

AGENDA

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

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

6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, 50321

Walnut Woods Conference Room

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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 Jenny Miller at jenny.miller@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 the Agenda Consent Agenda: *4. Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, LLC for Shimek State Forest *5. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc for Yellow River State Forest *11. Public Land Management Projects (11.1)	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes • August 2026 Minutes • Revised Minutes from July 9, 2026 meeting • Revised Minutes from September 17, 2024 meeting	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
*4.	Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, LLC for Shimek State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*5.	Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc for Yellow River State Forest	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
6.	Contract with Trees Forever, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
7.	Contract Amendment 5 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc.	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
8.	Contract with Iowa State University	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
9.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
9.1	Ledges State Park, Wastewater Improvements– Boone County		
9.2	Volga River State Recreation Area, Wastewater Improvements–Fayette County		
9.3	Gypsum City, OHV Park Bridge–Webster County		
9.4	Lake Darling and Geode State Parks, Accessibility Improvements– Washington and Henry Counties		
10.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
10.1	Big Sioux WMA, Sioux County– Sioux County Conservation Foundation		
*11.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
*11.1	Management Agreement – Isthmus Park – The City of Spirit Lake – Dickinson County		
12.	Contract with Houston Engineering, Inc.	Decision	Travis Baker
13.	Contract with Kossuth County, Iowa	Decision	Todd Bishop
14.	Chapter 2 and Chapter 2505 "Fair Information Practices" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Tamara McIntosh

Chapter 2506 "Contested Cases" - Notice of Intended Action	
15.	General Discussion
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates ● October 7-8, NRC Tour in Fremont County ● November 12, 2026 - Des Moines	

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

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

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

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

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

August 13, 2026

**DNR Headquarters
6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50321 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY

File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
Sender's	<u>JM</u>
Initials	<u> </u>

Table of Contents

Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission Meeting.....	1
Call To Order	3
Commissioners Present.....	3
Commissioners Absent.....	3
Public Comment.....	3
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda	3
Approved as Presented	3
Approval of Minutes	3
Approved as Presented	3
Director’s Remarks.....	3
Division Administrator’s Remarks.....	3
Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations.....	4
Approved as Presented	4
Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Adopted and Filed.....	4
approved as Presented	4
Chapter 96, “Small Game Hunting” – Notice of Intended Action	4
Approved as Presented	4
Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park).....	4
Approved as Presented	5
Contract with the Story County Conservation Board (Hickory Grove Park).....	5
Approved as Presented	5
Contract Amendment with ECS Midwest, LLC (Pammel - Harmon Tunnel Repair).....	5
Approved as Presented	6
Small Construction Projects: Low water crossings and bridge demo at maquoketa caves state park, Nepple WMA wetland restoration at Great Lakes Wildlife Unit, Skunk River Riprap at Sugema Wildlife Unit, and Road Maintenance at Cedar Rock State Park.	6
Informational	6
Large Construction Project-Diamond Lake, Drawdown and Structure Installation – Poweshiek County	6
Approved as Presented	6
Large Construction Project-Pillsbury Point, Shoreline Stabilization – Dickinson County	6
Approved as Presented	6
Large Construction Project – Loess Hills State Forest, Fireproof Fencing – Monona County.....	6
Approved as Presented	7
Land Acquisition Project – Lake Rathbun WMA, Appanoose County – Pheasants Forever.....	7
Approved as Presented	7
Land Acquisition Project – North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Taggart Brothers LLC.....	7

Approved as Presented	8
Land Acquisition Project – North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Dennis Taggart and Patrick Taggart	8
Approved as Presented	8
Contract Amendment with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota (CCI)	8
Approved as Presented	8
General Discussion	8
Adjourn	9
Adjourned	9

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 August 13, 2026.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Laura Kudej (virtual)
 Bill Moritz (virtual)
 Tammi Kircher (virtual)
 Uriah Hansen (virtual)
 KR Buck
 Tom Prickett (virtual)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Collin Brecher

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

*14. Public Land Management Projects (14.1-14.3)

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the July 2026 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

- None

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Director Lyon and Deputy Director Moon were absent attending the state fair.
- Division Administrator Pete Hildreth provided updates on the DNR state fair activities, including the aquarium's 100th anniversary and various exhibits. He also highlighted successful public engagement regarding deer hunting zones and the Pillsbury Point shoreline stabilization project. Additionally, he talked about the upcoming retirement of Joe Larscheid, the Fisheries Bureau Chief effective September 8, 2026, after nearly 37 years of service.

CHAPTER 23 – WILDLIFE HABITAT PROMOTION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kelsey Fleming presented and requested the Commission approve four grant recommendations pursuant to 571 IAC Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities program grants.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen 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 51, “GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS” – ADOPTED AND FILED

Chris Ensminger requested the commission approve the Adopted and Filed rule to implement Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas.”

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 96, “SMALL GAME HUNTING” – NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Chris Ensminger requested the Commission approve the Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 96, “Small Game Hunting.” Chapter 96 governs small game hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates small game hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, and transportation requirements. The proposed rule defines annual nonresident small game hunting license parameters and designates resident only hunting periods on public lands.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck 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 was one nay vote by Commissioner Bill Moritz.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE POWESHIEK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (DIAMOND LAKE PARK)

Michelle Balmer requested the Commission approval for a contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (PCCB), of Montezuma, Iowa. The purpose of this agreement is to work with PCCB to draw down Diamond Lake and install necessary infrastructure to facilitate the remaining in-lake restoration work, as well as provide the CCB with long-term water level control via a drawdown pipe. This infrastructure upgrade will also allow the lake to remain empty during the planned in-lake construction project.

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 STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (HICKORY GROVE PARK)

Michelle Balmer requested the Commission approval for a contract with the Story County Conservation Board, of Ames, Iowa. The purpose of this agreement is to improve stormwater management infrastructure around the beach area. Practices will include beach and hillside terracing and grading, native plantings, and ADA accessibility improvements. These improvements are expected to reduce indicator bacteria at the beach and potentially remove the lake from Iowa's Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List and improve access for all to the lake. DNR is a cost share partner on the stormwater practices associated with this project. Additionally, SCCB is fully funding a number of access and amenity improvements to enhance users' park experience as a part of this project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ECS MIDWEST, LLC (PAMMEL - HARMON TUNNEL REPAIR)

George Antoniou requested the Commission approval for a service contract amendment with ECS Midwest, LLC of Johnston, Iowa. In April of 2026, the Department received the report from ECS MIDWEST, LLC that was required under Phase 1 of the contract. The report addressed recommended repair solutions for Harmon Tunnel. Upon review, the Department is recommending to proceed with Phase 2 services outlined in the Request for Proposals and contract to develop construction bid packages that efficiently address repair needs. Hourly rates provided by the Contractor will be used as a basis for contracting any additional design and oversight work to be completed as a part of Phase 2 of the tunnel repair project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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: LOW WATER CROSSINGS AND BRIDGE DEMO AT MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK, NEPPLE WMA WETLAND RESTORATION AT GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT, SKUNK RIVER RIPRAP AT SUGEMA WILDLIFE UNIT, AND ROAD MAINTENANCE AT CEDAR ROCK STATE PARK.

