

to: Colleen Callahan, Director

from: Mike Wefer, Chairman, State Duck Stamp Committee

date: February 21, 2020

subject: Duck Stamp Committee Action – State Projects Only

The State Duck Stamp Committee met on February 21, 2020 to review the IDNR proposals for funding from the Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund for fiscal year 2020. There was an estimated \$250,000 available for state projects, and a total of \$289,635 in requests.

The Committee recommended \$250,000 in funds be encumbered for the following new state projects:

Projects Recommended for Funding - ILLINOIS WATERFOWL AREA IMPROVEMENTS (State Projects)

Rice Lake SFWA (Fulton Co.) – Copperas Creek Walk-in water control structure

Request: \$35,000 Matching Funds: \$121,204 Total: \$146,204 Committee Action: **Recommend Funding**

This project is part of the Conserving the Illinois River Legacy NAWCA grant. DNR agreed to \$35,000 in matching funds in order to receive \$121,204 in a combination of grant and DU funding to rehabilitate many parts of the site. The Duck Stamp project would replace a failed water control structure at the Rice Lake Walk-in Units that include hunted and refuge areas. This will allow for better water level control to manage vegetation and will prevent unwanted flood water from entering the area.

Cost per acre: \$118.24 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 125/140

Sanganois SFWA (Mason Co.) – Walk-in Unit Rehabilitation

Request: \$64,000 Matching Funds: \$345,182 Total: \$409,182 Committee Action: **Recommend Funding**

This project is part of the Conserving the Illinois River Legacy NAWCA grant. DNR agreed to \$64,000 in matching funds in order to receive \$345,182 in a combination of grant and DU funding to rehabilitate the 400 acre walk-in unit. This unit is at the heart of Sanganois and is used extensively by waterfowl hunters, waterfowl, breeding waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. The Duck Stamp project would contribute to the overall completion of the project which will add three large concrete box culvert water control structures to the walk-in unit which will significantly enhance management of the unit. Currently the unit has little to no water control, and this will allow control, and redirection when flood water is unwanted. Funds will be used to purchase stoplogs for new structures and potentially rip-rap, culverts, water control structures or contractual services as necessary to complete the project.

Cost per acre: \$157.64 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 125/140

Cache River SNA (Johnson Co.) – Owen's Tract Water Control Structure

Request: \$11,000 Matching Funds: \$25,000 Total: \$36,000 Committee Action: **Recommend Funding**

This project is part of the Heart of the Big Rivers NAWCA grant. DNR is receiving \$25,000 in grant and DU funding to establish a new wetland management unit at the site. The Duck Stamp project would provide the water control structure for this new wetland unit. Other funds have been used for tree clearing, berm construction and other project costs. The project will establish a 70 acre moist-soil management unit that is open to public waterfowl hunting.

Cost per acre: \$157.14 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 120/140

Carlyle Lake SFWA (Fayette Co.) – Construction grade LiDAR

Request: \$10,000 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$10,000 Committee Action: Recommend Funding

This request would be combined with \$68,000 allocated to this project in 2019. Recent cost estimates generated by companies capable of providing this service are greater than the \$68,000 available. An additional \$10,000 will help to ensure completion of this project. The goal is to obtain high quality elevation data so that significant design work can be completed without extensive surveying work. This allows engineers to work more efficiently, especially since Carlyle has >\$1,000,000 available in funding to rehabilitate portions of the site for wetland and waterfowl management.

Cost per acre: \$11.15 (total project cost \$78,000) Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 115/140

Mermet Lake SFWA (Massac Co.) – Bottomland Hardwood Enhancement

Request: \$9,000 Matching Funds: \$1,000 Total: \$10,000 Committee Action: Recommend Funding

This project would build on bottomland forest enhancements initiated in 2019. The site will hire a contractor to mechanically remove woody underbrush from approximately 10 acres flooded timber units of the site to facilitate waterfowl and hunter use. The recently completed project has seen a positive response from hunters and waterfowl.

Cost per acre: \$900 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 110/140

Rend Lake SFWA (Jefferson Co.) – Lemon Hill Unit establishment

Request: \$24,000 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$24,000 Committee Action: Recommend Funding

Rend Lake SFWA is one of the largest and most popular public hunting areas in Illinois. This project would establish a new 22 acre management unit at the site. Currently, habitat quality suffers over much of the areas due to flooding preventing high quality habitat establishment. This unit is at a slightly higher elevation than many other management units at the site, which will facilitate habitat management and prevent loss to untimely flooding. This unit will be open to public hunting.

Cost per acre: \$1,090.91 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 95/140

Horseshoe Lake SFWA (Alexander Co.) – Portable Pump Purchase

Request: \$45,100 Matching Funds: \$1,000 Total: \$46,100 Committee Action: Recommend Funding at \$44,900

Currently the site uses a rented portable pump to flood 50 acres in the controlled hunting unit. Having a dedicated pump available will allow the site to flood an additional 20 acres in this unit, 130 acres in the public hunting unit, 170 acres in the refuge and 160 acres available to public hunting at nearby Cape Bend SFWA, a satellite of Horseshoe Lake SFWA. This is a 360 acre increase in flooded wetland habitat. Additionally, having the pump available during the growing season will allow water level manipulation or irrigation of wetland areas to maintain high quality habitats. Currently the site spends \$1,900 annually for a one month rental of a similar pump.

Cost per acre: \$110 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 90/100 (Equipment)

Sanganois SFWA (Mason Co.) – Collis Pond Enhancement

Request: \$15,000 Matching Funds: \$0 Total: \$15,000 Committee Action: Recommend Funding

Many traditional waterfowl hunting locations at Sanganois have degraded over the past several years. The Collis Pond unit is a prime example of this, with regular flooding from the Sangamon River degrading berms that allow water level management in the unit. Existing berms have exhausted their useful life, as there is no suitable material nearby with which to rebuild the berms. This project would establish two new low berms (266 and 133 feet) within the unit that will allow water level management and continued hunting at five popular and successful blind sites.

Cost per acre: \$334 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 90/140

Union County SFWA (Union Co.) – Portable Pump Purchase

Request: \$37,100 Matching Funds: \$9,000 Total: \$46,100 Committee Action: Recommend Funding

Currently the site uses a rented portable pump to flood 130 acres in the controlled hunting unit. Having a dedicated pump available will allow the site to flood an additional 180 acres in this unit, 20 acres in the Firing Line unit, 90 acres in the refuge and 70 acres available to public hunting at nearby Devil's Island SFWA, a satellite of Union County SFWA. This is a 360 acre increase in flooded wetland habitat. Additionally, having the pump available during the growing season will allow water level manipulation or irrigation of wetland areas to maintain high quality habitats. Currently the site spends \$1,900 annually for a one month rental of a similar pump.

Cost per acre: \$75.71 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 90/100 (Equipment)

The Committee recommended moving these state projects to the Duck Stamp Maintenance Fund funding.

The Committee recommended \$39,435 in duck stamp maintenance funding be encumbered for these projects:

Carlyle Lake SFWA (Rayette Co.) – American Lotus control

Request: \$5,960 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$5,960 **Committee Action: Move to the Maintenance Fund**

This project will aerially treat about 65 acres of American Lotus. Inability to completely manage water levels in some units has led to lotus establishment. This reduces the area available for waterfowl forage and often continues to spread over a broad area. Persistent wet conditions prevent treatment by mechanical methods and treating now while patches are manageable will keep costs reasonable as opposed to treating larger acreages. This portion of the site is open to public waterfowl hunting.

Cost per acre: \$91.69 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 115/140

Redwing Slough SNA (Lake Co.) – Cattail control

Request: \$10,000 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$10,000 **Committee Action: Move to the Maintenance Fund**

The two management units at Redwing Slough have become dominated by cattail, reducing the amount of open water and hemi-marsh and becoming less attractive to waterfowl and wetland wildlife. Through water level manipulation, cattails are starting to decline, restoring some quality to the marsh. This project would expedite the return to high quality hemi-marsh conditions by mechanically removing cattail from portions of both units and manipulating water levels to avoid reestablishment. This site is open to public waterfowl hunting.

Cost per acre: \$11.15 (total project cost \$78,000) Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 115/140

Ten Mile Creek SFWA (Jefferson Co.) – Water control structure replacements

Request: \$14,000 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$14,000 **Committee Action: Move to the Maintenance Fund**

Duck Stamp funds will be used to replace two water control structures on two separate wetlands. One wetland is in waterfowl refuge, one is open to public waterfowl hunting. Water control structure replacement will facilitate management for beneficial wetland habitats (moist-soil management) on approximately 10 acres.

Cost per acre: \$1,489.36 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 100/140

Sibley Pheasant Habitat Area (Ford Co.) – Wetland rehabilitation

Request: \$9,475 Matching Funds: \$ 0 Total: \$ 9,475 **Committee Action: Move to the Maintenance Fund**

Replace a failed water control structure on the 10-12 acre wetland at Sibley PHA. The berm and water control structure has failed and no longer holds water as it should. Project would replace the control structure and replace the 24" tile leading to and from the structure. Waterfowl hunting is not currently allowed at this site, but discussions are underway to establish waterfowl hunting by Springfield drawn permit 1 day per week. The wetland holds significant numbers of waterfowl at times.

Cost per acre: \$758 Duck Stamp Review Criteria Score: 75/140

Please let me know if you desire any additional information on either of these projects. Upon your decision, the OGMA grant staff will inform the members of the State Duck Stamp Committee and get the capital funds released.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION


Mike Wefer, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

2/24/2020
Date

APPROVE
 DISAPPROVE


DIVISION RECOMMENDATION


Chris Young, Director
Office of Resource Conservation

2/25/2020
Date

APPROVE
 DISAPPROVE

AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF


Colleen Callahan, Director

2-25-20
Date

APPROVE
 DISAPPROVE