

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT: Donation acceptance – Friends of the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitors Center

Friends of the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitors Center will donate a total of \$983,059.41 including \$555,000 in cash and donated interpretive displays valued at \$428,059.41. This donation will be used to develop the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitor's Center-Explorium and informational displays throughout the building. These interpretive displays will significantly add to the conservation education programs provided through the WDNR's Wildlife Management program .

FOR: August 2015 Board meeting

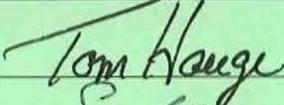
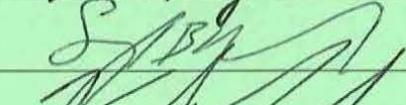
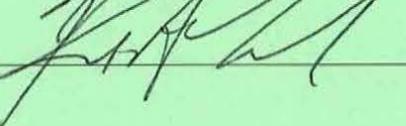
TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Stepp

SUMMARY:

The history of Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area is a story of change from wetland to wasteland and back again. Initially created by the great glaciers of the last Ice Age, the marshland basin became the states first wildlife area when the Wisconsin legislature passed the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge Bill in 1927. Due to the significance of the property, following completion of the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center (HMEVC) in 2009, the Friends of the Horicon Marsh once again partnered with the WDNR's Wildlife Management program to initiate a capital campaign to develop an interepretive exhibit hall as well as interpretive displays throughout the building.

As a result of their efforts, an exhibit concept plan was developed which focused on creating the Explorium, the 3,500 square feet of previously unfinished space in the lower level of the HMEVC, outdoor informational kiosks, and interpretive displays within the Marsh viewing area and the Children's Discovery Area. Following 5 years of design, development and lastly construction of the interpretive displays in conjunction with Taylor Studios Inc. has now reached completion and will be opening to the public on August 22, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the generous donation of a total of \$983,059.41 including \$555,000 in cash and donated interpretive displays valued at \$428,059.41 from Friends of the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitors Center

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge Bureau Director		7/10/15
Sanjay Olson Land Division Administrator		7/13/15
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		7/14/15

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8
Department rule coordinator – LS/8

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its August 2015 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of a total of \$983,059.41 including \$555,000 in cash and donated interpretive displays valued at \$428,059.41 from:

Friends of the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitors Center

This donation will be used to develop the Horicon Marsh Education & Visitor's Center-Explorium and informational displays throughout the building. These interpretive displays will significantly add to the conservation education programs provided through the WDNR's Wildlife Management program .

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Natural Resources Board

Preston D. Cole, Chair