Travis Baker presented to the Commission four small construction projects: two wildlife units and two state parks.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

INFORMATIONAL

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-DIAMOND LAKE, DRAWDOWN AND STRUCTURE INSTALLATION – POWESHIEK COUNTY

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval for a large construction project at Diamond Lake. Diamond Lake is a 98 acre reservoir built in 1953 by the City of Montezuma as a water source. Currently, Diamond Lake lacks the infrastructure necessary to drain the lake to execute planned in-lake restoration work or perform future maintenance at lowered lake levels. This project will consist of notching the dam and draining the lake in a controlled manner. Then, a drawdown pipe and valve will be installed.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-PILLSBURY POINT, SHORELINE STABILIZATION – DICKINSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval for shoreline stabilization at Pillsbury Point. This project is designed to stabilize slopes on approximately 1,200 feet of shoreline. Repair methods from simple tree clearing to establish prairie plants that stabilize soils, to steel meshes and soil nailing geotechnical solutions will be used on this project. The work will have to occur from a barge since there is no reasonable access at the top of the slope (e.g. private ownership very close to the top of the bank). The slopes will have rock protection on the lower part of the slope to help with wave and ice pressure, while the rest of the slope will be seeded over the geotechnical repairs to give it a more natural look to the top of the slope.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – LOESS HILLS STATE FOREST, FIREPROOF FENCING – MONONA COUNTY

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval to replace 12.4 miles of wildfire-destroyed fencing with 100% fireproof, high-tension system designed for maximum long-term value and resilience. This fencing project is in the Preparation Canyon Unit of the Loess Hills State Forest, near Pisgah, Iowa.

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

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT – LAKE RATHBUN WMA, APPANOOSE COUNTY – PHEASANTS FOREVER

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval to purchase 82.56 acres located in Appanoose County adjacent to Lake Rathbun WMA. Acquiring this property will permanently protect established grassland habitat directly adjacent to existing public lands. Furthermore, this parcel will straighten existing public property lines, thereby improving the DNR's overall management efficiency, boundary posting, and law enforcement capabilities. Once acquired, the property will remain open to the public for outdoor recreation, including hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. Direct public access will be provided via the adjacent county roads (150th Avenue and 435th Street).

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.

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 – NORTH RACCOON RIVER WMA, GREENE COUNTY – TAGGART BROTHERS LLC

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval to purchase 4.5 acres located in Greene County adjacent to North Raccoon River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This acquisition strategically connects two separate parcels of the North Raccoon River WMA, allowing recreationists continuous access to all public lands between 215th Street and 220th Street (State Highway 30). It will also facilitate more efficient habitat management and boundary enforcement by creating a more obvious boundary. The tract drains into the North Raccoon River, a designated priority watershed under Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Ultimately, this purchase will permanently protect a vital forest buffer from land conversion and expand outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities. This parcel would remain on the Greene County property tax rolls.

Written Comments-None

Public Comments-None

Motion was made by Tom Prickett 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 – NORTH RACCOON RIVER WMA, GREENE COUNTY – DENNIS TAGGART AND PATRICK TAGGART

Travis Baker requested the Commission approval to purchase 10 acres located in Greene County adjacent to North Raccoon River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This tract drains to the North Raccoon River, a designated a priority watershed under the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. In addition to creating additional outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting, this acquisition will permanently protect a vital forest buffer from being converted to other land uses. This parcel will remain on the Greene County property tax rolls.

Written Comments-None

Public 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>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH CONSERVATION CORPS OF IOWA/MINNESOTA (CCI)

Chad Kelchen requested the Commission approval for a service contract amendment with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota (CCI), of St Paul, MN. This amendment is a result of a cost increase in labor rate. Conservation Corps is a non profit organization who utilized Americorps grants as part of their fee structure to reduce costs to entities. The overnight stay rate is being increased from \$120 to \$160 to meet the state rate of \$80/per night for 2 rooms (one for males and one for female crew members). This is only used when weather conditions are unsafe for spike camping.

Written Comments-None

Public Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners discussed successful engagement at recent public meetings and the general workload.
- A call was made by Chair Prickett regarding a volunteer for the Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission.
- Commissioners talked about participating in wildlife ride alongs, wildlife surveys, dove season and the deer hunting listening sessions.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:06 AM on August 13, 2026.

ADJOURNED

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

July 9, 2026

**DNR Headquarters
6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50321 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission August 13, 2026.

Revised Minutes Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY

File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
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Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission Meeting.....	1
Call To Order	4
Commissioners Present.....	4
Commissioners Absent.....	4
Public Comment.....	4
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda	4
Approved as Presented	4
Approval of Minutes	4
Approved as Presented	4
Director’s Remarks.....	4
Division Administrator’s Remarks.....	4
Oral Arguments and final submission, Appeal of Proposed Decision, Custom Tree Care, LLC. V. Iowa Department of Natural Resources.....	5
Approved as Presented	5
Proposed County Antlerless Quota Changes for the 2026-27 Seasons	5
approved as Presented.....	5
Small Construction Projects: Paint Creek Streambank Improvements at Yellow River State Forest, Accessibility Improvements at Springbrook State Park, Wetland Restoration at Hodge WPA, Sheet Pile WCS Replacement at Dunbar Slough WMA, Accessibility Improvements at: Lake of Three Fires, Prairie Rose, Viking Lake and Lake Anita.	6
Information	6
Large Construction Project-Lake Anita State Park, Sewer Improvements–Cass County.....	6
Approved as Presented	6
Large Construction Project-Lake Wapello State Park, Wastewater Improvements–Davis County	6
Approved as Presented	6
Large Construction Project-Green Island and Princeton Wildlife Management Areas, Floor Repair–Jackson & Scott Counties.....	6
Approved as Presented	7
Large Construction Project-Springbrook, Education Center Demolition–Guthrie County	7
Approved as Presented	7
Large Construction Project-Various State Parks and Wildlife Areas–Dickinson County	7
Approved as Presented	7
Large Construction Project-Pammel State Park, Harmon Tunnel–Madison County.....	7
Approved as Presented	8
Large Acquisition Project–West Salt Creek WMA, Tama County–James Wauters Trust	8
Approved as Presented	8

Contract with Insight Public Sector Inc–Law Enforcement Bureau-Body Cameras	8
Approved as Presented	8
Contract with Aquatic Control, Inc. – Floating and Emergent Aquatic Plant Management, Elkhart, Iowa.	8
Approved as Presented	8
General Discussion	8
Adjourn	9
Adjourned	9

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 9, 2026.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Laura Kudej (Virtual)
Bill Moritz
Tammi Kircher (virtual)
Collin Brecher (virtual)
Uriah Hansen
KR Buck
Tom Prickett

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen 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 June 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

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 summarized the Governor's recent camping tour throughout the state, highlighting visits to locations such as Green Valley, Prairie Rose, Loess Hills, Ambrose A. Call, Yellow River, Pikes Peak and Maquoketa Caves State Park. The tour showcased diverse departmental initiatives, encompassing lake restoration, fire management protocols, enhanced accessibility in campgrounds, and water quality projects at Yellow River. The tour ended at the Honey Creek Resort.
- The Director expressed her appreciation for the professionalism exhibited by staff members and the effectiveness of collaborations with local entities. It was a really great way to showcase the department.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth echoed Director Lyon's appreciation for our staff during the Governor's camping tour and the busy holiday season.

- DA Pete Hildreth summarized the 92nd annual Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference, which took place at the Iowa Great Lakes from June 18-21. The Administrator recognized Sergeant Steve Griebel, Alan Johnson, and Megan Wisecup for receiving regional accolades.
- Regarding REAP assemblies, it was reported that eleven out of nineteen sessions are now finished.
- The Administrator introduced the Department's new Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief, Mike Cox. Mike shared a little bit about himself.

ORAL ARGUMENTS AND FINAL SUBMISSION, APPEAL OF PROPOSED DECISION, CUSTOM TREE CARE, LLC. V. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This matter comes before the Iowa Natural Resource Commission [NRC] on the Notice of Appeal filed by Appellant Custom Tree Care, LLC, on May 2, 2026, seeking further review of the Proposed Decision entered in this docket on April 17, 2026. The NRC entered a scheduling order on June 15, 2026, governing the conduct of these appeal proceedings. At today's meeting, the NRC provided the parties with an opportunity to present oral arguments.

