

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION - LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY – DANE COUNTY

FOR: DECEMBER 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Natural Heritage Land Trust has offered to donate 40.2 acres to the Department for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Dane County. The item is being submitted because it is a gift.

The parcel falls outside of the project boundary and is located in the Town of Mazomanie in northwestern Dane county about a mile north of Mazomanie. The parcel includes 11 acres of floodplain forest and adjoins public land to the north and west. Approximately 240 acres of county lands abut the parcel to the east. 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 public land ownership.

The property is a mix of bottomland hardwoods and grasslands in the floodplain of the Wisconsin River. The area is part of the Mazomanie Bottoms Natural Area, a large area of Wisconsin River floodplain forest dissected by old river channels that are dry except during periodic floods. The forest harbors thousands of migrating birds. Nesting birds include uncommon species such as warblers, winter wren, and brown creeper. The site has a large woodpecker population and is used in winter by bald eagles. Mazomanie Bottoms was designated a State Natural Area in 1978.

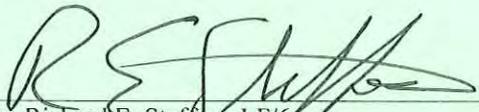
The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway was formed by combining nine existing wildlife areas along the Wisconsin River between Prairie du Chien and Sauk City as well as some additional lands to close separations between the wildlife area boundaries. The goals of the project are to protect scenic lands along the river, enhance wildlife habitat and to meet the recreational the 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 about 20 years ago.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the 40.2-acre donation for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, 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. Also, that the Board approve modification of the project boundary to include the parcel.

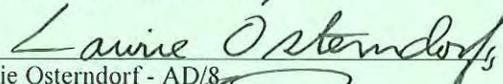
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |

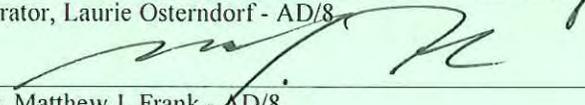
APPROVED:


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

11-11-10
Date


Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

11-11-10
Date


Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

11-12-10
Date

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

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 11, 2010
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Matthew J. Frank *MJF*
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Dane County Tract, File WR 70040

FILE REF: WR 70040

I. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway
 Dane County

Grantor:

Natural Heritage Land Trust
 c/o Jim Welsh, Executive Director
 303 South Paterson Street, Suite 6
 Madison, WI 53703

Acres: 40.2Price: Gift of landInterest: Fee title donationImprovements: None

Location: The property is located in northwestern Dane County about one mile north of Mazomanie, seven miles southwest of Sauk City and 16 miles northwest of the City of Madison in the Town of Mazomanie.

Land Description: The subject land is fairly level to gently rolling.

<u>Covertime Breakdown:</u>	Type:	Acreege:
	Water/Pond	0.6
	Grassland	19.0
	Floodplain Forest/Lowland Woods	<u>20.6</u>
	TOTAL	40.2

Present Use: Resource protection and recreationProposed Use: Resource Protection and Public Outdoor RecreationTenure: The Natural Heritage Land Trust acquired the parcel in December 2009Agreement Date: November 4, 2010

Stewardship 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:

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has offered to donate 40.2 acres to the Department for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Presently, the parcel falls outside of the project boundary and is located in the Town of Mazomanie in northwestern Dane county about a mile north of Mazomanie. The parcel includes 11 acres of floodplain forest and adjoins public land to the north and west. Approximately 240 acres of County lands abut the parcel to the east. 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 public land ownership. The Department also recommends that the property be added to the project boundary to block with additional public lands to the east.

The property is a mix of bottomland hardwoods and grasslands in the floodplain of the Wisconsin River. The area is part of the Mazomanie Bottoms Natural Area, a large area of Wisconsin River floodplain forest dissected by old river channels that are dry except during periodic floods. The forest harbors thousands of migrating birds. Nesting birds include uncommon species such as warblers, winter wren, and brown creeper. The site has a large woodpecker population and is used in winter by bald eagles. Mazomanie Bottoms was designated a State Natural Area in 1978.

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The Department recommends accepting the 40.2-acre parcel to provide opportunities for public recreation, to allow natural resource management, to consolidate state ownership, to prevent development incompatible with the goals of the project, and to preserve the natural condition of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. If this transaction is approved by the Natural Resources Board, the Department will add these lands to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway project boundary.

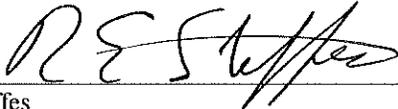
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this donation to the Department. NHLT acquired the parcel under grant #HA2-141 for \$315,800. NAWCA contributed \$51,410 with the balance of the cost being a Stewardship grant.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY:

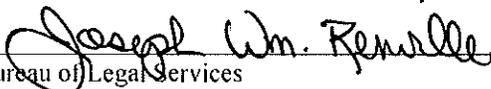
Established: 1989
Acres Purchased to Date: 49,497.24
Acquisition Goal: 78,855.0 Acres
Percent Complete: 62.77%
Cost to Date: \$24,665,918.06

RECOMMENDED:



