

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION - BROOKLYN WILDLIFE AREA- DANE COUNTY

FOR: SEPTEMBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Natural Heritage Land Trust has offered to donate 75 acres of land for the Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Dane County.

The parcel is located in the Town of Oregon and is partly outside the project boundary. The 75 acres abuts Department ownership to the west and south and a 160 acre farmland protection and conservation easement to the east. The property is grassland with some brush and wetland. It is the last remaining portion of the flowage area necessary to fully restore the Brooklyn Marsh, a project in the making for 65 years. Acquisition will provide opportunities for public recreation and habitat management and consolidation of public land ownership.

The previous landowner sold a 30 year wetland reserve program easement to the Nrcs. That federal agency has been contributing 75% of the restoration costs and the area was seeded to a permanent grass cover this spring. Restoration of the approximately 500 acre Brooklyn Marsh will begin next summer.

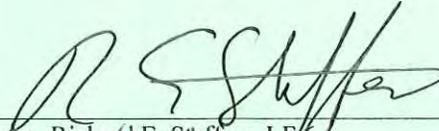
Brooklyn Wildlife Area (associated with Story Creek Stream Bank Protection project) is located in south-central Wisconsin about 15 miles south of Madison, straddling the Dane/Green County line. The project was established in 1945 to protect and manage wildlife habitat and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities which include pheasant, deer and small game hunting, cross-country skiing, trout fishing, nature study and hiking. The project consists of sedge meadow marsh, riparian hardwoods, oak ridges, restored prairie, and farmed cropland.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 75 acres of land for the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, and that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Natural Heritage Land Trust and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. Also that the Board approve a project boundary modification to include this parcel within the project.

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 |

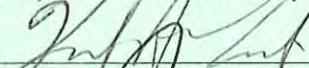
APPROVED:



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

8-9-11

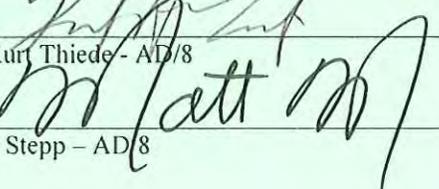
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

8-11-11

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

8-11-11

Date

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

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 9, 2011
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Natural Heritage Land Trust
 Tract, File # WM 60146

FILE REF: WM 60146

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Brooklyn Wildlife Area
 Dane County

Grantor:

Jim Welsh
 Natural Heritage Land Trust
 303 S. Paterson, Suite 6
 Madison, WI 53703

Acres: 75Price: \$0 (Gift)Appraised Value: n/aInterest: Fee SimpleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located about 2.5 miles southwest of Belleville.Land Description: The subject land is fairly level to rolling.Covertype Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Grassland	70
Wetland/brush	5

Total: 75

Zoning: AgriculturePresent Use: Resource ProtectionProposed Use: Resource Protection and Public Outdoor RecreationTenure: 1 yearOption Date: July 11, 2011

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:

Natural Heritage Land Trust has offered to donate 75 acres for Brooklyn Wildlife Area in the Town of Oregon, Dane County. Presently, the parcel, is partly outside the project boundary but abuts Department

ownership to the west and south and a 160 acre farmland protection and conservation easement to the east. The property is mostly grassland with some brush and wetland. It is the last remaining portion of the flowage area necessary to fully restore the Brooklyn Marsh, a project in the making for 65 years. Acquisition will provide opportunities for public recreation and habitat management and consolidation of public land ownership.

The previous landowner sold a 30 year Wetland Reserve Program easement to NRCS. That federal agency has contributed 75% of the restoration costs and the area was seeded to permanent grass this spring. Restoration of the approximately 500 acre Brooklyn Marsh is planned for next summer. The Department plans to install a 3 acre waterfowl brood pond and to return a spring pond and outlet stream to pre-settlement conditions. This will have the added benefit of improving water quality and temperature in nearby Stony Creek, a trout stream.

The Brooklyn Wildlife Area (associated with Story Creek Stream Bank Protection project) is located in south-central Wisconsin about 15 miles south of Madison, straddling the Dane/Green County line. The project was established in 1945 to protect and manage wildlife habitat and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities which include pheasant, deer and small game hunting, cross-country skiing, trout fishing, nature study and hiking. The project consists of sedge meadow marsh, riparian hardwoods, oak ridges, restored prairie, and farmed cropland. 2,534 acres are owned, 337 acres are eased, and 234 acres are leased under Brooklyn Wildlife Area project, plus another 435 acres eased under Story Creek Stream Bank Protection project, for a total of 3,540 acres available for public hunting, fishing and other recreation.