Upon the conclusion of oral arguments, the Commission entered closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(f) to conduct deliberations on the Appellant's appeal. Chair Prickett requested a roll call vote to enter into closed session.

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to go into closed session. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for a roll call. Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, KR Buck-aye, Colin Brecher-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Bill Moritz-aye and Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

Chair Prickett stated on the record that the Commissioners returned from closed session after deliberations and they were back in open session. The Assistant Attorney General, John Lundquist stated on the record that Commissioner KR Buck recused himself from both participation in deliberations and agreed to abstain from any vote. Commissioner KR Buck did not participate in the closed session.

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented in its entirety without modification. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Laura Kudej-aye, Uriah Hansen-aye, KR Buck-abstained from the vote, Colin Brecher-aye, Tammi Kircher-aye, Bill Moritz-aye and Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PROPOSED COUNTY ANTLERLESS QUOTA CHANGES FOR THE 2026-27 SEASONS

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the proposed county antlerless quota changes for the 2026-27 seasons.

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

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: PAINT CREEK STREAMBANK IMPROVEMENTS AT YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK, WETLAND RESTORATION AT HODGE WPA, SHEET PILE WCS REPLACEMENT AT DUNBAR SLOUGH WMA, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT: LAKE OF THREE FIRES, PRAIRIE ROSE, VIKING LAKE AND LAKE ANITA.

Travis Baker presented eight small construction projects to the Commission as information items.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LAKE ANITA STATE PARK, SEWER IMPROVEMENTS–CASS COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to improve the park’s sewer system.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LAKE WAPELLO STATE PARK, WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS–DAVIS COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project at Lake Wapello State Park to improve the current Wastewater treatment system.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-GREEN ISLAND AND PRINCETON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, FLOOR REPAIR–JACKSON & SCOTT COUNTIES

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project to repair over six miles of dikes and infrastructure, including culverts and water control structures damaged by flooding. Additionally, FEMA has approved mitigation measures to armor nearly a mile of the main levee in Green Island WMA with a grid-tied concrete block mat. These improvements are designed to protect against future flooding and breaches.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.</i>
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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-SPRINGBROOK, EDUCATION CENTER DEMOLITION-GUTHRIE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project to remove public hazards and return the site to its natural state. Work will include demolishing the Education Center buildings, as well as four auxiliary dilapidated/functionally obsolete sheds.

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. Commissioner KR Buck voted nay.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-VARIOUS STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE AREAS-DICKINSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project: Locations are the Iowa Great Lakes region, including Pikes Point, Emerson Bay, Lower Gar, Templar, Trappers Bay, and Gull Point, as well as the Lower Gar and Silver Lake Wildlife Management Areas. While these locations remain vital for public recreation, the existing roadways have significantly deteriorated and need maintenance. Current asphalt conditions include pavement oxidation (reaction in asphalt over time that makes it stiffer, more brittle, and less flexible), rutting, and thermal cracking of surfaces. Additionally, rock roadways have rutting.

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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-PAMMEL STATE PARK, HARMON TUNNEL-MADISON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project: Harmon Tunnel is a main feature of the Pammel State Park. The tunnel goes through the base of a limestone ridge and provides access to the park's facilities. Harmon Tunnel has been closed since February 26, 2026, due to safety concerns regarding falling rocks and large boulders at both ends of the tunnel. We are initiating a project to stabilize and clean up the rockface. The goal of this work is to mitigate these hazards and ensure the tunnel can be safely reopened.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE ACQUISITION PROJECT–WEST SALT CREEK WMA, TAMA COUNTY–JAMES WAUTERS TRUST

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to accept the donation of a tract of land located adjacent to West Salt Creek WMA in Tama County.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen 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 INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR INC–LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU-BODY CAMERAS

Craig Cutts requested Commission approval for a contract with Insight Public Sector Inc for body cameras.

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 AQUATIC CONTROL, INC. – FLOATING AND EMERGENT AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT, ELKHART, IOWA.

Jason Euchner requested Commission approval for a contract with Aquatic Control, Inc. for applying herbicides targeting floating and emergent aquatic vegetation across 20 key lake systems, totaling approximately 480 acres.

Written Comments-None

Public 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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Each commissioner thanked the DNR staff for their work at the parks especially during the busy holiday season.
- It has been a busy and fun summer so far, with commissioners actively enjoying the outdoors through family camping trips, purchasing a kayak to do more fishing, and participating in county fairs.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:30 am on July 9, 2026.

ADJOURNED

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING**

September 17, 2024

**Video Teleconference
and
Wallace State Office Building**

Approved by the Commission October 10, 2024.

**Revised minutes approved by the Commission on
TBD.**

RECORD COPY

File Name Admin

01-05 Sender's Initials

JM

Table of Contents

Call To Order	2
Commissioners Present	2
Commissioners Absent.....	2
Public Participation	2
Rule on requests to supplement record and request for stay in contested case - In.....	2
the Matter of Dock Permit 17-9988-3 and establish briefing schedule (tabled from	2
September 11, 2024 meeting)	2
Adjourn	2
Adjourned	2

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Marcus Branstad at 4:08pm on September 17, 2024, via video/teleconference.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Laura Foell
Uriah Hansen
Tom Prickett
Laura Kudej
Marcus Branstad

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tammi Kircher
KR Buck

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

RULE ON REQUESTS TO SUPPLEMENT RECORD AND REQUEST FOR STAY IN CONTESTED CASE - IN THE MATTER OF DOCK PERMIT 17-9988-3 AND ESTABLISH BRIEFING SCHEDULE (TABLED FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING)

Chair Branstad recommended that Commissioners go into closed session to deliberate with Counsel on the aforementioned requests, which relate to the contested case in the matter of dock permit 17-9988-3. The Commission entered into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(f).

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to go into closed session. Seconded by Laura Foell.

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

Commissioners returned from closed session after 35 minutes of deliberation. Chair Branstad recommended that Commissioners request the Assistant Attorney General, Eric Dirth, to draft an order with the information discussed in closed session, to be signed by the Chair, and distributed to all interested parties within the next 1-3 business days.

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Tom Prickett.

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

ADJOURN

The Chairperson adjourned the Natural Resource Commission meeting at 4:45 pm on September 17, 2024.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***4. Timber Sale Contract with RJ Lumber, LLC for Shimek State Forest**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with RJ Lumber, LLC of Drakesville, IA, for Shimek State Forest.

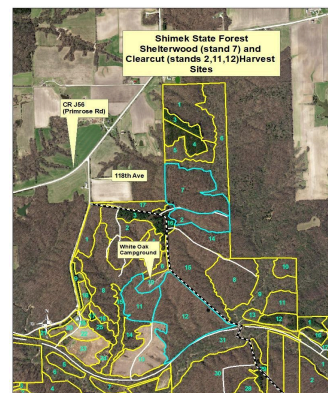
Contract Terms

Income: \$226,890.00

Dates: 10/01/26 to 03/31/28

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 209,424 board feet in 1,347 mixed hardwood trees at Shimek State Forest in Lee County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Shimek State Forest Management Plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.



Wildlife den trees will 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 the 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: 8/13/26

Number of Bids Received: 3

Recommendation: RJ Lumber, LLC

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
RJ Lumber, LLC	Drakesville, IA	\$226,890.00
Yoder Sawmill, LLC	Bonaparte, IA	\$181,000.00
Weiland and Sons Lumber Co. Inc.	Winthrop, IA	\$103,300.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***5. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Yellow River State Forest**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Kendrick, Inc. of Edgewood, IA, for Yellow River State Forest.

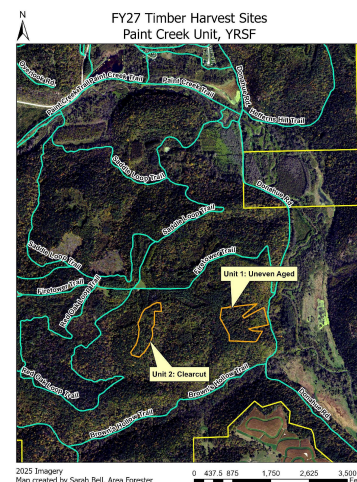
Contract Terms

Income: \$101,900.00

Dates: 10/01/26 to 03/31/2028

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 85,500 board feet in 444 mixed hardwood trees at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County. Even-aged and uneven-aged management systems will be used in accordance with the Yellow River State Forest Management Plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. 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: 8/20/2026

Number of Bids Received: 4

Recommendation: Meister Log & Lumber Co.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$101,900.00
Dan Jones	Waterville, IA	\$84,385.00
Krayton Grotegut Logging, LLC	Waukon, IA	\$82,801.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$78,000.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

6. Contract Amendment with Trees Forever, Inc.

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

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$ 250,000.00

Dates: October 13, 2026 to October 8, 2028.

Funding Source(s): US Forest Service Federal Funds

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

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

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

This amendment adds additional money and time to the contract.

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

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$350,000; Timeframe October 14, 2024 to October 14, 2026

Amendment 1 Terms: Amount: No cost; Timeframe: May 5, 2025 through October 14, 2026

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

7. Contract Amendment 5 with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with Spee Dee Delivery Service, Inc, of St. Cloud, MN.

Amendment--5 Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$75,000

Amendment Dates: October 16, 2026 to October 15, 2027

Funding Source(s): Seedling sales

Amendment Purpose: The purpose of the amendment is to continue shipping services for delivering tree seedlings to customers. The State Forest Nursery ships around one million trees to customers within and outside of Iowa. Shipping costs are passed onto the customer for payment.

Original Contract Purpose: The State Forest Nursery has used Spee Dee Delivery for approximately 20 years. They have provided quality service at a reasonable rate. Other major delivery services will not ship the bagged tree packages and/or are unable to meet the low cost Spee Dee Delivery can provide. Spee Dee Delivery also charges a flat rate per package versus needing to have staff weigh and measure every bag to determine a shipping cost for each package.

Original Selection Process: The Department solicited quotes from targeted small businesses and also published an Informal Request for Quotes on the Department of Administrative Services website. Criteria in the RFQ included the ability to ship the material as bagged by the Nursery.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$49,999; Timeframe: October 25, 2021 to October 24, 2022

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount: \$75,000; Timeframe: October 23, 2022 to October 22, 2023; Purpose: To extend the contract for the subsequent period.

Amendment-2 Terms: Amount: \$75,000; Timeframe: October 21, 2023 to October 20, 2024; Purpose: To extend the contract for the subsequent period.

Amendment-3 Terms: Amount: \$75,000; Timeframe: October 19, 2024 to October 18, 2025; Purpose: To extend the contract for the subsequent period.

Amendment-4 Terms: Amount: \$80,000; Timeframe: October 17, 2025 to October 16, 2026; Purpose: To extend the contract for the subsequent period.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester, Forestry Section
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

8. Contract with IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Commission approval is requested for a service contract with Iowa State University, of Ames, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$500,000

Dates: October 15, 2026 to October 15, 2032.

Funding Source(s): State Forest Nursery Sales

Contract Purpose:

This contract will continue a partnership between the DNR's State Forest Nursery (SFN) and Iowa State University (ISU). This partnership allows ISU students to assist in forestry production aspects at the SFN and provide them with experiential learning opportunities. Through work experience, these students will have the opportunity to assist with nearly all aspects of the nursery operation, from lifting and grading seedlings to storage and distribution. In addition, students will learn to identify, collect, and plant seeds as well as performing seedling maintenance and care.

The SFN, over the years, has explored economical options to assist with the labor and skill needed to operate the nursery. This partnership was started in 2020 and has been mutually beneficial for both the Iowa DNR and ISU. This partnership provides a stable labor resource for the nursery and creates work experience for the students. ISU will promote and provide administration oversight for the students participating in the program. The DNR will provide instruction for the work being performed and oversight and coordination for the approximately 400 man-hours per week anticipated for the assigned work.

Contractor Selection Process:

Contracting with Iowa State University is authorized under 11 Iowa Administrative Code section 118.4. Iowa State University was chosen for this project because of their close proximity to the State Forest Nursery and the ease of students being able to work around class schedules. ISU has a variety of course offerings in the fields of forestry, horticulture, animal ecology, and other natural resource related fields. These ISU students are highly interested in employment opportunities with the Iowa DNR.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

9. Construction Item

9.1 Ledges State Park, Wastewater Improvements – Boone County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Ledges State Park, located just south of Boone, was dedicated in 1924. Park amenities include a campground, numerous picnic areas, trails, and opportunities for fishing and canoeing. Additionally, the park is part of the 91-mile Central State Park Bike Route.

Design Summary:

Wastewater treatment for the campground and other amenities is provided by a three-cell aerated lagoon system. Located west of the park office, these lagoons were constructed in 2003. The system needs upgrading to comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits for Ammonia, Nitrate, and E. Coli. The proposed project includes the following upgrades:

- Aeration system improvements
- Installation of one additional baffle
- A new nitrate reactor
- A lift station
- Chlorination for disinfection
- New sampling equipment and a flowmeter to improve operational efficiency



Engineering Project #: 25-02-08-01

Cost Estimate: \$895,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 8/20/2026

Construction Completion Date: 6/30/2027

Number of Bids Received: 5

Bidders

Blue Ribbon Builders LCC	Earlham, IA	\$1,204,433.00
Wendler Inc	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$1,298,524.00
Joiner Construction Co Inc	Plano, IA	\$1,394,984.00
KE Builders LLC	Boone, IA	\$1,426,555.00
On Track Construction, LLC	Nevada, IA	\$1,525,164.50

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Blue Ribbon Builders LCC.

9.2 Volga River State Recreation Area, Wastewater Improvements – Fayette County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background:

Volga River State Recreation Area is located three miles northeast of Fayette in a scenic area featuring rugged topography, rock outcroppings, and forest cover. The 5,700-acre area features a 137-acre lake and offers excellent year-round outdoor recreation, including hiking, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, and horseback riding.

Design Summary:

Wastewater treatment for the campground, dump station, restrooms, and shower house is currently provided by a two-cell aerated lagoon system constructed in 2009. The system needs upgrading to comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits for Ammonia and E. Coli. The proposed project includes aeration upgrades and chlorination for disinfection. Additionally, the project will incorporate new sampling equipment and a flowmeter to improve operational efficiency.



Engineering Project #: 25-03-33-01

Cost Estimate: \$308,750

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 8/20/2026

Construction Completion Date: 6/30/2027

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

MZ Construction, Inc	Livingston, WI	\$343,620.00
Boomerang Corp	Anamosa, IA	\$378,023.00

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

9.3 Gypsum City, OHV Park Bridge – Webster County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park is approximately 800 acres and is located on the southeast side of Fort Dodge. It is a former gypsum mine and opened as an OHV park in 2005. Amenities include 60 miles of trails, three practice race tracks, a skills development course, and 30-site modern campground with two cabins.