Richard E. Steffes

11-8-10
Date



Bureau of Legal Services

11-8-10
Date



Laurie Osterndorf

11/9/10
Date

RES:dv

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its December 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 40.2 acres of land in Dane County for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway/Mazomanie Bottoms State Natural Area from

THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST

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

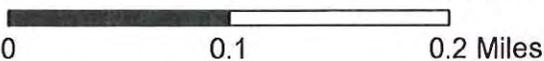
Natural Heritage Land Trust Parcel

T8N R6E Section 6, Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, WI (40.20 Acres)



Legend

- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
- DNR Project Boundary
- County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned



Subject Property

WR 70040

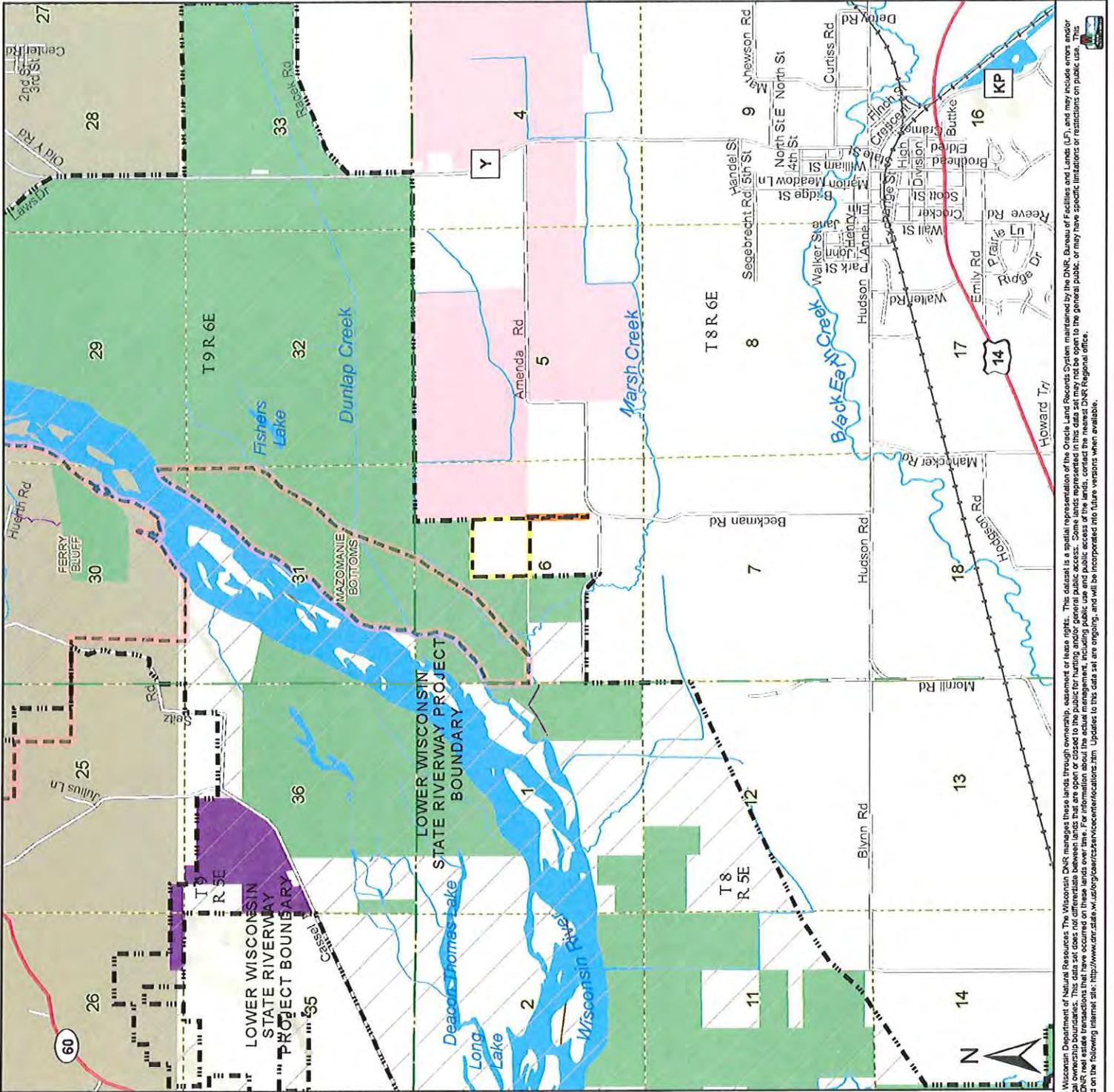
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

State of Wisconsin

Nov. 4, 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, legality, 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.



**Natural Heritage
Land Trust Parcel
WR 70040**

Lower Wisconsin State
Riverway

T 8 N R 6 E Section 6
Town of Mazomanie
Dane County, WI
(40.20 Acres)

Subject Property

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

Legend

- DNR Project Boundary
- State Natural Area
- PLSS Section Line
- County Boundary
- DNR Owned
- DNR Easement
- Dane County



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 data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands represented in this data set may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. This data set is not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR managed lands. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access to 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/office/region/office.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.