

SUBJECT: Land Donation – Statewide Habitat Areas– Adams County

FOR: APRIL 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Natural Heritage Land Trust offered to donate 10.23 acres of land to the Department for the Amey Pond Wildlife Refuge – a Statewide Habitat Area in Adams County.

This property, located at the northwest corner of the Pond, is last privately held water frontage parcel at Amey Pond. Its donation adds to the existing 223.66 acres of DNR ownership around the Pond. This is a key parcel needed to control water frontage and public access to Amey Pond and its significant fishery and waterfowl habitat.

Amey Pond and the surrounding landscape includes wetlands important for northern pike and panfish. The department efforts to protect shoreline were initially aimed at benefiting spawning habitat for fish entering via a channel from Lake Mason to the north. Later, the Department set up a waterfowl refuge for Amey Pond; waterfowl breed and stage throughout the area.

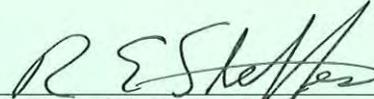
Accepting the donation will protect and consolidate state ownership in this refuge and to put all the water frontage of Amey Pond Refuge in DNR ownership. This would allow public use (with seasonal restrictions) and natural resource management protection for the many wildlife and fish species that inhabit the refuge.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accepts the donation of 10.23 acres of land for the Statewide Habitat Areas program, 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.

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:



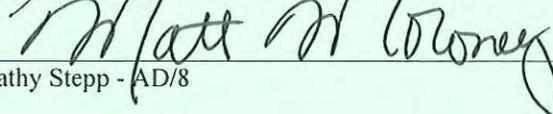
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

3-26-12
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

3-28-12
Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

4/2/12
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/5
M. Staggs - FH/4
D. Bauman – Eau Claire



CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2012
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Natural Heritage Land Trust
 Tract, File # FM 10147

FILE REF: FM 10147

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Habitat Areas
 Adams County

Grantor:

Natural Heritage Land Trust
 c/o: James Welsh, Executive Director
 303 S. Paterson St. #6
 Madison, WI 53703

Acres: 10.23Price: GiftAppraised Value: \$30,700Interest: Fee Title DonationImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Adams County 11 miles west of Wisconsin DellsLand Description: The subject land is level.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	7.33
Water	2.90
Total:	10.23

Zoning: Secondary Agriculture, unbuildable all in floodplain, wetlandsPresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Fish & Wildlife Habitat, public outdoor recreation, DNR Refuge landsTenure: 4 years - this parcel, surrounding land 17-yearsGift Letter Date: March 12, 2012

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. Seasonal closing for waterfowl refuge.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has offered to donate 10.23-acres of land to the Department for the Amey Pond Wildlife Refuge – a Statewide Habitat Area. This property adds the last privately held water frontage parcel at the north end of Amey Pond to the existing 223.66 acres of DNR ownership. This is a key parcel needed to control water frontage and public access to Amey Pond and its significant fishery and waterfowl habitat.

Amey Pond and the surrounding landscape includes wetlands important for northern pike and panfish. The department efforts to protect shoreline were initially aimed at benefiting spawning habitat for fish entering via a channel from Lake Mason to the north. Later, the Department set up a waterfowl refuge for Amey Pond; waterfowl breed and stage throughout the area.

Acquisition is recommended to protect and consolidate state ownership in this refuge and to put all the water frontage of Amey Pond WL Refuge in DNR ownership. This would allow public use and natural resource management protection for the many wildlife and fish species that inhabit the refuge.

3. FINANCING:

No land acquisition funding is required for this transaction. The Natural Heritage Land Trust received \$15,350 from a USFW-NAWCA grant toward their acquisition of this property and a \$15,350 stewardship grant.

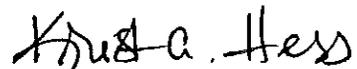
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS:

Established: 1969
Acres Purchased to Date: 7,831.20
Acquisition Goal: 10,172.61 acres
Percent Complete: 76.98 %
Cost to Date: \$8,608,862.54

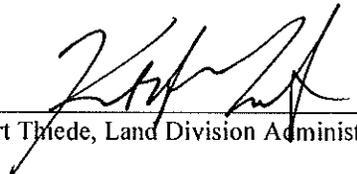
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

3-26-12
Date


Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

3/27/12
Date


Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

3/28/12
Date

RES:

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 10.23 acres of land in Adams County for the Statewide Habitat Areas from

The 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
Statewide Fishery
Habitat Areas**