Design Summary: The overall goal is to expand the trail system to the southeast. To improve access to this area, a 100-foot long premanufactured steel bridge will be installed across an existing ravine. The bridge will be eight feet wide with a concrete deck and able to accommodate all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).



Engineering Project #: 23-02-94-04

Cost Estimate: \$350,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests, and Preserves / ATV Program

Funding Source: 72% ATV Program / 28% Federal Recreational Trails Grant

Bid Letting Date: 08/20/2026

Construction Completion Date: 09/15/2027

Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Dixon Construction	Correctionville, IA	\$345,184.00
Peterson Contractors, Inc.	Reinbeck, IA	\$398,452.00

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

9.4 Lake Darling and Geode State Parks, Accessibility Improvements - Washington and Henry Counties

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background:

Lake Darling State Park is in southeast Iowa, approximately three miles west of Brighton. Dedicated in 1950, the park was named in honor of J.N. “Ding” Darling, a nationally recognized conservationist and editorial cartoonist. The centerpiece of the park is the 302-acre Lake Darling, which offers excellent opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, and other water-based recreation. Additionally, the park features a large campground equipped with full-hookup, electric, and non-electric campsites, as well as modern restrooms and shower facilities.

Geode State Park, also in southeast Iowa, is approximately 15 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant. Established in 1937 and originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the park was named after Iowa’s state rock, the geode, which is commonly found in the surrounding region. The 1,640-acre park features the 185-acre Lake Geode, offering opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, and paddle sports. Additionally, the park includes a large campground with both electric and non-electric campsites, as well as modern restrooms and shower facilities.

Design Summary: Portions of the Lake Darling State Park campground experience recurring runoff and drainage issues that result in erosion and deterioration of the gravel campsite surfaces. In addition, the campground’s 80 campsites currently do not include any paved ADA-compliant campsites.

This project will address these deficiencies by paving ten campsites, including three ADA-compliant sites, along with curb and gutter, minor grading, and other ADA improvements. The project also includes minor sidewalk and paving improvements at Geode State Park. These improvements will improve accessibility, reduce erosion and surface deterioration, and enhance the overall condition and functionality of the campground facilities.

Engineering Project #: 25-06-92-02

Cost Estimate: \$200,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 55% Park Infrastructure Accessibility/ 45% Friends Group Donation

Bid Letting Date: 8/20/2027

Construction Completion Date: 05/14/2027

Number of Bids Received: 5

Bidders

Rise Construction, LLC	Des Moines, IA	\$225,441.00
M.J. Daly Construction Company, Inc.	Burlington, IA	\$252,010.00
TK Concrete, Inc.	Pella, IA	\$257,430.00
Graystone Construction, Inc.	West Burlington, IA	\$268,209.50
Triple B Construction	Wilton, IA	\$272,825.00

Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Rise Construction, LLC.

Darling State Park Improvements Location:



Geode State Park Improvements Location:



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

10. Public Land Acquisition Project

10.1 Big Sioux WMA, Sioux County – Sioux County Conservation Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located near the Big Sioux WMA in Sioux County.

Seller: Sioux County Conservation Foundation

Acreage: 79.92 acres M/L

DNR Purchase Price: \$173,000

Appraisal Price: \$173,000

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 8 miles northeast of Hawarden in western Sioux County and is bordered on the east by the Rock River. In 1995, a portion of the tract was enrolled in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP), which encumbers 64.82 acres. The remaining acres consist of dense riparian timber and portions of the Rock River. This property is situated less than 1 mile from an existing tract of the Big Sioux Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and directly adjoins land currently being acquired by the Sioux County Conservation Board.

Purpose:

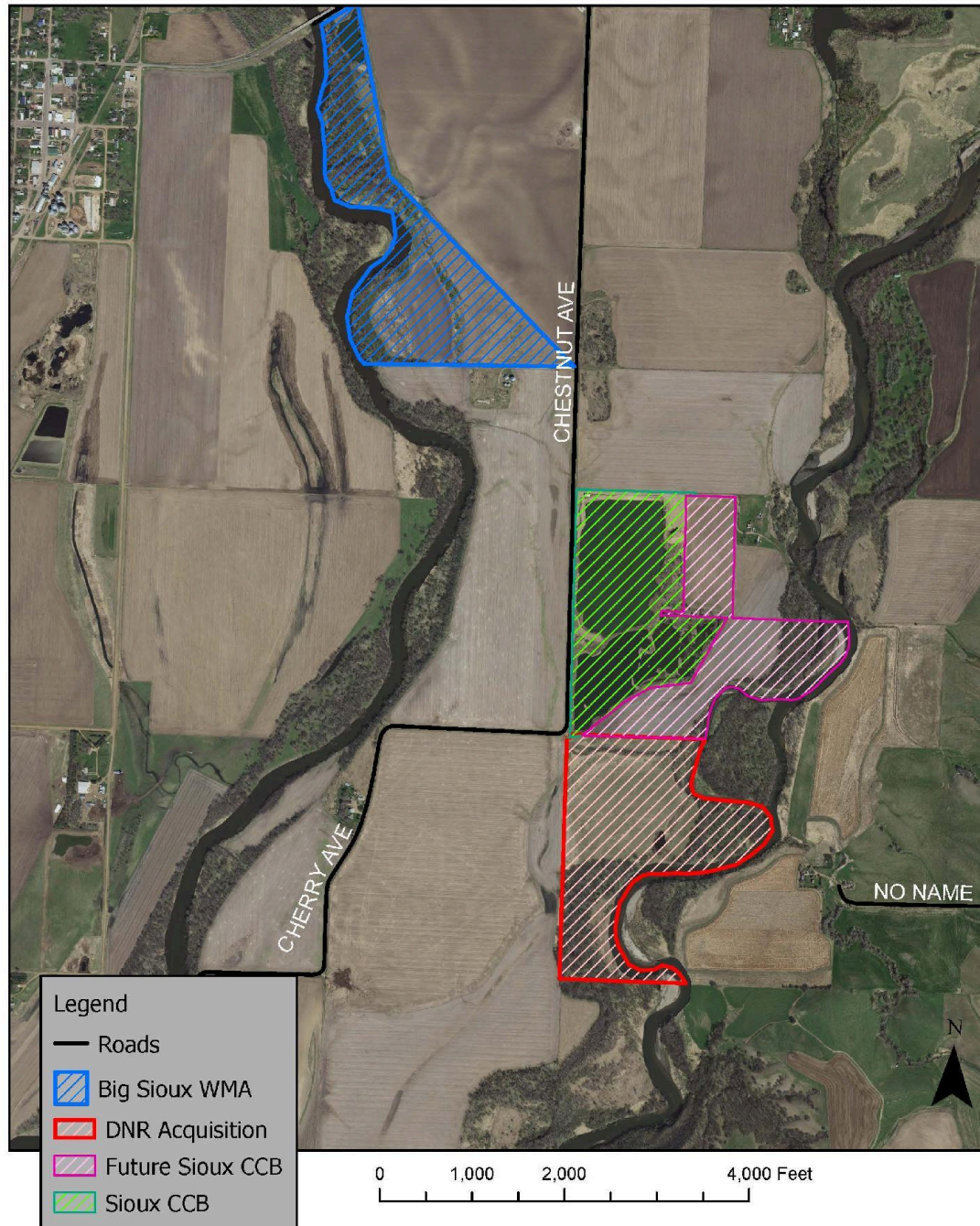
This parcel is adjacent to a property which is in the process of being acquired by Sioux County Conservation Board. These parcels once in public ownership will create a 200-acre Wildlife Management Area along the Rock River. This parcel will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Access will be provided by Cherry Street, a county gravel road.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$93,000 Dakota Pipeline, \$80,000 Gilcrest Foundation Grant through Ducks Unlimited

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

Realty Services / Big Sioux WMA
Sioux County/ Sioux County Conservation Foundation



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***11. Public Land Management Project**

11.1 Management Agreement – Isthmus Park – The City of Spirit Lake – Dickinson County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the City of Spirit Lake for Isthmus Park located in Dickinson County.