The Department recommends accepting the 75 acre parcel to provide for public recreation, to allow natural resource management, and to consolidate state ownership.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction. The Natural Heritage Land Trust received a Stewardship grant (HA2-146) in the amount of \$269,650 for the initial purchase.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE Brooklyn Wildlife Area:

Established: 1945
Acres Purchased to Date: 2,870.57
Acquisition Goal: 3,070.00
Percent Complete: 93.50 %
Cost to Date: \$2,394,560.00

RECOMMENDED:

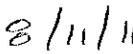

Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director


Date


Richard Henneger, Bureau of Legal Services


Date


Kurt Thiede, Division of Lands Administrator


Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its September 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 75 acres of land in Dane County for the Brooklyn Wildlife Area from

Natural Heritage Land Trust

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

David Clausen, CHAIR

Natural Heritage Land Trust Fee Gift

Brooklyn Wildlife Area
WM 60146

T05N R09E Section 30
Town of Oregon
Dane County
(72.65 acres--GIS)

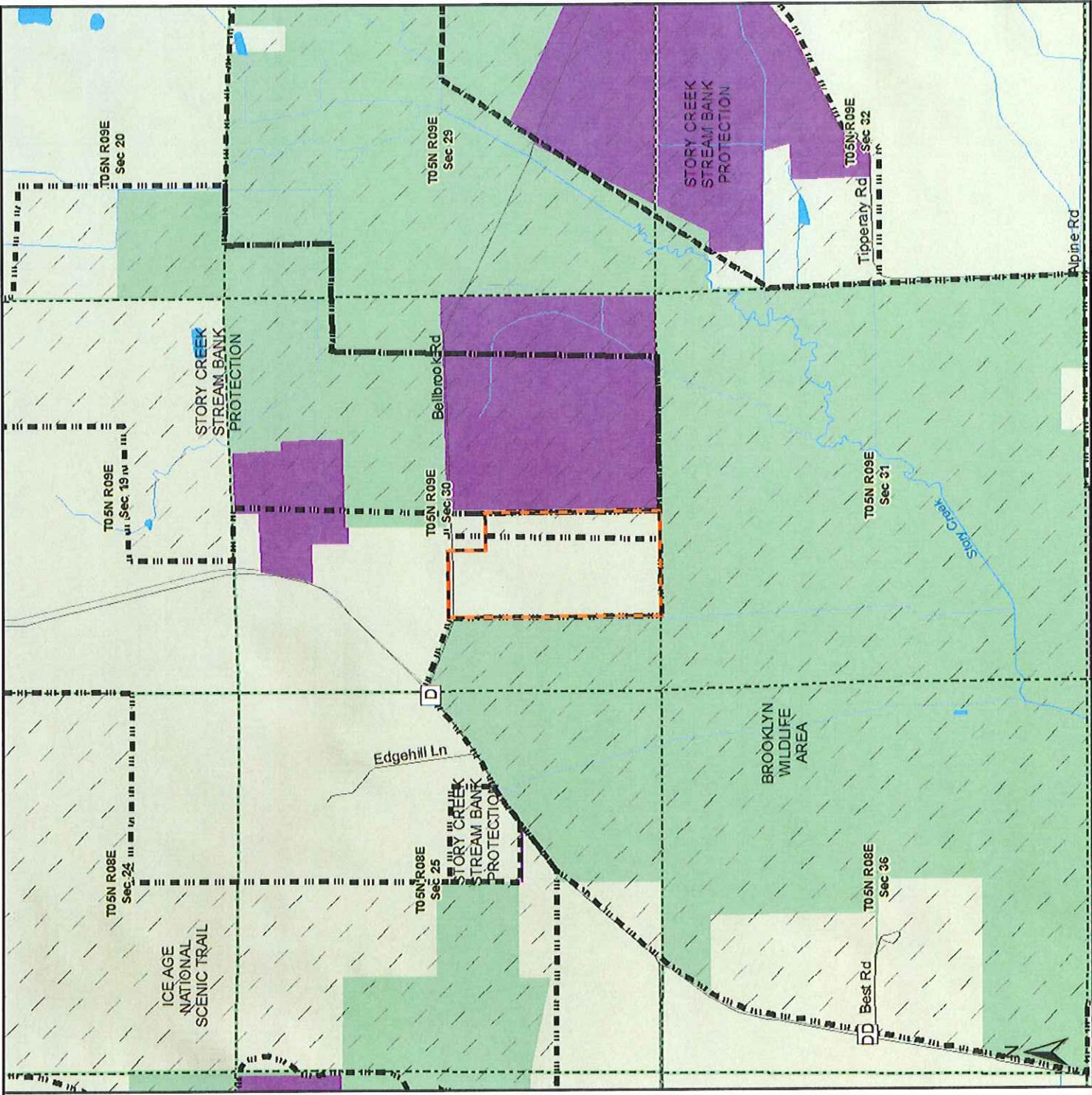
 Subject Parcel

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

0  2,000
Feet

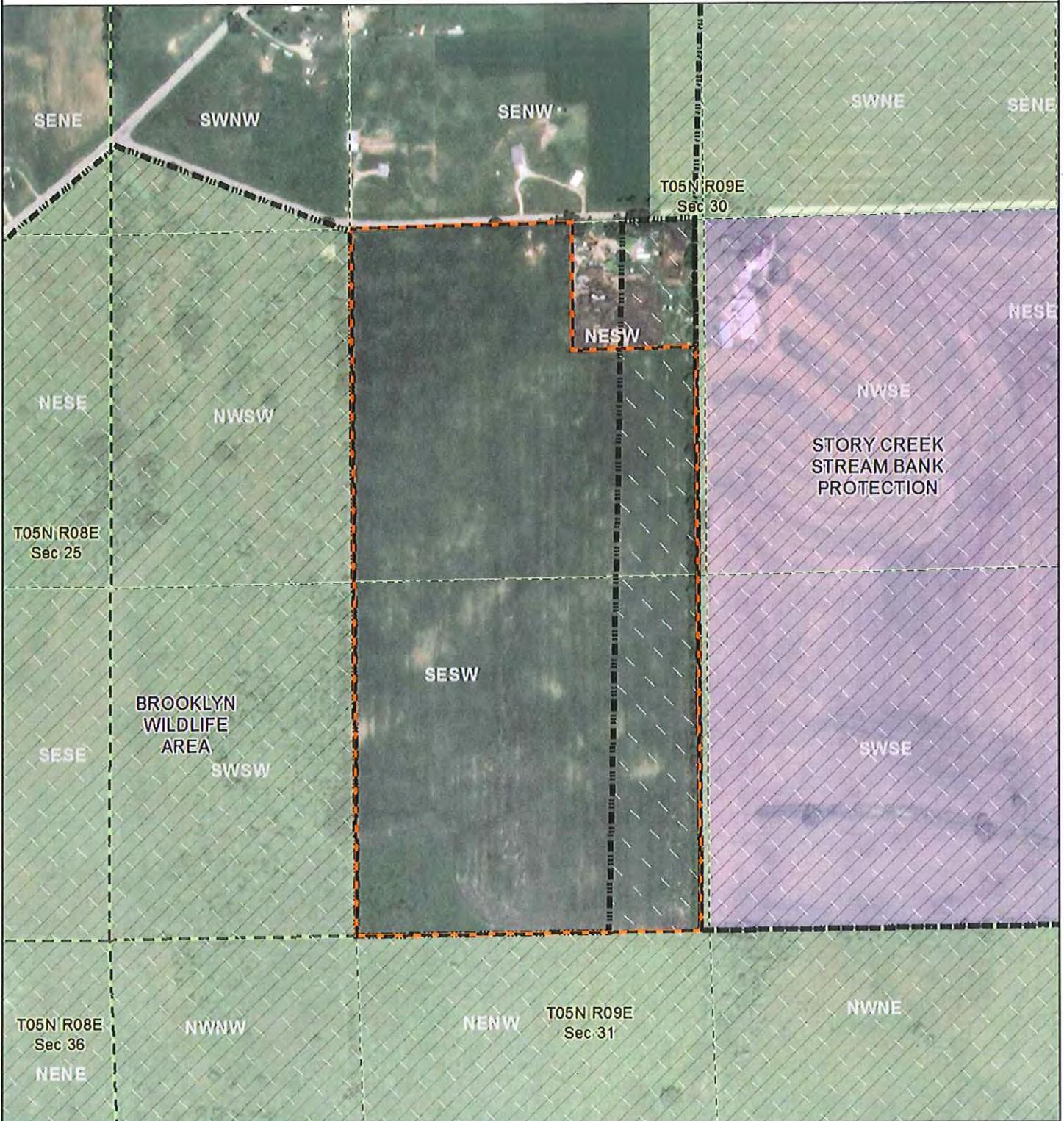


 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Map Created: July 28, 2011



Natural Heritage Land Trust Fee Gift

T05N R09E Section 30, Town of Oregon, Dane County



Brooklyn Wildlife Area WM 60146

 Subject Parcel

-  Project Boundary
-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  Section Line
-  1/4-1/4 Section Line



July 28, 2011
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands