

SUBJECT: Land Donation – Statewide Wildlife Habitat – Chippewa County

FOR: JUNE 2013 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Douglas J Haag

SUMMARY: Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate 81.5 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Program in Chippewa County. .

The property, known as the Marquardt parcel, is located in the south central portion of Chippewa County, approximately two miles northeast of Lake Wissota and one mile south of Chippewa Falls in the Town of Hallie. This area is transitioning from agricultural activities to residential and recreational uses. While the subject property is zoned agriculture, the majority of the soils on site are classified as wetland and wetland indicator soils. The uplands associated with this parcel will provide additional nesting sites for turkeys, pheasants, waterfowl and other resident bird species.

The Marquardt donation is the sixth contiguous parcel of land that Pheasants Forever has donated to the Department in the Hallie Marsh area over the past eight years providing a total of approximately 800 acres of contiguous land that is open to the public for hunting, trapping, bird watching and other outdoor recreational uses in close proximity to, and easy access from the Cities of Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and the Village of Lake Hallie. The land has become known locally as the Hallie Marsh Wildlife Area. Pheasants Forever purchased the property with a 50% NCO-Stewardship grant toward the \$128,800 purchase price.

In addition to the management efforts of the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the Hallie Marsh property benefits from an abundance of area volunteer commitments including tree planting by the Boy Scouts and Lions Club; trash removal by neighbors; and parking lot and trailhead development by the local Wal-Mart staff.

The Hallie Marsh Wildlife Area and the adjacent Kemper’s Woods receive significant visitation by birders and have been used continuously for more than 55 years as a banding location for neotropical migratory bird research conducted by Dr. Charles A. Kemper in coordination with the United States Department of Interior. More than 90,000 birds have been captured, banded, and released on the site. The research confirms that the area is used by 12 species of “Birds of Conservation Concern 2002,” 19 “priority” species listed in Partners in Flight Plan, 24 “priority” species listed in the USFWS Region 3 Fish & Wildlife Resources Priorities Plan, and six species on the Audubon Watch List. Of the 84 bird “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” listed in the 2006 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Action Plan (WWAP), 29 have been banded on the site.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accepts the donation of 81.50 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program; sends a certificate of appreciation to Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and makes an expression of appreciation 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 |

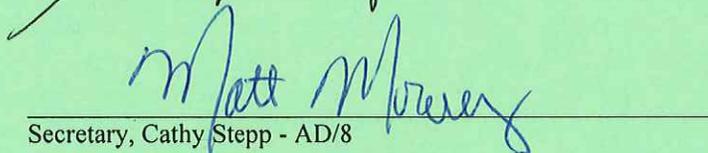
APPROVED:


Acting Real Estate Director, Douglas J Haag - LF/6

6-7-13
Date


Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

6-17-13
Date


Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

6/17/13
Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
D. Haag - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
T. Hauge - WM/6
C. Thompson - WCR - LA CROSSE

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 6, 2013 FILE REF: WM 60224
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc. (Marquardt Parcel) Tract, File # WM 60224

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Wildlife Habitat
 Chippewa County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 c/o Doug Fendry
 5504 Chestnut Lane
 McFarland, WI 53558

Acres: 81.5Price: GiftAppraised Value: \$128,800Interest: Fee titleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Chippewa County; one mile East of Village of Lake Hallie.Land Description: The subject land is level.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Cropland	16
Wetland	65.5
Total:	81.5

Zoning: AgriculturePresent Use: Conservation and recreationProposed Use: Conservation and public recreationStewardship 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:

Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate 81.5 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Program in Chippewa County.

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3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The Chippewa County Land Conservation Department currently has two perpetual easements on the majority of the Marquardt parcel. One is a CREP Conservation Easement and the other is a Non-Point Source Conservation Easement. They both restrict non-compatible uses of the property. There are prohibitions on doing anything that would have negative impacts on soil, water quality, and wildlife habitat. These easements are very compatible with DNR's goals for the property.

Pheasants Forever has committed dollars and/or labor to assist with future DNR plans such as tree/shrub planting, warm-season grass establishment and wetland restorations. There are also several local organizations and individuals that assist with restoration and land management of the property.

In the short term, the 16-acre field will be sharecropped under an agreement with a previous owner. This tract contains an outlet ditch that drains the Hallie Marsh and has the potential to allow for restoration of future wetland acreage in this area as well.

The property is managed by Wildlife Management staff out of the Eau Claire office.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT:

Established: 1991

Acres Purchased to Date: 5,448.48

Acquisition Goal: 6,000

Percent Complete: 90.81 %

Cost to Date: \$3,676,724.19

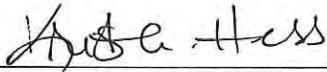
RECOMMENDED:



Douglas J Haag, Acting Real Estate Director

6-7-13

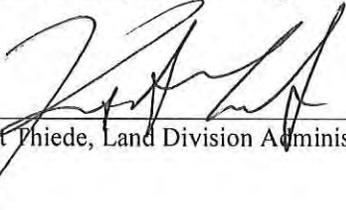
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

6/10/13

Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

6/17/13

Date

**Pheasants Forever,
Inc. (Marquardt
Parcel) - Fee/Gift**
Statewide Wildlife
Habitat
...
WM 60224
T28N R8W Sec 20
Town of Hallie
Chippewa County

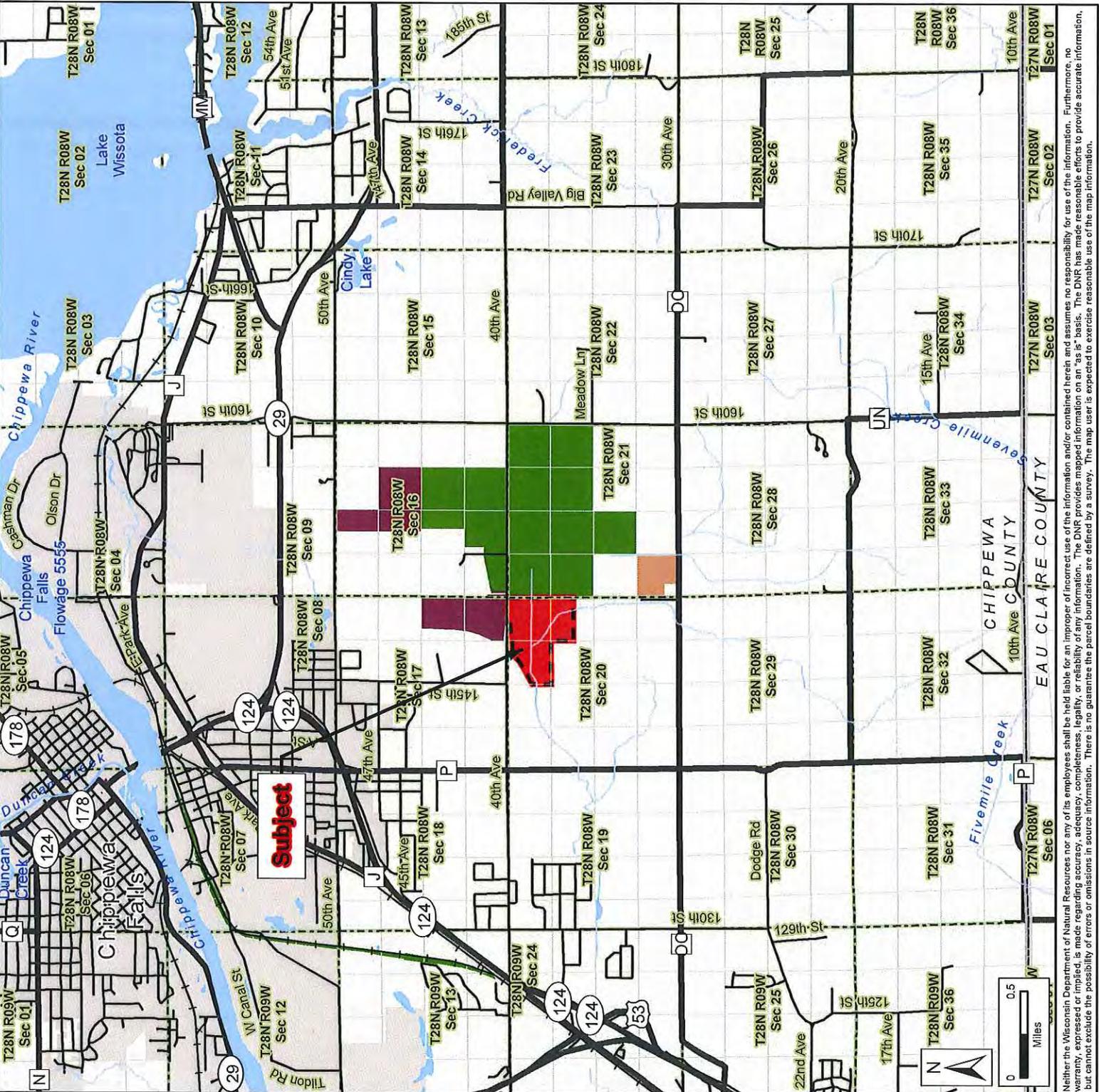


Subject

- DNR Fee Title Land
- DNR Easement Land
- DNR Project Boundary
- Public Hunting Grounds\ Voluntary Public Access
- County Forest
- PLSS Section Line
- QQ Section Boundary
- Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants

Regional View

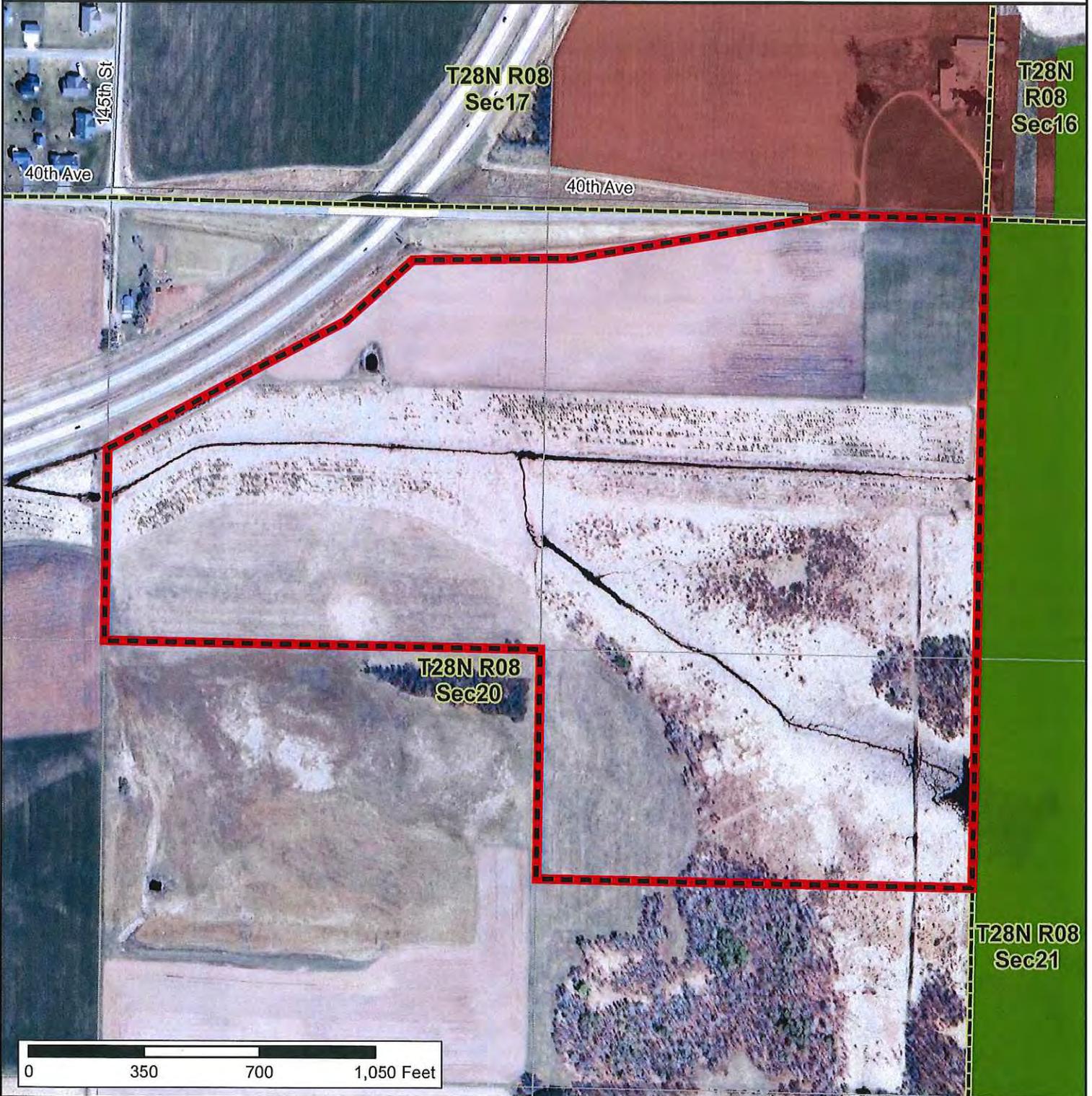
**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Jun 04, 2013 kmh



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Pheasants Forever, Inc. (Marquardt Parcel) - Fee/Gift

T28N R8W Sec 20, Town of Hallie, Chippewa County



Statewide Wildlife Habitat



Subject

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-  DNR Easement Land
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-  Section Line
-  QQ Section Lines



Jun 04, 2013 kmh

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

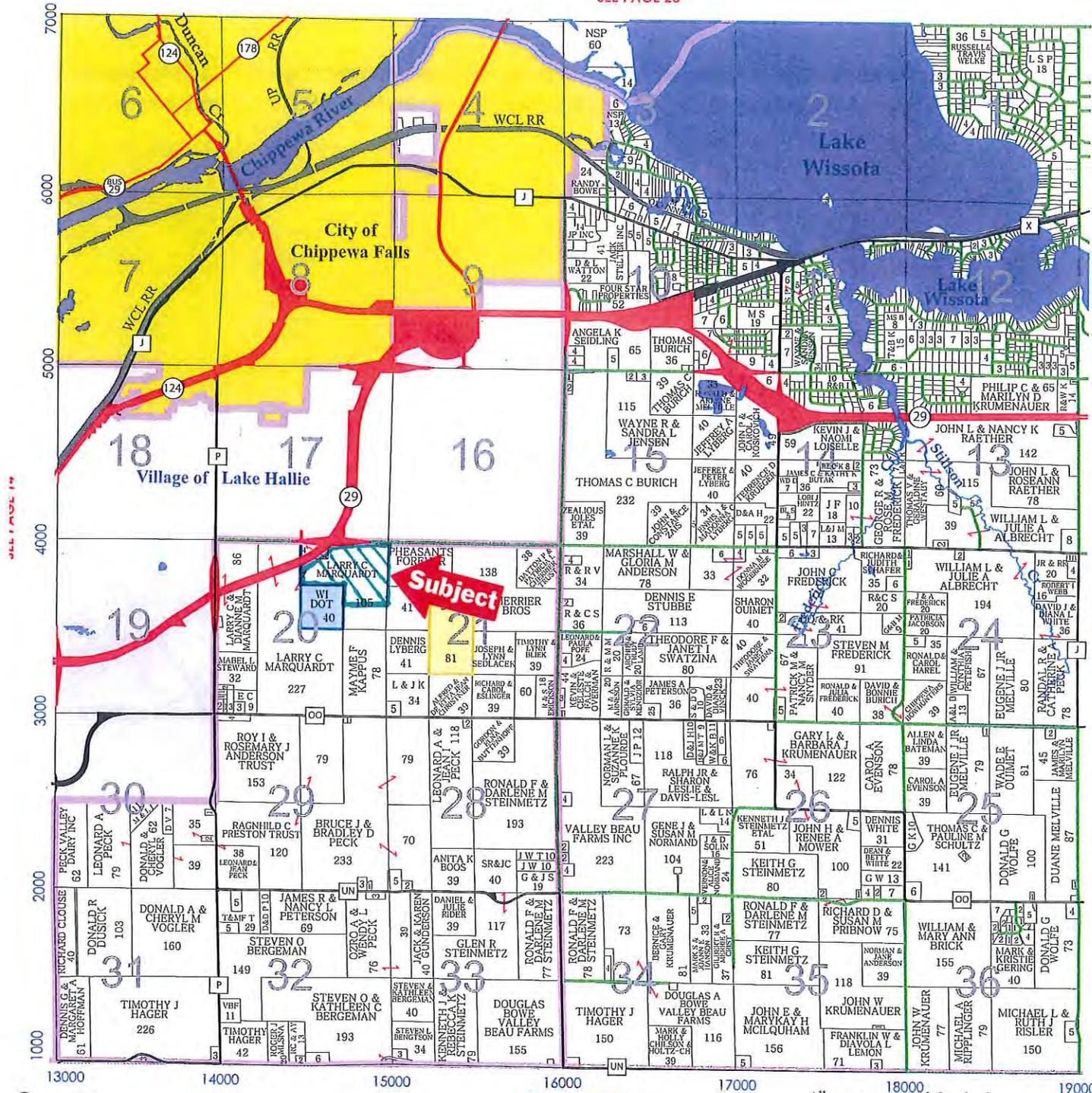
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HALLIE, LAFAYETTE (W), EAGLE POINT (SE)

T28N R08W



SEE PAGE 28



JUL 1 2014

SEE PAGE 18

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EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

All acreages are rounded to the closest acre and do not include land in roadways.



Points N
SURVEYING CO.
 SAMUEL I. WEN

REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION
 OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY

- UTILIZING IN:
- Land Title Surveys
 - Subdivision Plats
 - Survey Maps
 - Topographic Surveys
 - Route Surveys
 - Boundary Retracement

33828 25TH AVE.
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