

**SUBJECT: LAND ACQUISITION AND DONATION - LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY - RICHLAND COUNTY**

**FOR: AUGUST 2010 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Richard Steffes

**SUMMARY:** Elijah Lin has offered to donate three acres of land for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Richland County to the Department. The county has offered the property for the unpaid back taxes of \$75.00. Mr. Lin provided that amount to the Department for use to purchase the land.

The parcel is located in the Town of Buena Vista about two miles west of Lone Rock. It adjoins state-owned land to the east and west and includes 600 feet of frontage on the Lower Wisconsin River. Acquisition of the parcel will protect the scenic and natural values of the area in addition to providing opportunities for public recreation and habitat management and consolidation of state ownership.

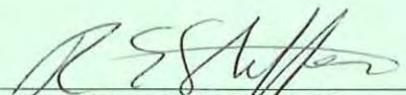
The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWSR) was formed by combining nine existing wildlife areas along the Wisconsin River between Prairie du Chien and Sauk City as well as some additional lands to close separations between the wildlife area boundaries. The goal of the LWSR is to protect scenic lands along the river, enhance wildlife habitat and meet the recreational needs of the public. A cooperative effort between citizens, environmental groups, elected officials, and the Department ended successfully with the passage of the law establishing the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of funds to be used to purchase three acres of land for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, and that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donor and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

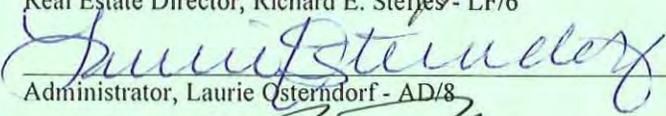
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |  |   |   |          |
|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

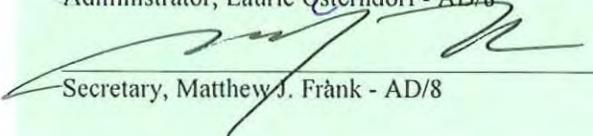
**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

7-13-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

7/15/10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

7-19-10  
Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6  
R. Steffes - LF/6  
L. Ross - AD/8  
L. Eagan - SCR/Fitchburg

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2010 FILE REF: WR 70035  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Matthew J. Franz   
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Purchase and Donation, Richland County Tract, File # WR 70035

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway  
 Richland County

Grantor:

Richland County  
 c/o Paul Klawiter  
 P.O Box 348  
 Richland Center, WI 53581

Acres: 3.0Price: N/A – (Cash gift from Elijah Lin to be used for land purchase from Richland County.)Interest: Fee Title Purchase and DonationImprovements: NoneWater Resources: 600 feet of frontage on the Lower Wisconsin RiverLocation: The tract is located in Richland County in the Town of Buena Vista about two miles west of Lone Rock.Land Description: The subject land is an island in the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

| <u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u> | <u>Type:</u>     | <u>Acreage:</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                              | Lowland Woodland | 3.0             |

Present Use: RecreationProposed Use: Resource Protection and RecreationTenure: The county has not received taxes for at least ten years and took a tax deed.Agreement Date: June 29, 2010Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature-based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing.2. JUSTIFICATION:

Elijah Lin has offered to donate three acres of land for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Richland County to the Department. The county offered the land for the unpaid taxes of \$75.00. Mr. Lin provided that amount to the Department for use to purchase the land. The parcel is within the project boundary and is located in the Town of Buena Vista about two miles west of Lone Rock. It adjoins state-owned land to the east and west and includes 600 feet of frontage on the Lower Wisconsin River.

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (LWSR) was formed by combining nine existing wildlife areas along the Wisconsin River between Prairie du Chien and Sauk City as well as some additional lands to close separations between the wildlife area boundaries. The property is located within the Wisconsin River floodplain, consisting mostly of a lowland grassy marsh and a small area of lowland woods. This parcel

fills a gap in department ownership as it connects to a large block of department-owned land. The property may be accessed by foot over adjacent department lands to the east.

The goals of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway are to protect scenic lands along the river, enhance wildlife habitat and to meet the recreational needs of the public. A cooperative effort between citizens, environmental groups, elected officials, and the Department ended successfully with the passage of the law establishing the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board.

Acceptance of this gift will protect the scenic and natural values of the area, in addition to providing opportunities for public recreation and habitat management and consolidation of state ownership.

