

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - SWAN LAKE WILDLIFE AREA- COLUMBIA COUNTY

FOR: MAY BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate 23.27 acres of land to the Department for the Swan Lake Wildlife Area. The property has good wildlife habitat and is a short distance west of Swan Lake. The property is 2 miles east of the City of Portage.

Swan Lake Wildlife Area was created in 1966 and has an acreage goal of 3,850 acres. It is a large wetland complex of the Fox River system and the natural lake known as Swan Lake. This community includes a mixture of tussock sedge hummocks, cattails, bulrush, red-osier dogwood, willow, and aspen. The Swan Lake wetland complex also boasts two Bald Eagle nests.

The 23.27 acre parcel is all marsh floodplain with low marsh plants and some scattered trees. There is quality sedge meadow habitat on the property. The state endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and Blanding's Turtles are found in this area. The subject property adjoins a large block of Department land and will provide good habitat for deer, furbearing animals such as mink, beaver, muskrat, otter, and raccoon; as well as Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue herons, ducks, geese, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, numerous species of songbirds, and raptors.

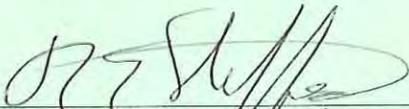
Accepting this gift from Pheasants Forever, Inc. will provide for wildlife management, water quality protection, recreational opportunities and consolidate state ownership in the area. This parcel will provide additional public use benefits especially for hunting, trapping, and general wildlife observation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 23.27 acres of land for the Swan Lake Wildlife Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Pheasants Forever, Inc 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 |

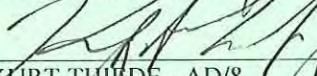
APPROVED:



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

4-19-11

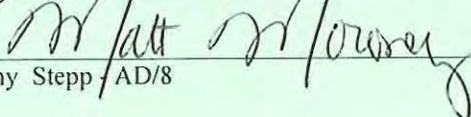
Date



Administrator, KURT THIEDE - AD/8

4-21-11

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

5-4-11

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
 R. Steffes - LF/6
 L. Ross - AD/5
 T. Hauge - WM/6
 L. Eagan - SCR/Fitchburg

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 19, 2011 FILE REF: WM 60129
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc. Tract, File # WM 60129

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Swan Lake Wildlife Area
 Columbia County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 c/o Mr. Kevin Wallenfang
 5102 Sunrise Ridge Trail
 Middleton, WI 53562

Acres: 23.27Price: GiftAppraised Value: \$0.00Interest: Fee TitleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Columbia County approximately 2 miles of Portage.Land Description: The subject land is low, level ground on the north side of the Fox River..Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	23.27

Zoning: FloodplainPresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Resource protection and public recreationTenure: Pheasants Forever is currently in the process of acquiring this land from Saddle Ridge Corporation, a long term ownerAgreement Date: April 08, 2011Stewardship 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 Department is proposing to accept a gift of 23.27 acres from Pheasants Forever, Inc. in the Town of Pacific, Columbia County for the Swan Lake Wildlife Area. The property is within Swan Lake Wildlife Area project boundary with state lands bordering the south and west sides. (The Department acquired the

adjoining 83.37 acres to the west and south from Saddle Ridge Corporation last year.) It is located 2 miles east of the City of Portage.

The Swan Lake Wildlife Area was created in 1966 with an acreage goal of 3,850 acres. It is a large wetland complex of the Fox River system and the natural lake known as Swan Lake. This community includes a mixture of tussock sedge hummocks, cattails, bulrush, red-osier dogwood, willow, and aspen. The Swan Lake wetland complex also boasts two Bald Eagle nests.

This 23.27 acre parcel is all marsh floodplain with low marsh plants and some scattered trees. There is quality sedge meadow habitat on the property. The state endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and Blanding's Turtles are found in this area. The subject property, if acquired, will consolidate a large block of Department land and provide good habitat for deer, furbearing animals such as mink, beaver, muskrat, otter, and raccoon; as well as Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue herons, ducks, geese, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, numerous species of songbirds, and raptors.

The Department recommends accepting this gift from Pheasants Forever, Inc. to provide for wildlife management, water quality protection, recreational opportunities and to consolidate state ownership in the area. This parcel will provide additional public use benefits especially for hunting, trapping, and general wildlife observation.

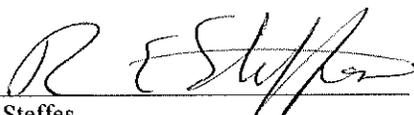
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

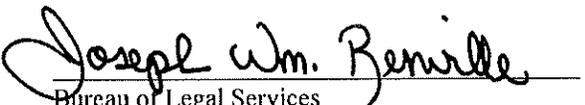
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE Swan Lake Wildlife Area:

Established: 1966
Acres Purchased to Date: 2,332.91
Acquisition Goal: 3,850.03
Percent Complete: 60.59 %
Cost to Date: \$1,067,916.00

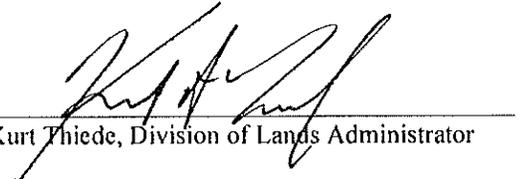
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

4-19-11
Date


Bureau of Legal Services

4-20-11
Date


Kurt Thiede, Division of Lands Administrator

4-21-11
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 23.27 acres of land in Columbia County for the Swan Lake Wildlife Area from

Pheasants Forever, Inc

It is significant that organizations such as yours 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, CHAIRMAN

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Swan Lake Wildlife Area

WMM 60129

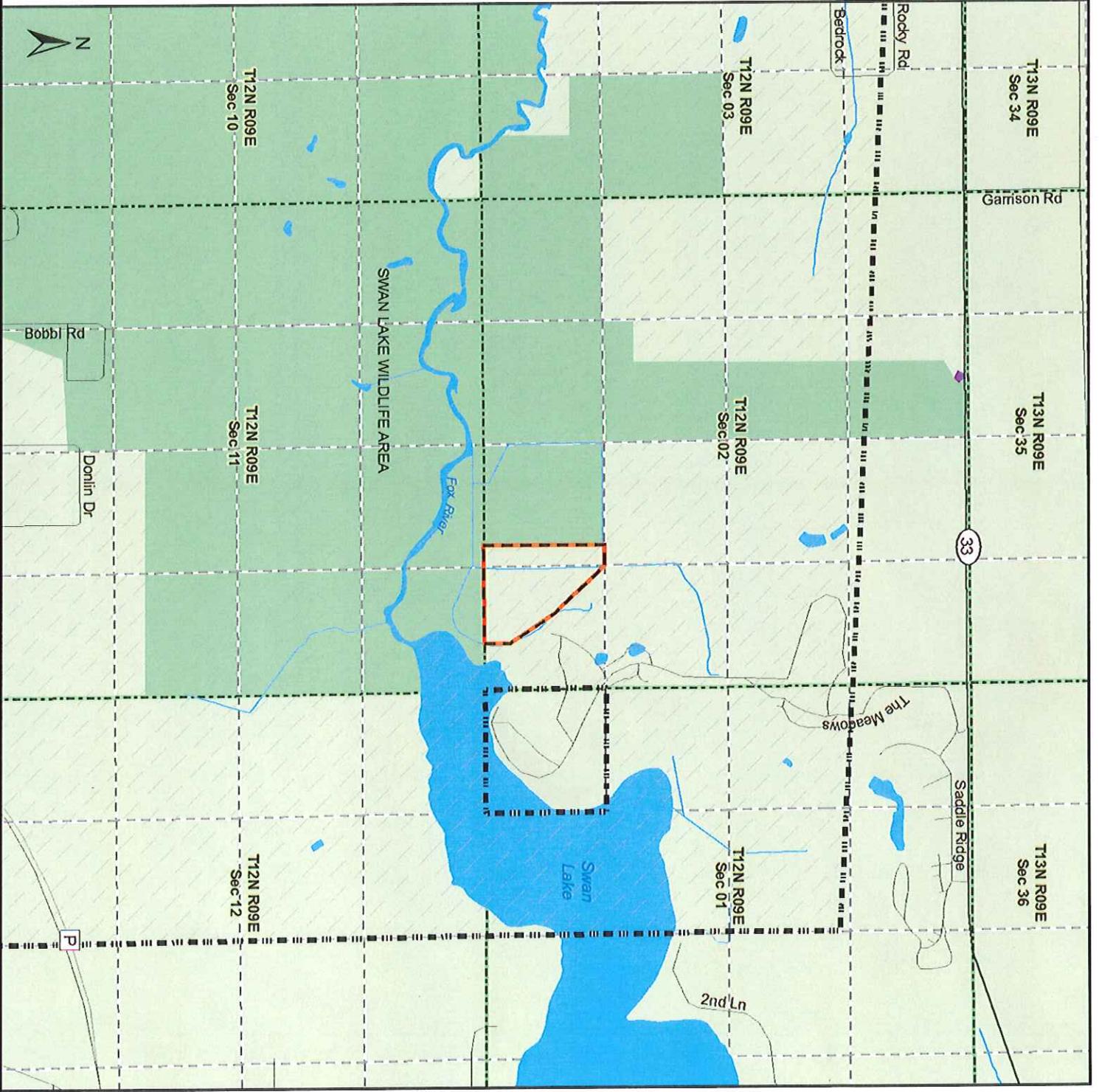
T12N R09E Section 2
Town of Pacific
Columbia County
(23.27 acres -- deed)

 Subject Parcel

-  Project Boundary
-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary

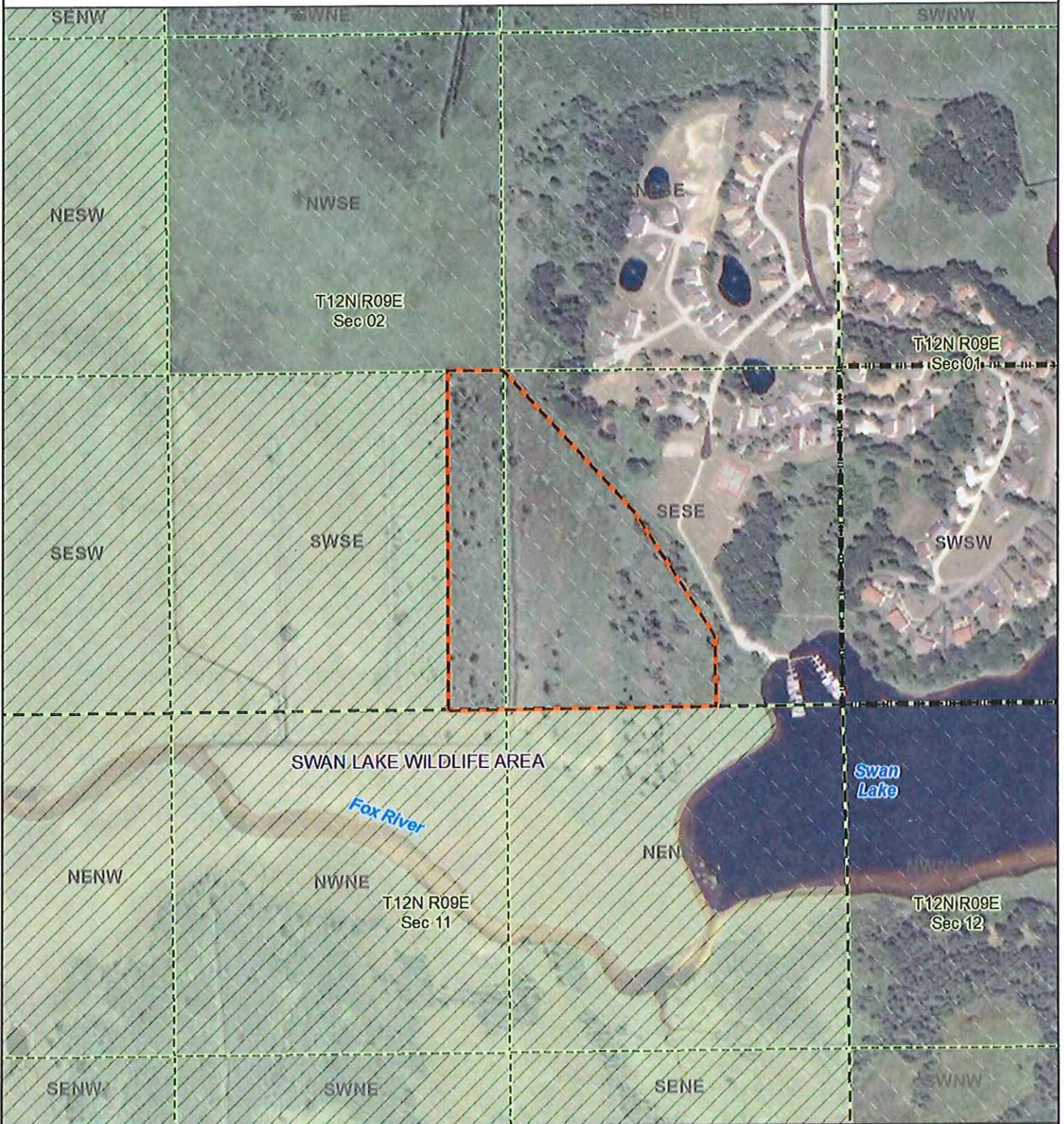


 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Map Created April 19, 2011 SWM



Pheasants Forever, Inc.

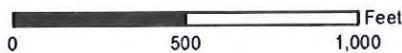
T12N R09E Section 2, Town of Pacific, Columbia County



Swan Lake Wildlife Area
WM 60129

 Subject Parcel

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  Section Line
-  1/4-1/4 Section Line




April 19, 2011
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands