencies are not required to use competitive selection when entering into such an agreement with another government entity (11 IAC 118.4). IGLSD followed their own competitive bidding process to acquire the necessary services for the project.

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

**Conservation and Recreation Division**

**NRC Meeting Date:** October 9, 2025

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

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

**\*7. Contract with Eric Brenden (IHAP)**

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Commission approval is requested for a contract with Eric Brenden of Ormond Beach, FL.

**Contract Terms**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$34,540.00

**Dates:** 11-1-2025 to 11-1-2030

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

**Contract Purpose:** This five-year contract with Eric Brenden will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

**Property Description:** Eric Brenden owns a 149.5-acre property in Woodbury County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 10-1-2025 to 5-31-2033.

**Land Management Tasks:** The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks for this property. Tasks for this contract include brush management, 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: 10-9-2025

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

**8. Information Item**

**FY 2027 Budget Request**

The Department is required to submit an annual budget request by October 1, 2025. According to guidance from the Department of Management, Executive Branch departments and agencies are instructed to submit a status quo budget request for Fiscal Year 2027.

APPROPRIATION NAME	FY 26 Appropriation	FY 27 Department Request	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Department Operations	\$12,816,738	\$12,816,738	\$0
State Park Operations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
State Park Maintenance	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$1,510,000	\$1,510,000	\$0
Forestry Health Management	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$16,151,738</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT FIRST</b>			
Resource Enhancement and Protection	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$0
Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$0
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,955,000	\$2,955,000	\$0
GIS Data for Watershed Managers	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$0
Park Operations and Maintenance	\$6,235,000	\$6,235,000	\$0
Floodplain Management	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$0
Animal Feeding Operations	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$0
Water Supply Appropriation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
<b>Total Environment First Fund</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$24,005,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>NON-GENERAL FUND</b>			
Fish and Wildlife Operations	\$53,095,606	\$53,095,606	\$0
Groundwater Fund	\$3,455,850	\$3,455,850	\$0
Snowmobile Transfer to Fish and Wildlife	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Non-General Funds</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</b>	<b>\$56,651,456</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>			
Lake Water Quality Improvements	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$0
Water Trails/Lowhead Dams	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0
<b>Total Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund</b>	<b>\$16,100,000</b>	<b>\$16,100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>\$112,908,194</b>	<b>\$112,908,194</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Jennifer Nelson, Chief Financial Officer  
October 9, 2025

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

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

**\*9. Timber Sale Contract with Brad Anthony Logging, LLC for White Pine Hollow State Preserve**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Brad Anthony Logging, LLC of Strawberry Point, IA, for White Pine Hollow State Preserve.

**Contract Terms**

**Income:** \$72,510.00

**Dates:** 11/01/25 to 03/31/2027

**Fund Deposited to:** Conservation Fund - Forestry

**Contract Purpose:** This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 137,254 board feet in 879 mixed hardwood trees at White Pine Hollow State Preserve in Dubuque County. The harvest will remove shade tolerant species to increase sunlight for the regeneration of shade intolerant species. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas that will be impacted. Harvesting and regenerating these stands will help improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.



Wildlife den trees 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:** 9/11/2025

**Number of Bids Received:** 4

**Recommendation:** Brad Anthony Logging, LLC

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Amount of Bid</b>
Brad Anthony Logging, LLC	Strawberry Point, IA	\$72,510.00
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$65,836.00
Brian Steines Logging	Bellevue, IA	\$59,104.00
Ben Bruggeman	Monticello, IA	\$51,318.78

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
October 9, 2025

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

**Information Item**

**10. Construction - Small Projects**

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

<b>Bid Date</b>	<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Bids</b>
9/18/2025	23-02-41-02	CRYSTAL HILLS WMA	HANCOCK	This project includes rebuilding an earthen dike and installing a corrugated metal pipe culvert through the dike.	\$16,120.00	<b>\$16,499.51</b> \$20,405.00
9/13/2025	25-02-95-04	PILOT KNOB STATE PARK	WINNEBAGO	This project consists of replacing broken and rotten gate timbers with new poles and refurbishing/replacing associated hardware.	\$45,000.00	<b>\$44,000.00</b>
8/28/2025	26-05-59-01	RATHBUN WILDLIFE UNIT	LUCAS	This project consists of replacing a corrugated metal water control structure with a smooth metal pipe structure.	\$20,000.00	<b>\$24,400.00</b> \$24,500.00 \$26,666.20 \$32,000.00 \$34,540.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 9, 2025

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

**Decision Item**

**11. Construction Item**

**11.1 Red Haw State Park, Road Maintenance - Lucas County**

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Red Haw State Park is located near Chariton on Highway 34. The 649 acre park includes Red Haw Lake, a campground, playground, beach and shelters. Red Haw State Park is a beautiful, year-round destination offering diverse recreational opportunities including hiking, boating, fishing, camping, and photography. Red Haw is especially well known for the springtime pink blossoms of the red buds.



