

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Teleconference: 361-245-0121 PIN: 803 292 109#

Video Conference: meet.google.com/smw-cnju-drz

Thursday, March 12, 2026

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting-Virtual

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) *6. Management Agreement – Hickory Hills Recreation Area – Black Hawk County Conservation Board – Tama County *9. Contract with Group Creatives-Little Sioux River Water Trail Plan *10. Contract Amendment with Pheasants Forever, Inc.-Private Lands Technical Assistance One-Year Extension	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 Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Forestry Program Natural Resource Specialist; Fire Program Specialists.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*6.	Management Agreement – Hickory Hills Recreation Area – Black Hawk County Conservation Board – Tama County	Decision	Travis Baker
7.	Small Construction Projects: Union Grove State Park House Foundation Removal; Lake Keomah State Park Bridge Installation; Clear Lake Fisheries Management Unit Aquarium Roof Repair	Information	Travis Baker
8.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	8.1 Pikes Peak State Park, Lagoon Liner Replacement – Clayton County		
	8.2 Clear Lake Wildlife Unit, Myre Slough Water Control Structure Replacement – Winnebago County		
	8.3 Templar State Recreation Area, Boat Ramp Restroom – Dickinson County		
	8.4 Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, Beach Stormwater Runoff Improvements – Webster County		
*9.	Contract with Group Creatives-Little Sioux River Water Trail Plan	Decision	Travis Baker
*10.	Contract Amendment with Pheasants Forever, Inc.-Private Lands Technical Assistance One-Year Extension	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 8-April 9, Appanoose County • May 14, Butch Olofson Shooting Range 			

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

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

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

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

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

February 12, 2026

**6200 Park Ave
Des Moines, IA, 50321 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY	
File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
Sender's	<u>ap</u>
Initials	<u> </u>

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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 February 12, 2026 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

- Tammi Kircher

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *5. Donations
- *12. Land Management Projects (14.1-14.7)

Motion was made by Laura Kudej 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 January 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- None

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth announced that the new camping rates will go into effect on Sunday, February 17th. DA Hildreth also announced that reservations for Memorial Day weekend will open on February 22nd.
- DA Hildreth gave an update on statewide ice conditions, noting the rapid change due to the recent warm weather. DA Hildreth provided several ice safety tips for those that do plan to go out to recreate on Iowa's public waters with ice.

- DA Hildreth announced that DNR will host hunter listening sessions in March which will take place throughout the state from March 2 to March 5.

CHAPTER 15, “GENERAL LICENSE REGULATIONS” – NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION”

Joe Larscheid requested Commission approval for a Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 15. Commissioner Buck and Chair Prickett provided comments in support of the license fee increase.

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. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 106, “DEER HUNTING” – FINAL RULE

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the final rule for Chapter 106.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 108, “WILD FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING” – FINAL RULE

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the final rule for Chapter 108.

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

CHAPTER 35 – FISH HABITAT PROMOTION FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Randy Schultz requested Commission approval for the grant recommendations for the Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant.

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 23 – WILDLIFE HABITAT PROMOTION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kelsey Fleming requested Commission approval for the grant recommendations for the Chapter 23 Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program. Ms. Fleming explained the re-application process for applicants that do not meet the minimum scoring criteria.

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 THE XERCES SOCIETY, INC.

Katy Fullin requested Commission approval for a contract with the Xerces Society, Inc. to complete the Bumblee Atlas in Iowa.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen 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 PROJECT-SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS-BOAT RAMP AND PARKING LOT REPLACEMENT AT PRAIRIE ROSE STATE PARK; STORAGE BUILDING REPLACEMENT AT MANCHESTER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT; SHINGLE REPLACEMENT AND GUTTER INSTALLATION AT PIKES PEAK SHELTER AND RESTROOMS; BOAT RAMP REPLACEMENT AND SIDEWALK INSTALLATION AT UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT

Travis Baker presented a variety of small construction projects to the Commission as information. Mr. Baker explained how minor projects re solicited through informal solicitation and where contractors can find the small constructions bid opportunities posted publicly.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-SPIRIT LAKE FISH HATCHERY, SHORELINE RESTORATION – DICKINSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project for shoreline restoration at the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery.

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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LEDGES STATE PARK, OAK WOODS SHELTER REPAIRS – BOONE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to make repairs to the Oak Woods Shelters at Ledges State Park.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck 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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK VISITORS CENTER, HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT – MONONA COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to replace the HVAC system at the Lewis and Clark State Park Visitors Center.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT-JANA REC WMA, SAC COUNTY – JUSTIN AND STEPHANIE BELLCOCK

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase a 6.4 tract of land adjacent to the Jana Rec WMA in Sac County.

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

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT- WHITETAIL FLATS WMA, FRANKLIN COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the donation of 64.7 acres from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a property adjacent to Whitetail Flats WMA.

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. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT-ALUM APPLICATION

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with Solitude Lake Management for alum application at Silver Lake in Delaware County. Ms. Balmer explained why alum application was chosen for this particular lake for phosphorus treatment in lieu of alternative methods.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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 ARMODUS, LLC-HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL AT LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK

Sherry Arntzen requested Commission approval for a contract with Armodus, LLC for hazardous tree removal at Lewis and Clark State Park. Colton Lullman with the DNR Procurement section outlined the bidding process and bids received for the project, as requested. Ms. Arntzen spoke to the various communication methods used to communicate the project to the local community affected. Ms. Arntzen stated that the first phase, which includes the campground, should be completed by the time Ragbrai starts; additional phases will be completed prior to March of 2027. Ms. Arntzen noted that all removed trees will be transported and removed offsite. Ms. Arntzen also responded to questions regarding the reforestation plan for the campground and other high-use areas of the park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners shared about their Fall/Winter activities, noting their excitement for the upcoming Spring Turkey seasons.
- Commissioners shared their appreciation to staff and several user groups on the license fee increase initiative.
- Several Commissioners announced their intentions to attend the upcoming March hunter listening sessions.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:30 am on February 12, 2026.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

5. Contract with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), of Des Moines, Iowa

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$ 369,384.00

Dates: April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028

Funding Source(s): Federal Funds (Forest Service) 75%; Partner Match 25% - Natural Resource Specialist
Federal Funds (Forest Service) 50%; Fire Response Revenue 50% - Fire Program Specialist(s)

Contract Purpose: The DNR's purpose in entering into this Contract is for the DNR to provide funding for Contractor to hire and employ one Natural Resource Specialist and up to three Fire Program Specialists. Additionally, the DNR will provide the structure of a Forestry Program within which these individuals will work to assist both the DNR and said contractor in achieving the mission of the DNR Forestry Section.

The contractor will help DNR achieve like-minded goals and objectives to protect and enhance critical forest land and wildlife habitat. These positions will provide critical support and build capacity to complete work under our Forest Legacy Program (Natural Resource Specialist) and our Fire Program (Fire Program Specialists).

The DNR will:

- provide the funding for the positions and will coordinate with INHF on the work performed by these individuals
- create priorities for each position and monitor day-to-day work.
- provide the Forestry Section structure within which the Natural Resource Specialist and Fire Program Specialists shall work.
- provide vehicles, computers, communications, and GIS support to each of the positions

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited quotes from targeted small businesses and also published a Request for Proposals. Criteria in the RFP included the ability to provide the services required to employ one Natural Resource Specialist and up to three Fire Program Specialists in partnership with the DNR (technical proposal) and a cost proposal.

Proposal Due Date: 2/23/2026

Proposals Reviewed: 2

Recommendation: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Bidder	Location	Amount
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Des Moines, Iowa	\$369,384.00
ND Global Consulting Services, Inc.	McKinney, Texas	Did not score enough points on the technical proposal to the open cost proposal.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***6. Public Land Management Project**

Management Agreement – Hickory Hills Recreation Area – Black Hawk County Conservation Board – Tama County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of a management agreement with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board (CCB) for Hickory Hills Recreation Area located in Tama County.

Location: This property is located 12 miles south of Waterloo in Section 14, Township 86 North, Range 13 West of the 5th P.M. in Tama County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 175-acre property is used for public access public hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities in the same manner as state wildlife areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Black Hawk CCB since 1975. The previous management agreement expired December 31, 2025.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the Black Hawk CCB for 25 years. This agreement was approved at the Black Hawk County Conservation Board meeting held on February 12, 2026.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: March 12, 2026

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

Information Item

7. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
2/12/2026	26-05-86-01	UNION GROVE STATE PARK	TAMA	HOUSE FOUNDATION REMOVAL This project includes removal of basement walls and floor. Sewer and water will be capped. The hole will be filled with contractor-supplied clay and compacted.	\$20,000	\$3,525.00 \$14,365.00 \$14,500.00 \$15,495.00 \$16,012.50 \$17,677.00 \$21,095.40 \$22,050.00 \$23,272.00
2/5/2026	25-05-62-02	LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK	MAHASKA	BRIDGE This project includes installing a 60' bridge. Contractor is to transport the bridge, install footings, and install the bridge over the spillway.	\$41,000	\$18,250.00 \$29,573.00 \$31,500.00 \$32,000.00 \$34,700.00 \$42,500.00 \$49,079.00 \$59,720.00 \$79,000.00
1/29/2026	26-03-17-02	CLEAR LAKE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT	CERRO GORDO	AQUARIUM ROOF This project includes removal of existing clay tiles. Removal of existing dormers. Install new architectural shingles and wall flashing.	\$26,000	\$11,275.00 \$11,489.14 \$13,650.00 \$15,379.68 \$16,920.00 \$37,850.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: March 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Construction Item

8.1 Pikes Peak State Park, Lagoon Liner Replacement – Clayton County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Pikes Peak State Park is one of Iowa's premier nature destinations, famed for its majestic views of the Mississippi River. Located on a national scenic byway, the park features 11 miles of trails and scenic bluffs and valleys, including the half-mile trail to Bridal Veil Falls, a hike to Point Ann overlooking McGregor, and the 500-foot bluff where the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers meet.

Design Summary:

The campground and office are served by dual wastewater lagoons featuring impervious High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) liners. These liners, which were installed in 1989, are now showing significant signs of deterioration.

The local IDNR Environmental Field Office has determined that the liners must be replaced to maintain regulatory compliance. The project involves replacing the liners in both lagoons with new HDPE liners to ensure regulatory compliance.



Engineering Project #: 26-03-22-01

Cost Estimate: \$180,000.00

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 02/19/2026

Construction Completion Date: 05/22/2026

Number of Bids Received: 5

Bidders

MidAmerica Liner	Strafford, MO	\$160,599.49
Connolly Construction Inc	Cascade, IA	\$161,596.20
Ground Line Company LLC	Onslow, IA	\$190,569.65
JB Holland Construction Inc	Decorah, IA	\$199,999.00
Minturn, Inc	Brooklyn, IA	\$294,327.50

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to MidAmerica Liner.

8.2 Clear Lake Wildlife Unit, Myre Slough Water Control Structure Replacement – Winnebago County

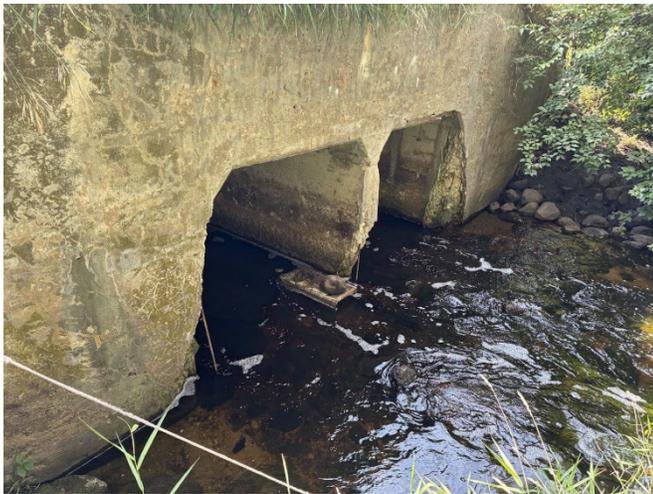
The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Myre Slough Wildlife Management Area is a 220-acre marsh and prairie located west of Forest City. Acquired in 1948, the area is popular for duck hunting and bird watching. The water control structure on-site was constructed in the 1950s and is currently showing signs of aging. Water levels are managed via two "stoplog bays" that utilize wooden stoplogs to control the water depth up to four feet.

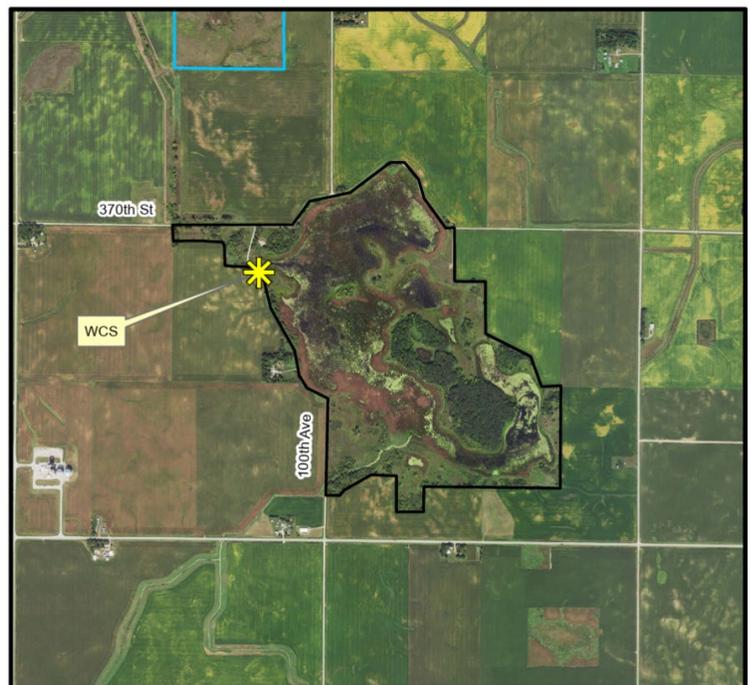
Design Summary:

The existing concrete water control structure at Myre Slough is severely deteriorated, with spalled concrete and damaged stop log channels. Additionally, the lack of a walkway requires staff to enter the water in waders to manipulate the stop logs, posing a safety concern. To achieve management goals, the functionality of this structure is paramount. Proper control allows the DNR to effectively manage this critical habitat.

This project will replace the current structure with a new concrete unit of similar dimensions. The upgrade will include a walkway over the two bays to ensure the safe removal and replacement of stop logs.



Myre Slough - New WCS Winnebago County Section 22, T98, R25



Engineering Project #: 23-02-95-01

Cost Estimate: \$190,000.00

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 50% Federal-NAWCA, 50% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 02/19/2026

Construction Completion Date: 09/18/2026

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Laubenthal Excavation	Bradgate, IA	\$137,354.57
Ludovissy Enterprises	Guttenberg, IA	\$215,843.00
Larson Contracting Central, LLC	Lake Mills, IA	\$219,067.77
Gus Const Co, Inc	Casey, IA	\$230,688.96
Landwehr Construction, Inc	St Cloud, MN	\$243,485.00
Nagel Construction LLC	Allerton, IA	\$250,000.00
Kingland Construction Services	Forest City, IA	\$362,521.13
Henkel Construction Company	Mason City, IA	\$388,631.36

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

8.3 Templar State Recreation Area, Boat Ramp Restroom – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background:

Templar State Recreation Area is located on the west shore of Spirit Lake. The area features several shelters, a large parking lot, and a boat ramp that provides lake access through a protected lagoon. The boat ramp is heavily used and remains popular with anglers.

Design Summary:

The existing restroom building, which dates to the 1980s, is aging and poorly situated on a hill approximately 1,000 feet from the boat ramp. Because it is not visible from the ramp area, this project aims to improve the experience for boat ramp users by providing a facility in a more accessible location.

The project will involve installing a manufactured concrete restroom, sidewalks, and parking spaces within the existing parking lot island, along with necessary utility connections. This will ensure the restroom is immediately adjacent to the highly trafficked boat ramp.

Engineering Project #: 25-01-30-11

Cost Estimate: \$330,000

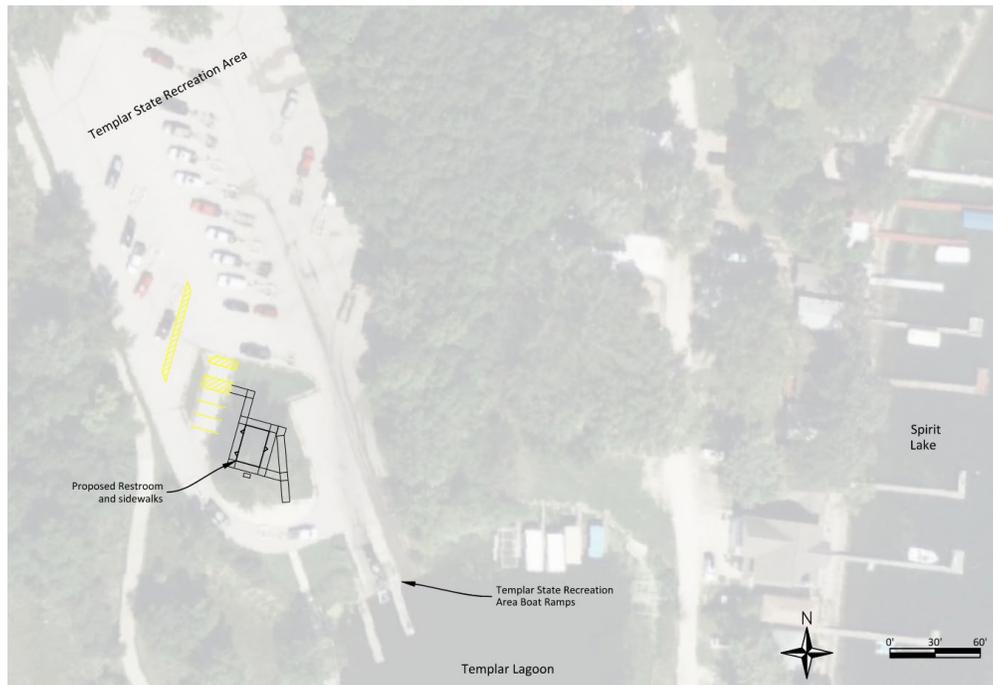
Operating Bureau: Fisheries

Funding Source: 50% Marine Fuel Tax, 50% Coast Guard Boat Safety

Bid Letting Date: 02/19/2026

Construction Completion Date: 11/13/2026

Number of Bids Received: 5



Bidders

Diamond Concrete & Construction, Inc	Spirit Lake, Iowa	\$316,126.49
Marline Concrete LLC	West Okoboji, Iowa	\$328,366.73
Beck Excavating, Inc	Spirit Lake, Iowa	\$341,364.00
Graves Const Co, Inc	Spencer, Iowa	\$373,718.30
BD Construction Services LLC	Spencer, Iowa	\$455,963.00

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

8.4 Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, Beach Stormwater Runoff Improvements – Webster County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Brushy Creek, located in central Iowa, covers 6,500 acres and is the largest unit within Iowa’s state park and recreation area system. Facility development at the site began in 1992. Existing amenities include a 690-acre lake, three modern campgrounds with 255 campsites, one picnic shelter, restrooms, six fishing jetties, one accessible fishing pier, four boat ramps, two equestrian day-use parking areas, 40 miles of trails, shooting range, and a beach.

Design Summary: Much of the stormwater from the beach parking lots is directed towards the beach. During heavy precipitation events, stormwater runoff will exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater infrastructure and cause significant beach erosion. This project will increase the capacity of the existing infrastructure by installing larger conveyance pipes within the existing biocells. Additional pavement and a surface drain will be added adjacent to the beach sand to act as a secondary stormwater collection system. These structures will direct stormwater flow away from the sand and will reduce further beach erosion.



Engineering Project #: 26-02-94-02

Cost Estimate: \$283,000.00

Operating Bureau: Lake Restoration

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 02/19/2026

Construction Completion Date: 9/15/2026

Number of Bids Received: 7

Bidders

Hands On Excavating, LLC	Radcliffe, IA	\$248,478.04
Holman Construction, LLC	Indianola, IA	\$250,409.00
Doyle Construction, LLC	Fort Dodge, IA	\$259,609.80
Ludovissy Enterprises	Guttenberg, IA	\$270,530.00
JC Midwest Services	St. Charles, IA	\$279,803.00
TK Concrete, Inc.	Pella, IA	\$279,905.00
Gehrke, Inc.	Eldora, IA	\$286,342.75

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Hands On Excavating, LLC.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

***9. Contract with Group Creatives**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Group Creatives.

Contract Terms

Amount: not to exceed \$68,000

Dates: March 20, 2026 to May 31, 2027

Funding Source(s): Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund

Contract Purpose: The River Programs section of the DNR requires planning services to develop a water trail plan for 202 miles of the Little Sioux River starting in northern Dickinson County and ending at the southern boundary of Woodbury County. This river is locally known as the Inkpaduta Canoe Trail, a project that was initiated in the 1970s and locally designated in 1989. As far as anyone knows, it's Iowa's first water trail. A brochure was created and access signs were installed. Today, the county conservation boards (CCBs) along the trail are seeking state water trail designation. For the past two years the DNR in collaboration with the CCBs and other partners have conducted extensive research that will assist the planning effort.

A good water trail plan is one that is responsive to local desires and concerns. Through a series of local stakeholder meetings, public input sessions, and research, the water trail plan will establish a priority for infrastructure projects (i.e. developing new water accesses, improving existing accesses, adding access amenities, improved parking, and hazard mitigation). The plan will also identify any interpretive or educational programming needs, as well as offer potential solutions to any existing issues that have been identified. Tasks in this contract include:

- Analyze and integrate information collected from the past two years into the plan.
- Host multiple stakeholder and public input meetings.
- Establish regional steering committees (upper, middle, and lower) to guide the development of the plan.
- Develop vision and goals.
- Draft a water trail plan that includes project recommendations for all three regions.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request of proposals on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria reviewed included cost; satisfactory performance on previous contracts similar in scope; contractor's professional experience, performance record, and letters of references; compliance and thoroughness of their response to RFP Technical Proposal; and the capacity and work plan of the service provider to complete responsibilities described in the statement of work.

Proposal Due Date: February 5, 2026

Proposals Received: 2

Recommendation: Group Creatives

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Score (100 pts total)	Rank	Cost
Group Creative Services	Des Moines, Iowa	88	1	\$68,000
RDG Planning & Design	Des Moines, Iowa	84	2	\$69,675

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: March 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent agenda item)

***10. Contract Amendment 2 with Pheasants Forever, Inc.**

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

Amendment- 2 (25CRDWBNAUM-0004)

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$80,000

Amendment Dates: 3/12/2026 to 6/1/2027

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Amendment Purpose: The DNR is requesting approval for a one-year amendment to this contract in the amount of \$80,000 to continue providing private lands technical assistance. This amendment will support the continuation of the existing scope of work and deliverables, including the development of habitat proposals to promote wildlife habitat and the preparation of wildlife plans that provide technical assistance for implementing habitat restoration, enhancement, and management of wildlife habitat in Iowa through specific conservation programs and practices in Iowa (CRP-SAFE practices and IHAP).

Original Contract Purpose: Delivery of Private Lands assistance to complement the DNR's Private Lands Program by promoting wildlife habitat development via Habitat Proposals and providing technical assistance for the implementation of wildlife habitat development via Wildlife Plans that restore, enhance, and manage wildlife habitat in Iowa using specific conservation programs and practices (CRP – SAFE Practices & IHAP).

Original 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 the following: Respondent's professional experience, performance record, and letter(s) of reference; Compliance and thoroughness of Respondent's response to RFP Technical Proposal; The capacity of the Respondent and Project Team to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; Respondent's work plan to complete responsibilities described in the Statement of Work; and Cost.

Proposal Due Date: 1/24/2025

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount: Not to exceed \$80,000.00, **Dates:** 2/14/2025 to 4/1/2026

Amendment- Amendment 1, Terms: Amount: \$0; Timeframe: 2/10/2026 to 9/1/2026, Date: 2/10/2026, Purpose: The purpose of this amendment was to extend the time allowed to perform the Tasks set out in the Original Contract, without additional money being paid out by DNR.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 3/12/2026