Location: This property is located on the north end of East Okoboji Lake in Section 33, Township 100 North, Range 36 West of the 5th P.M. in Dickinson County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 3.6-acre property is used for outdoor recreation in the same manner as state day use recreation areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of Spirit Lake since 1999. The previous management agreement expired December 31, 2024.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the City of Spirit Lake for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Spirit Lake City Council on August 11, 2026.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

12. Contract with Houston Engineering, Inc

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Houston Engineering, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Amendment 2 not to exceed \$113,370.00 for a total contract value not to exceed \$148,370.00

Contract Amendment Dates: September 15, 2026, to May 31, 2029

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program; Executive Council Funding

Background: Three Mile Lake is an 880-acre reservoir in Southern Iowa that serves as a popular recreation destination and drinking water source for the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association. Impounded in 1995, the lake has nearly 24 miles of shoreline that draws over 77,000 estimated annual visits for a variety of different types of recreation, including: fishing, boating, wildlife watching, and public hunting. There is a well-developed campground with cabins and a lodge near the lakeshore. With a 26:1 watershed to lake area ratio and steep slopes with highly erodible soils in the watershed, sedimentation in the lake and high turbidity levels are of concern. While the lake has good water quality relative to many other Iowa lakes, the Lake Restoration Program began meeting with project partners in 2015 to discuss ways to preserve its water quality and make needed infrastructure improvements to the lake, as well as continue watershed improvements to minimize sediment and nutrients being delivered to the lake.

Houston Engineering Inc. (HEI), formerly FYRA Engineering, was hired in 2020 through a competitive selection process to complete engineering design for the Three Mile Lake Restoration Project. Design was completed in 2021 and construction was completed between 2021 and 2025.

The first phase of construction included the mechanical excavation of two existing silt basins on park property and construction of two new BMPs. Additionally, a section of stream bank was be stabilized to mitigate for future stream impacts. The contract was awarded to Keller Excavating, Inc. for \$387,868.20 and was completed in 2022.



JNC was hired to complete the second phase of construction, which began in fall 2023, and was completed early spring 2025. Phase two included targeted shoreline deepening and stabilization, several additional watershed BMPs and in-lake forebays, fish habitat and improved access, and extensive work on the in-lake silt basin on the main arm of the lake (\$3,522,106; \$2.0 Million LRP; \$500k Watershed Infrastructure Fund Grant; \$500k MFT; \$246,386 Bass Pro Grant; \$40,000 National Fish Habitat Partnership Grant; \$155,720 REAP Open Spaces; \$40,00 DNR Fish Habitat Grant; \$30,000 Local sponsors (Union County and SIRWA). After several years of dry weather, the lake finally re-filled in the spring of 2026.

Contract Purpose: HEI was hired in 2024 to assist DNR with oversight on the restoration project and to help with ongoing mitigation requirements that were necessary with DNR's permits.

In the spring of 2026, staff noted several deficiencies in the primary in-lake silt dike at the lake and at a near lake silt basin were identified, including erosion around the abutment of the dike and voids where water had eroded through the articulated concrete blocks (flexamat; see photo) placed as a part of the project. Additionally, mitigation needs for the project changed as previously planted areas failed to take root because of drought conditions from 2023 and 2024, so DNR needed to pivot and develop new areas for mitigating the forested wetlands that were impacted during the original construction project.

HEI met onsite with DNR and representatives from the articulated concrete company to determine why deficiencies were being observed and provide guidance for how these issues could be addressed. HEI surveyed both silt dike structures and

provided a technical memorandum for DNR in summer of 2026 with recommendations for moving forward to repair these structures.

The purpose of this contract amendment is to complete engineering design to repair both silt dike structures at Three Mile Lake, provide limited construction oversight support for the repairs, and to assist DNR with mitigation plans and reports necessary for permit compliance on the project.

Selection Process Summary: Sole Source Procurement

The procurement is of such a specialized nature or related to a specific geographic location that only a single source, by virtue of experience, expertise, proximity, or ownership of intellectual property rights, could most satisfactorily provide the service. The sole source was approved by the Department of Administrative Services on May 21, 2024.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

13. Contract with Kossuth County, Iowa

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Kossuth County, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$242,300

Dates: June 30, 2026 to December 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): Federal North American Wetland Conservation Act

Contract Purpose:

The Iowa Wetland Management District consists of scattered tracts of habitat (both wetland and upland grassland known as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). WPAs are open to the public for appropriate recreational activities and provide excellent wildlife habitat. The WMD boundary follows the historic range of the poorly drained Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) in Iowa, an area known for its waterfowl production.

In 2023, the DNR successfully submitted a proposal requesting \$2,000,000 in federal funding under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The restoration of the Mallard Waterfowl Production Area (Mallard WPA) in Kossuth County was included in this grant. Mallard WPA lies within the Union Slough West Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) priority area. The 140-acre WPA was purchased in 2001 but wetland restoration has been very limited, due to a large county tile system.

Ducks Unlimited and Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge staff partnered with Kossuth County to reroute and replace existing tile with non-perforated tile and complete engineering for this project. Funding from the NAWCA grant will pay for materials needed for the project (paid to Kossuth County), and Kossuth County Drainage District #4 will pay for the installation of the tile. Under this project, 103 acres of wetland habitat will be restored.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with Kossuth County is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

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

Decision Item

**14. Chapter 2 and Chapter 2505 “Fair Information Practices” – Notice of Intended Action
Chapter 2506 “Contested Cases” - Notice of Intended Action**

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Actions for Chapter 2 and Chapter 2505 “Fair Information Practices” and Chapter 2506 “Contested Cases.”

This proposed rulemaking modified the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure related to fair information practices (7—Chapter 2505) to ensure that business confidential records are properly processed and stored by the Department of Natural Resources (Department). This rulemaking also is being done in accordance with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2463 in which sections of Chapter 2 relating to personally identifiable information portions were not rescinded. In an effort to have all Department rules regarding fair information practices, the sections related to personally identifiable information are being moved to Chapter 2505. This will allow for Chapter 2 to be rescinded.

This proposed rulemaking also modifies the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure related to contested cases (7—Chapter 2506) to ensure that the deadline for an administrative appeal is a definite date.

Tamara McIntosh, General Counsel
Legal Services Bureau
Meeting Date: September 10, 2026

Attached: Chapter 2 and Chapter 2505 “Fair Information Practices” and Chapter 2506 “Contested Cases” NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rulemaking related to modification of the uniform rules of Agency Procedure

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 2, “Public Records and Fair Information Practice,” and adopt new Chapter 2505, “Fair Information Practices,” Iowa Administrative Code. Additionally, it proposes to adopt new Chapter 2506, “Contested Cases,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 17A and Iowa Code section 22.11. See also 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2463.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 17A.

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking modified the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure related to fair information practices (7—Chapter 2505) to ensure that business confidential records are properly processed and stored by the Department of Natural Resources (Department). This rulemaking also is being done in accordance with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2463 in which sections of Chapter 2 relating to personally identifiable information portions were not rescinded. In an effort to have all Department rules regarding fair information practices, the sections related to personally identifiable information are being moved to Chapter 2505. This will allow for Chapter 2 to be rescinded.

This proposed rulemaking also modifies the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure related to contested cases (7—Chapter 2506) to ensure that the deadline for an administrative appeal is a definite date.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 7—2504.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 3, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Kelli Book, Attorney
Department of Natural Resources
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.210.3408
Email: kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 1:00 - 2:00

Department of Natural Resources

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200

Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Backbone Conference Room

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 2**.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following **new** 571—Chapter 2505:

CHAPTER 2505

FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

The Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure, 7—Chapters 2500 through 2506, are rules generally applicable to agencies pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.24. Additions, exceptions, or amendments to the corresponding chapter are below.

571—2505.5(17A,22) Confidential records. The custodian may treat a record as a confidential record and withhold it from examination only to the extent that the custodian is authorized by Iowa Code section 22.7, another applicable provision of law, or a court order. Unless deemed as a confidential record or considered as a confidential record by Iowa Code section 22.7, all records are considered public and routinely disclosed without the consent of the subject.

2505.5(1) *Persons who may request.* Any person who would be aggrieved or adversely affected by disclosure of a record and who asserts that Iowa Code section 22.7, another applicable provision of law, or a court order authorizes the custodian to treat the record as a confidential record may request the custodian to treat that record as a confidential record and to withhold it from public inspection.

2505.5(2) *Request.* A written request that a record be treated as a confidential record and be withheld from public inspection should be filed with the custodian. The request must set forth the legal and factual basis justifying such confidential record treatment for that record. The request should include two copies of the record in question: one copy of the record with all information provided and a second copy of the record with the information being requested confidential deleted from the record.

2505.5(3) *Timing of decision.* A decision by the custodian with respect to the disclosure of a record to members of the public may be made when a request for its treatment as a confidential record that is not available for public inspection is filed or when the custodian receives a request for access to the record by a member of the public.

2505.5(4) *Request granted or deferred.* If a request for such confidential record treatment is granted, or if action on such a request is deferred, a copy of the record from which the matter in question has been deleted and a copy of the decision to grant the request or to defer action upon the request will be made available for public inspection in lieu of the original record. If the custodian subsequently receives a request for access to the original record, the custodian will make reasonable and timely efforts to notify any person who has filed a request for its treatment as a confidential record that is not available for public inspection of the pendency of that subsequent request.

2505.5(5) *Request denied and opportunity to seek injunction.* If a request that a record be treated as a confidential record and be withheld from public inspection is denied, the custodian will notify the requester in writing of that determination and the reasons therefor. On application by the requester, the custodian may engage in a good faith, reasonable delay in allowing examination of the record so that the requester may seek injunctive relief under the provisions of Iowa Code section 22.8 or other applicable provision of law. However, such a record need not be withheld from public inspection for any period of time if the custodian determines that the requester had no reasonable grounds to justify the treatment of that record as a confidential record. The custodian will notify the requester in writing of the time period allowed to seek injunctive relief or the reason for the determination that no reasonable grounds exist to justify the treatment of that record as a confidential record. The custodian may extend the period of good faith, reasonable delay in allowing examination of the record so that the requester may seek injunctive relief only if no request for examination of that record has been received; if a court directs the custodian to treat it as a confidential record, to the extent

permitted by another applicable provision of law; or with the consent of the person requesting access.

2505.5(6) *Processing of confidentiality claims.* In order to request a record be held confidential with the department, the party will comply with the following provisions:

a. Applicability/availability. Businesses that provide information to the department in applications, reports or otherwise in recorded form, or from or about which information is obtained and recorded by the department, may request that information not be disclosed to others for reasons of business confidentiality. Until such time as a request for confidentiality is received by the department, all information will be available to the public. If a claim is received after the information itself is received, the department will make such efforts as are administratively practicable to associate the claim with all copies of the previously received information. However, the department cannot ensure that such efforts will be effective in light of the possibility of prior disclosure or dissemination of the information beyond the department's reasonable control.

b. Confidentiality request process. An entity that submits information to the department may assert a confidentiality claim in accordance with the following process:

(1) Attach a cover sheet indicating the entity is seeking the information to be held confidential. The submission will include a letter of substantiation with the information required by paragraph 2505.5(6) "c."

(2) File two copies of the information: one copy with all information present and a second copy with the information for which the party wishes to claim confidential treatment deleted from the document.

c. Contents of claim. All claims for confidentiality must be substantiated with the following information in a letter attached to the proposed confidential document:

(1) A statement of all measures the business has taken to protect the confidentiality of the information and a statement of intent to continue to take such measures;

(2) Practices and policies of other businesses, if known, regarding confidentiality of similar information;

(3) A statement that the information is not, and has not been, reasonably attainable without the consent of the business by other persons other than government bodies by use of legitimate means;

(4) A statement demonstrating that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to the business's competitive position;

(5) A reference to any other determinations of confidential status of the information or similar information.

d. Initial action by department. All claims will be reviewed for completeness and applicability of subrule 2505.5(8). If the claim does not include the substantiation required by paragraph 2505.5(6) "c," or if the claim relates to information within subrule 2505.5(8), the business making the claim will be notified by certified mail. If the substantiation or comment regarding the inapplicability of subrule 2505.5(8) is not received by the department within ten days of the date on the return receipt, the department will place the information in the public file. Otherwise, all information claimed to be confidential will be treated as such by the department until further notice.

e. Substantive criteria for use in confidentiality determinations. Prior determinations by the courts, the department, or other agencies on the information or similar

information will be given due consideration and effect. Determinations will hold that business information is entitled to confidential treatment for the benefit of a particular person if:

(1) The business has taken and intends to continue to take reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information;

(2) The information is not readily obtainable by others by legitimate means;

(3) The claim is not unreasonable in view of the nature of the information, the interests and normal practices of the business, and the practices of other businesses;

(4) No statute or rule specifically requires disclosure of the information; and

(5) There is a substantial likelihood that disclosure of the information would cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the business.

f. Determination. The department will transmit its determination regarding a claim for business confidentiality to the claimant by certified mail notifying the claimant of the opportunity to provide comments within ten days, subject to reasonable extension upon written request, and that failure to comment will be construed to indicate agreement with the preliminary determination. If the determination is in response to a request for disclosure, the person requesting the disclosure will be sent a similar notice in the same manner within ten days of the request. If any substantial comments are received, the final decision will be made by the director or designee. If no substantial comments are received, the preliminary determination becomes the final decision.

g. All procedures within this rule will not be considered contested case proceedings as provided in Iowa Code chapter 17A.

2505.5(7) *Confidential records.* The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection.

- a.* Sealed bids received prior to the time set for public opening of bids;
- b.* Tax records made available to the department;
- c.* Records that are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7;
- d.* Minutes of closed meetings of a government body;
- e.* Identifying details in final orders, decisions, and opinions to the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or trade secrets;
- f.* Those portions of the department's staff manuals, instructions, or other statements issued that set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by staff in auditing; in making inspections; in settling commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements; or in the selection or handling of cases such as operational tactics or allowable tolerances or criteria for the defense, prosecution, or settlement of cases when disclosure of these statements would:
 - (1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;
 - (2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or
 - (3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the department;
- g.* Records that constitute attorney work product, constitute attorney-client communications, or are otherwise privileged. Attorney work product is confidential under Iowa Code sections 22.7(4), 622.10 and 622.11; Iowa R.C.P. 1.503(3); Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3); and case law. Attorney-client communications are confidential under

Iowa Code sections 622.10 and 622.11, the rules of evidence, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

h. Any other records made confidential by law.

2505.5(8) *Not confidential.* Notwithstanding any other provision, the following information will not be considered confidential by the department:

a. Emission data. For purposes of this subrule, “emission data” means the following, with reference to any source of emission of any substance into the air:

(1) Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration, or other characteristics (to the extent related to air quality) of any emission that has been emitted by the source (or of any pollutant resulting from any emission by the source) or any combination of the foregoing;

(2) Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration, or other characteristics (to the extent related to air quality) of the emissions that, under an applicable standard or limitation, the source was authorized to emit (including, to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the manner or rate of operation of the source); and

(3) A general description of the location and nature of the source to the extent necessary to identify the source and to distinguish it from other sources (including, to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the device, installation, or operation constituting the source).

b. Analytical results of monitoring or public water supply systems;

c. Name and address of any permit applicant; and

d. NPDES permits, applications (including any information required by NPDES application forms), and effluent data. For purposes of this subrule, “effluent data” means the following, with reference to any source of discharge of any pollutant:

(1) Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration, temperature, or other characteristics (to the extent related to water quality) of any pollutant that has been emitted by the source (or of any pollutant resulting from any discharge from the source) or any combination of the foregoing;

(2) Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration, temperature, or other characteristics (to the extent related to water quality) of the pollutants that, under an applicable standard or limitation, the source was authorized to discharge (including, to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the manner or rate of operation of the source); and

(3) A general description of the location and nature of the source to the extent necessary to identify the source and to distinguish it from other sources (including, to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the device, installation, or operation constituting the source).

571—2505.9(17A,22) Personally identifiable information. This rule describes the nature and extent of personally identifiable information that is collected, maintained, and retrieved by the department of natural resources by personal identifier in record systems. For the purposes of this rule, “record system” means any group of records under the control of the agency from which a record may be retrieved by a personal identifier, such as the name of an individual, number, symbol, or other unique retriever assigned to an individual. Records maintained by the department of natural resources,

the environmental protection commission, and the natural resource commission are in accordance with guidelines as set forth by the state records commission's file system. An updated index is maintained by the department and is available for public inspection. Records are collected pursuant to authorities contained in Iowa Code title XI. Records are stored on paper; microfilm; microfiche; and, in some cases, automated data processing systems, such as electronic management systems and department web applications. Department of natural resources and natural resource commission records may include but are not limited to the following.

2505.9(1) Department of natural resources.

a. Administration, organization, and management.

- (1) Organization and management.
- (2) Planning and programming.
- (3) Administrative reports.
- (4) Insurance and bonding.
- (5) Departmental emergency planning.
- (6) Correspondence and reference materials.
- (7) Information and public relations.

b. Budgets, accounting and financial analysis.

- (1) Budget information.
- (2) Accounting.
- (3) Cost accounting.

c. Office services and facilities management.

- (1) Communications.

(2) Printing and reproduction.

(3) Records management.

(4) Motor pool operations.

(5) Facilities management.

(6) Engineering and construction.

d. Equipment, supplies, and services.

(1) Procurement.

(2) Property accountability.

e. Legislative and legal.

(1) Department legislative liaison.

(2) Bills, joint resolutions, amendments, messages, and reports.

(3) Federal government.

(4) Administrative procedures.

(5) Attorney general opinions and research materials.

(6) Claims against the state.

(7) Lawsuits filed by the state.

(8) 28E agreements.

f. Personnel and payroll.

(1) Employee personnel/payroll files.

(2) Merit rules.

(3) Payroll administration.

(4) Position classification.

(5) Preemployment.

- (6) Certification and selection.
- (7) Scheduling, assignments, and working hours.
- (8) Grievances.
- (9) Training and education.
- (10) Employee benefits and welfare.
- (11) Employment relations.
- (12) Equal employment opportunity.
- (13) Management improvement programs.
- (14) Delegation of authority and signature authorization.

g. Conservation and environment.

- (1) Geology.
 - 1. Surface and groundwater monitoring.
 - 2. Natural resources geographic information system (GIS) library.
 - 3. Oil/gas exploration and drilling.
- (2) Water conservation.
- (3) Land conservation.
- (4) Soil conservation.
- (5) Forestry management.
- (6) Fish and game conservation.
- (7) Recreation.
- (8) Environmental technology.
- (9) Air quality monitoring.
- (10) Water quality monitoring.

(11) Land quality monitoring.

(12) Hazardous material planning.

1. Hazardous waste management.

2. Underground storage tanks.

3. Leaking underground storage tanks.

(13) Radioactive materials.

(14) Environmental—interdisciplinary.

2505.9(2) Natural resource commission.

a. Tort claims investigations.

b. Numerous licensing files.

c. Lifetime licenses.

d. Boat registrations.

e. Docks, mooring, buoys or raft registrations.

f. Snowmobile registrations.

g. Miscellaneous mailing list (e.g., magazine).

h. Payroll and personnel information system.

i. Fur buyer reports.

j. Fish and game violations.

k. Safety certified students (hunter safety, snowmobile safety, boating safety).

l. Special events applications and permits.

m. Snowmobile accident reports.

n. Boating accident reports.

o. Drowning reports.

- p.* Timber buyer reports and bonds.
- q.* Work programs with Iowa State University.
- r.* Timber management and forestry.
- s.* State park ranger violation reports.
- t.* Incident reports.
- u.* Donations.
- v.* Real estate acquisition.
- w.* Encroachments.
- x.* Campground host program.
- y.* Law enforcement intelligence network (LEIN) and turn in poachers (TIP).
- z.* Park leases and concessions.

571—2505.10(17A,22) Other groups of records. This rule describes groups of records maintained by the department of natural resources other than record systems as defined in rule 571—2505.9(17A,22). These records are routinely available to the public. However, the department's files of these records may contain confidential information. In addition, some records may contain information about individuals. Records are stored on paper; microfilm; microfiche; and, in some cases, automated data processing systems, such as electronic management systems and department web applications.

2505.10(1) Rulemaking. Rulemaking records may contain information about individuals making written or oral comments on proposed rules. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.4.

2505.10(2) Commission records. Agendas, minutes, and materials presented to the environmental protection commission and the natural resource commission are available

from the office of the director, except these records concerning closed sessions that are confidential under Iowa Code section 21.5(5). Commission records contain information about people who participate in meetings. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.3.

2505.10(3) *Publications.* News releases, annual reports, Iowa Outdoors magazine, project reports, agency newsletters, etc., are available from the department offices for public information. Brochures describing various department programs are available at local offices of the department. Department news releases, project reports, Iowa Outdoors magazine, and newsletters may contain information about individuals, including department staff or members of the commission or committees.

2505.10(4) *Statistical reports.* Periodic reports for various department programs are available from the department offices for public information.

2505.10(5) *Grants or loans.* Records on persons and institutions receiving grants or loans are available through the institutions, also for public information. The records may contain information about employees of a grantee.

2505.10(6) *Published materials.* The department of natural resources uses many legal and technical publications in its work. The public may inspect these publications upon request. Some of these materials may be protected by copyright law.

2505.10(7) *Policy manuals.* The department of natural resources employees' manual, containing the policies and procedures for programs administered by the department, is available in every office of the department. Policy manuals do not contain information about individuals.

2505.10(8) *All other records that are not exempted from disclosure by law.* The department maintains a variety of records that do not generally contain information pertaining to named individuals.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** 571—Chapter 2506:

CHAPTER 2506

CONTESTED CASES

The Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure, 7—Chapters 2500 through 2506, are rules generally applicable to agencies pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.24. Additions, exceptions, or amendments to the corresponding chapter are below.

571—2506.4(17A) Electronic requests for contested case proceeding.

2506.4(1) A person entitled to a contested case proceeding must electronically file written request for such a proceeding within the time specified by the governing rules or statutes or, if no rule or statute sets such a time, within 60 days.