*Map of the Project Area*

**Engineering Project #:** 17-05-59-01

**Cost Estimate:** \$292,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** 92% Parks and Institutional Roads Fund and 8% Parks Infrastructure

**Bid Letting Date:** 9/18/2025

**Construction Completion Date:** 09/17/2026

**Number of Bids Received:** 3



*Looking west in Red Haw Campground in May 2025*

**Bidders**

TK Concrete, Inc.	Pella, IA	\$215,251.00
Denney Construction	Osceola, IA	\$227,856.75
Home Boy Enterprises, LTD	Bondurant, IA	\$325,489.79

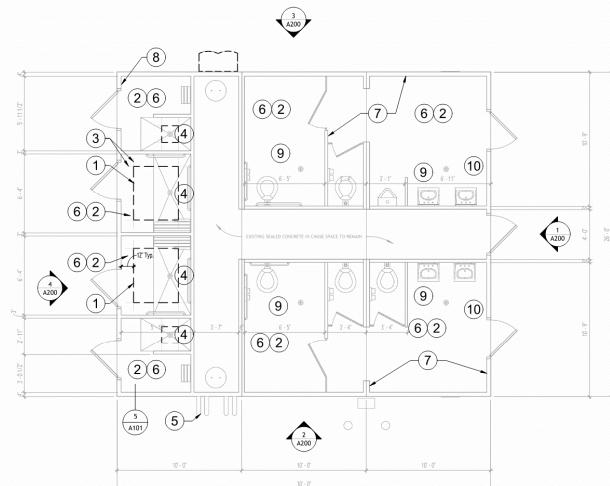
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to TK Concrete, Inc.

## 11.2 Clear Lake State Park, Restroom and Shower Building – Cerro Gordo County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

**Project Summary:** Clear Lake State Park is located on the southeast corner of the 3,643-acre Clear Lake, and was established in 1941. Amenities include a beach, modern campground, picnic areas, two picnic shelters, and a WPA-constructed day-use lodge.

**Design Summary:** This project will address maintenance and repair work needed on a precast concrete restroom/shower building in the Clear Lake State Park Campgrounds. Work includes precast joint treatments, new standing seam roof, exterior and interior concrete painting, concrete patching and repair, resinous flooring, replacing exhaust fans, replacing shower valves, replacing lighting fixtures and installing sensors and timers.



⊕ 1 FLOOR PLAN - RESTROOM AND SHOWER BUILDING

1/4" = 1'-0"



5 EXTERIOR IMAGES

**Engineering Project #:** 23-03-17-12

**Cost Estimate:** \$150,000

**Operating Bureau:** Parks

**Funding Source:** 50% Parks Infrastructure/50% Fed - Land and Water Conservation Fund

**Bid Letting Date:** 09/25/2025

**Construction Completion Date:** 05/15/2026

**Number of Bids Received:** 2

### Bidders

Dean Snyder Construction Co	Clear Lake IA	\$166,571.00
Matt Construction Inc	Sumner IA	\$169,978.00

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
October 9, 2025

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

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

**12. Public Land Management Projects**

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**\*12.1 Chapter 17 Lease — Koch Fertilizer Wever LLC – Lee County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 138-N with Koch Fertilizer Wever, LLC.

**Location:** The lease covers a portion of the bed of the Mississippi River containing an area with 575 feet of frontage and of 38.75 feet of depth located at Mississippi River Mile 389.6 in Section 34, Township 68 North, Range 3 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Lee County, Iowa,

**Site Purpose:** The site will be used for the loading and unloading of commercial fertilizer transportation.

**Lease History:** This is a new application for a Chapter 17 lease.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee of the lease is \$1,421.40. The term of the lease will be five years.

**\*12.2 Chapter 17 Lease - Zen-Noh American Holdings Corporation – Des Moines County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 140-N with Zen-Noh American Holdings Corporation.

**Location:** The lease covers a portion of the bed of the Mississippi River containing an area of 925 feet of frontage and 75 feet of depth at Mississippi River Mile 418.3 in Section 10, Township 71 N, Range 1 W of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Des Moines County, Iowa.

**Site Purpose:** The site will be used for the loading and unloading of grain and soybeans.

**Lease History:** This is a new application for a Chapter 17 lease.

**Lease Fee and Term:** The annual fee of the lease is \$4,424.57. The term of the lease will be five years.

**\*12.3 Easement Conveyance – Interstate Power and Lights Company - Union County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for installation of electrical line infrastructure at Green Valley State Park near Creston, Iowa.

**Project Description:** Interstate Power and Light Company is requesting an easement to install underground electric and telecommunication lines across a portion of Green Valley State Park to facilitate power to a neighboring property. The easement will be 150 feet by 10 feet. Local Parks staff have reviewed the request and given approval.

**Compensation:** \$187.50 (Provided Easement Valuation)

**\*12.4 Buffalo Shores Access– Management Agreement - Scott CCB**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to authorize the Director to approve the renewal of a 25-year management agreement with the Scott County Conservation Board. The area consists of approximately 25 acres and is locally known as Buffalo Shores Access located in Sec. 20 and 21, Township 77 N, Range 2 East of the 5th P.M., on the west bank of the Mississippi River, one-half mile downstream from the town of Buffalo, Iowa.

Sixteen and one-half acres of this tract was purchased with Marine Fuel Tax Funds and the remaining 8 ½ acres is federally-owned ground under license to the Department of Natural Resources.

**Site Purpose:** This 25-acre parcel is managed by Scott CCB as a campground and fishing access, including a boat ramp.

**Management History:** This property has been under a management agreement with the Scott County Conservation Board since 1974.

**Management Agreement Term:** This standard Management Agreement is with the Scott County Conservation Board for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Scott County Conservation Board on August 13, 2025.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 9, 2025

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

**Decision Item**

**13. Contract with Iowa State University (ISU) to study oxygen and temperature dynamics in reservoirs and make management recommendations for future restoration projects**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University (Principal Investigator: Thomas Detmer), Ames, IA.

**Contract Terms:**

**Amount:** Not to exceed \$561,151.00

**Dates:** November 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029

*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 (\$420,863); DNR Fisheries (\$140,288)

**Background:** Iowa reservoirs are facing compounding challenges from nutrient pollution, climate changes, and reservoir aging, making it more difficult to assess both the causes of poor water quality and develop restoration strategies to overcome these challenges. While Iowa is a leader for water quality monitoring in our lakes and reservoirs, we still have a very limited understanding of how different arms of our reservoirs function, since most data are collected from a single sampling point on each waterbody. Thus, we tend to oversimplify important water quality parameters that likely vary considerably across a reservoir – temperature and oxygen concentrations. Most of the public lakes in Iowa are man-made reservoirs.

Temperature and oxygen gradients, coupled with phosphorus-rich sediments drive internal loading in our reservoirs. DNR has invested heavily in both understanding the mechanisms for internal loading in our lakes and reservoirs, as well as managing internal loading in several lakes through alum applications to inactivate phosphorus being released from the sediments. However, we still have a very limited understanding of how oxygen and thermal stratification varies across our dendritic reservoirs. These oxythermal dynamics influence everything from algae blooms to where fish can find suitable across our reservoirs.

This study will use a combination of computer 1-Dimensional modeling to characterize temperature and oxygen dynamics for approximately 100 reservoirs in Iowa using a combination of existing data and additional data collected as a part of this study. This approach will leverage 25 years of monitoring data already collected by DNR and provide a unique tool for predicting reservoir responses to different restoration activities.

Additionally, we will utilize radio-tagged fish as biological indicators of where sufficient oxythermal conditions exist in our reservoirs, providing insight for stocking, maximization of suitable habitat and informing future restoration efforts to enhance fisheries and overall ecosystem health.

Products delivered to DNR from this multiyear study will be a report summarizing results and management recommendations, both for lake restoration projects and fishery enhancements. Additionally, ISU will present results annually through periodic presentations and summary reports. Finally, ISU will create a public facing presentation (likely a YouTube video) summarizing results for a general audience.

**Contract Purpose:** The purpose of this agreement is to work with Iowa State University to better understand spatial and temporal oxygen and temperature dynamics in Iowa reservoirs and how they impact both water quality and fish. Products from this multi-year research effort will include a final report of findings and management recommendations, both for fishery enhancements and dredging/lake bathymetry recommendations to minimize internal phosphorus recycling and improve water quality.

**Budget:**

Lake Restoration Program (55%)	\$ 420,863.00
DNR Fisheries Bureau (18%)	\$ 140,288.00
<u>Iowa State University (27%)</u>	<u>\$ 205,548.00</u>
Total budget	\$ 766,698.00

**Selection Process Summary:** Intergovernmental contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
NRC Meeting Date: October 9, 2025