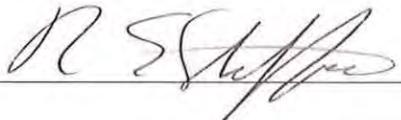
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction. Elijah Lin provided \$75.00 to pay to the county for the parcel.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY:

Established: 1989  
Acres Purchased to Date: 49,497.24  
Acquisition Goal: 78,855.0 Acres  
Percent Complete: 62.77%  
Cost to Date: \$24,665,918.06

RECOMMENDED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Steffes

7-13-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bureau of Legal Services

7-14-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Osterndorf

7/15/10  
Date

RES:dv

## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its August meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of three acres of land in Richland County for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway from

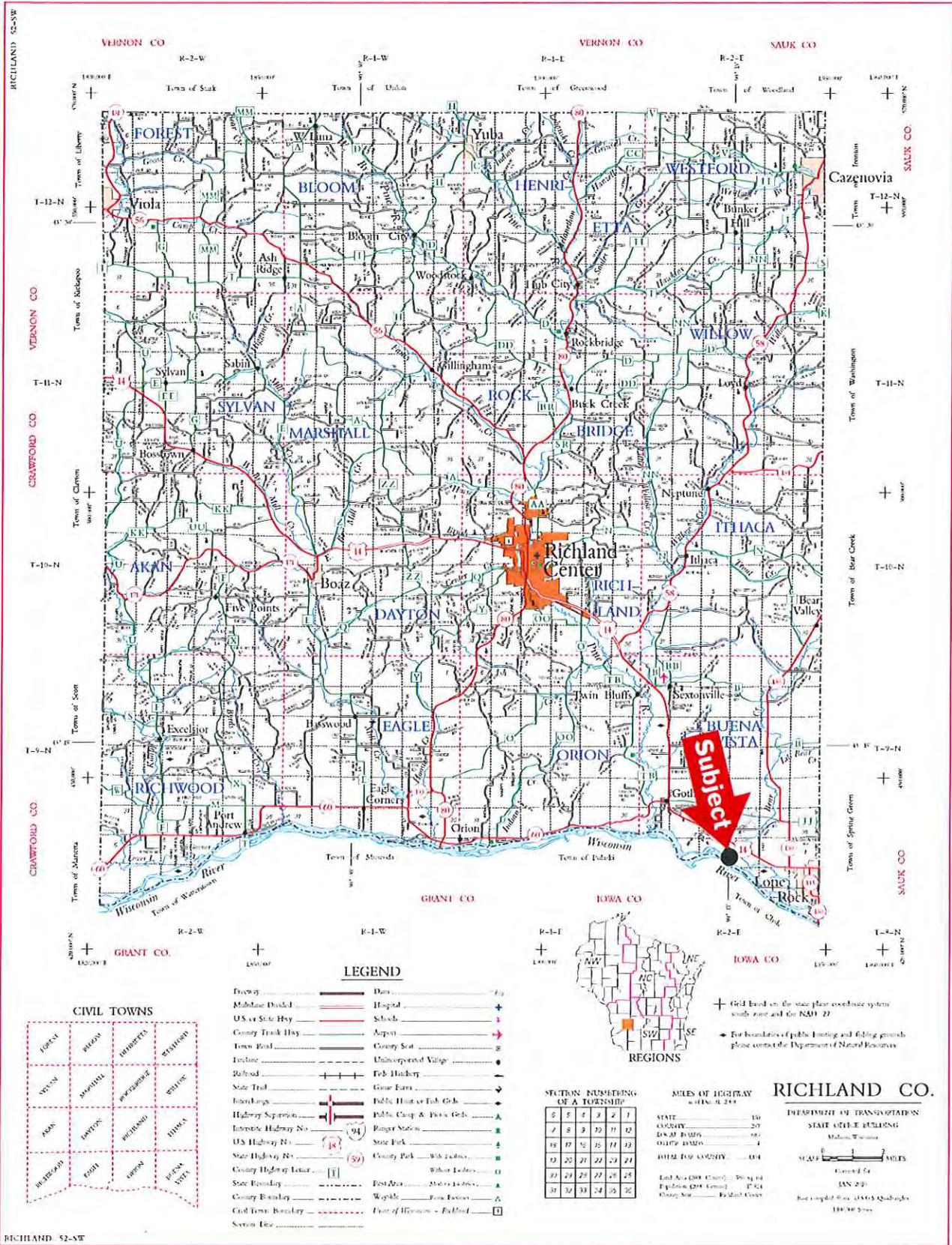
**ELIJAH LIN**

It is significant that individuals such as you are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

*Natural Resources Board*

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR



# Richland County Parcel

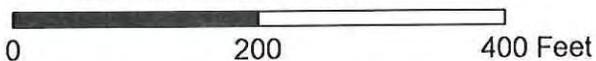
T8N R2E Section 4, Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, WI (3.00 Acres)



LOWER WISCONSIN  
STATE RIVERWAY  
PROJECT BOUNDARY 4

### Legend

- DNR Project Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - PLSS Section Line
  - PLSS Quarter-Quarter
  - DNR Eased
  - DNR Owned
- Recent DNR Purchase: Bristol



### Subject Property

WR 70035

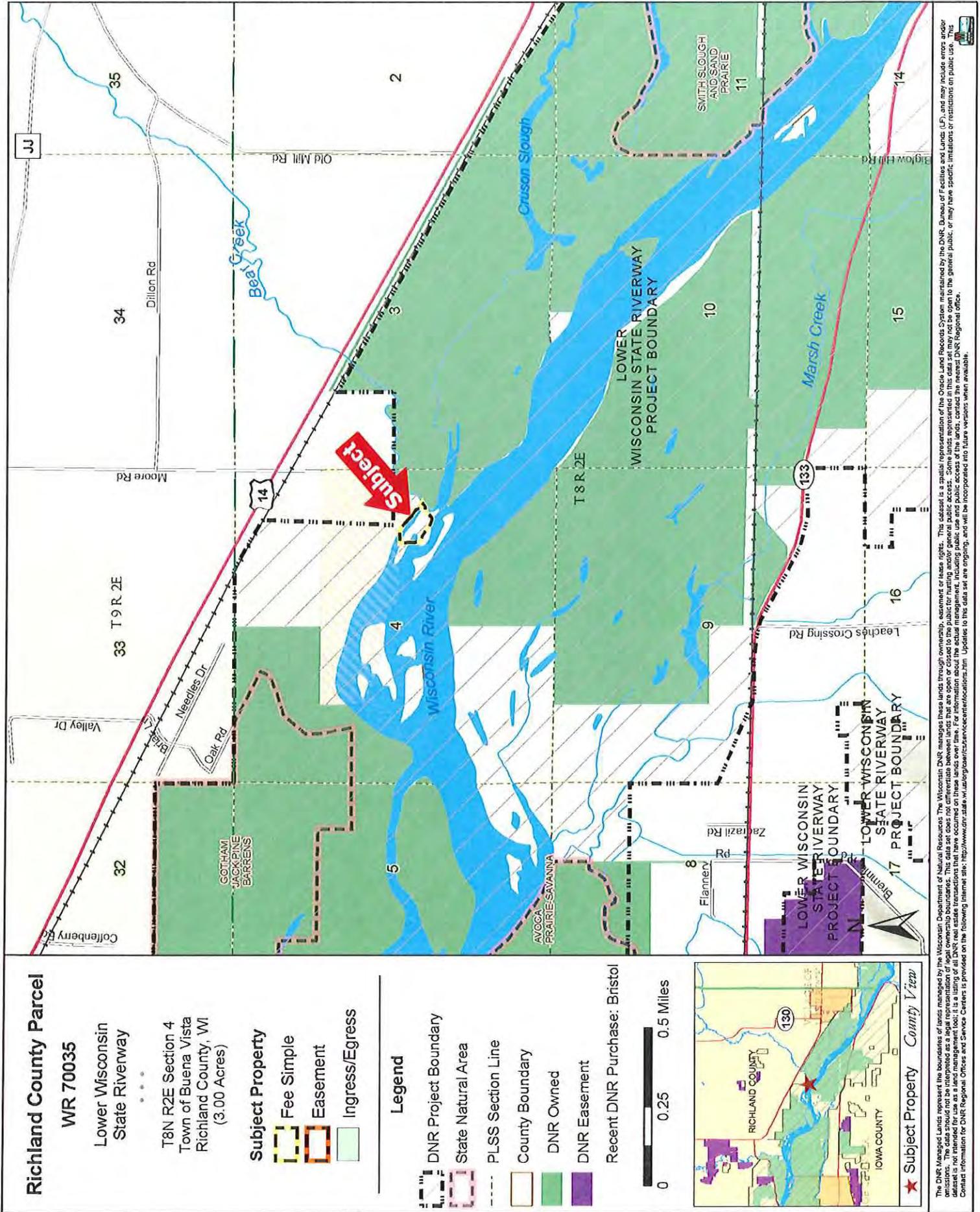
Lower Wisconsin  
State Riverway

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

State of Wisconsin

July 13, 2010  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Use Advisory: Neither the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) nor any of its employees shall be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of the information and/or contained herein and assumes no responsibility for use of the information. Furthermore, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, timely, or reliability of any information. The WDNR provides mapped information on an "as is" basis. The WDNR has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate information, but cannot exclude the possibility of errors or omissions in source information. There is no guarantee the parcel boundaries are defined by a survey. The map user is expected to exercise reasonable use of the map information.



The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement, or lease rights. This dataset is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LF), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries. This data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for recreation. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional Office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following Internet site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/owar/service/locations.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.