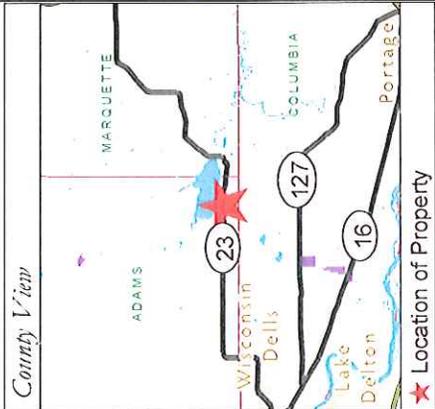
FM 10147

T14N R7E Sec 35 & 36
Town of New Haven
Adams County
10.23 Acres

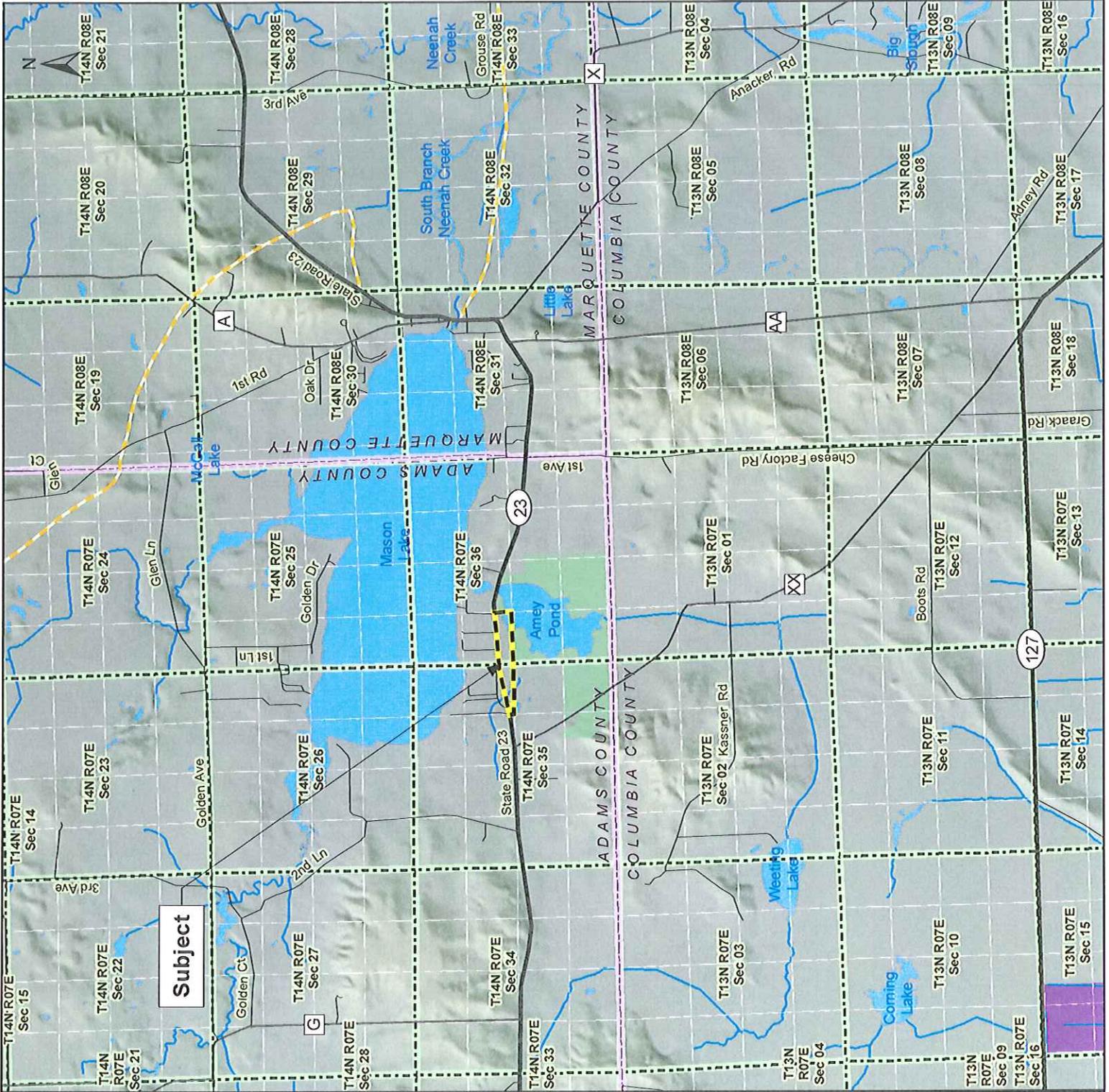
 Subject Parcel

-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  Recreation Trail
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary

0 600 Feet

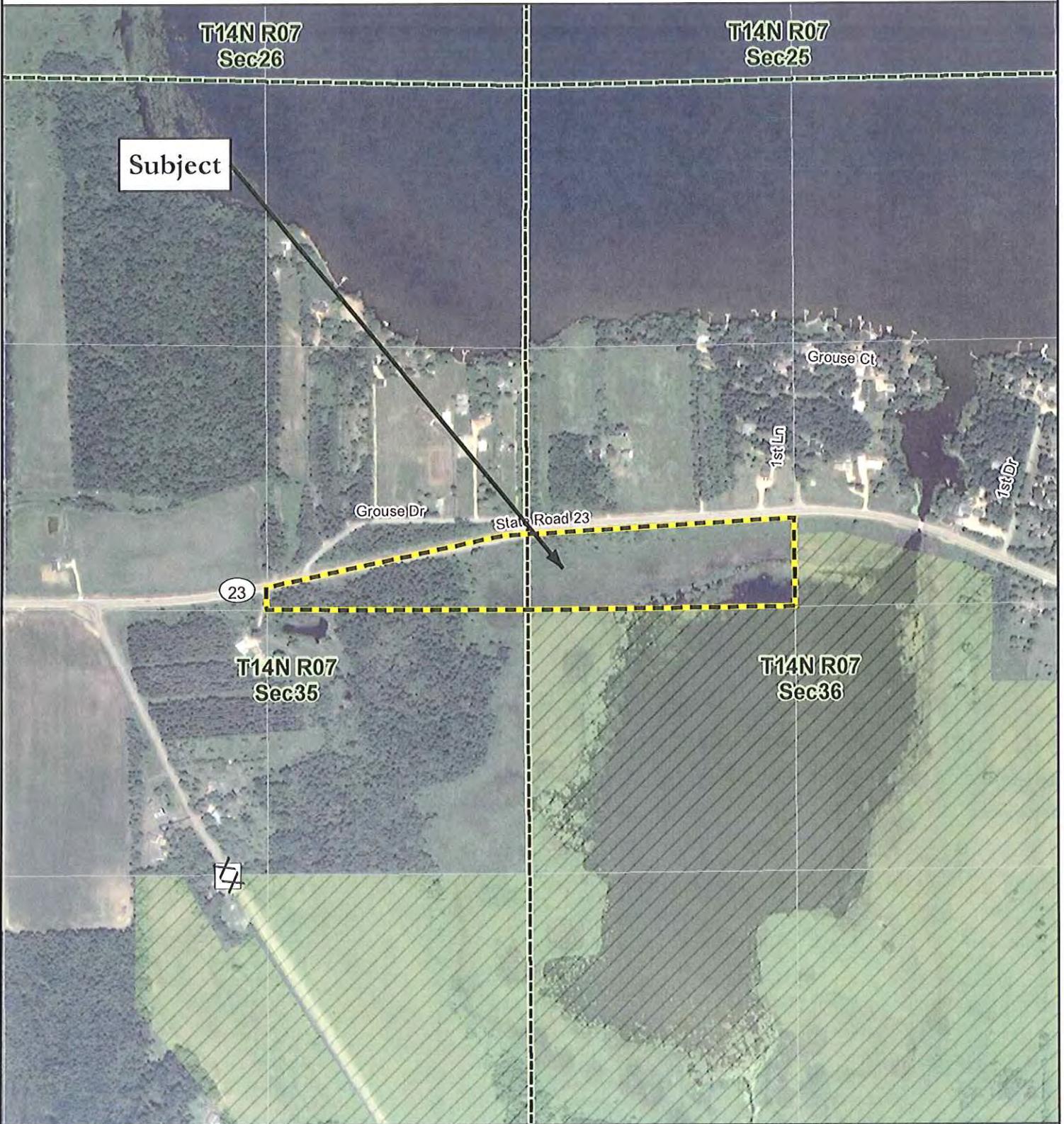


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Mar 26, 2012 kmh



Natural Heritage Land Trust - Fee/Gift

T14N R7E Sec 35 & 36, Town of New Haven, Adams County



Statewide Fishery Habitat Areas

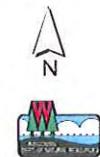
 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

 QQ Section Lines



Mar 26, 2012 kmh
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands