



February, 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

Patrick Shehan  
Special Projects Ranger  
Story County Conservation  
56461 180<sup>th</sup> St.  
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mr. Shehan,

This letter is written to offer our full support to Story County Conservation (SCC) for their efforts in restoring McFarland Park Lake. As a Fisheries Biologist for the Iowa DNR, it's obvious that there is significant value in restoring this particular lake. The watershed land ownership and partnership adjacent to McFarland Park is what sets this lake apart from many other lakes. Story County Conservation controls approximately 40% of the watershed, and there are conservation-minded landowners in the watershed interested in installing conservation practices to improve McFarland Lake water quality and protect the proposed fish habitat. The lake and park provide a great "escape" from the City for local residents and students at Iowa State University. This lake has the potential to provide improved shoreline angling, outdoor education opportunities, water quality, and reservoir fish habitat.

The Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau and SCC have a great working relationship, and we look forward to our continued partnership on the proposed project. Story County Conservation was an excellent partner on the Hickory Grove Lake restoration project, which was completed in 2020. Story County Conservation understands the necessary components of a successful lake restoration project.

The Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau finished data collection and provided a bathymetric map of McFarland Lake to SCC and the consulting firm to quantify sediment removal estimates and the associated costs. Furthermore, the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau will continue to provide technical guidance and assistance throughout the planning and implementation process. The Iowa DNR will also restock the lake with several species of fish, and provide post-renovation sampling to confirm survival and adequate growth of stocked fish.

We ask that you give your full financial support for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Dodd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ben Dodd  
Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau