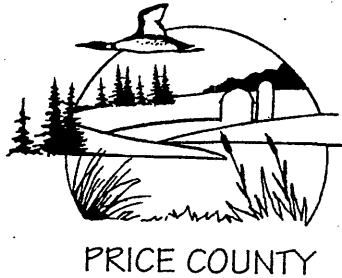


LAND CONSERVATION

Normal Building - Room 205
104 S. Eyder Ave.
Phillips, WI 54555

Phone: (715) 339-2550
E-mail: pczlcd@win.bright.net

April 13, 1999



ZONING ADMINISTRATION

Normal Building - Room 205
104 S. Eyder Ave.
Phillips, WI 54555

Phone: (715) 339-3272
FAX: (715) 339-3057

State of Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance
Public Hearing Recommendations

Subject: Governor's State Biennial Budget Bill - funding related to DATCP and DNR soil and water conservation, engineering assistance, land stewardship, and watershed protection in Northern Wisconsin

Honorable members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

I represent a coalition of elected officials working on Land & Water Conservation Committees. Overall, we are very pleased with the budget proposal, as it includes a level of priority for planning, land use, and stewardship not evidenced in previous budgets. Please accept the following recommendations from the Northwest Land & Water Conservation Association with regard to the Governor's 1999-2001 Budget Bill. They are organized by administrative agency for your reference.

Northern Wisconsin Engineering Assistance (DATCP) - For more than three years eighteen northern Wisconsin counties have requested two DATCP engineering positions to address unmet needs for technical assistance. Two DATCP engineering positions were requested by DATCP to equalize the northern region with other state regions. The Governor has recognized these needs by including a single engineering position in his budget recommendations. In northern Wisconsin, increasing workload and development pressure are driving the urgent need for these positions. Funding for two positions was proposed by DATCP from existing Soil & Water Resource Management funds. **We are requesting your assistance in fulfilling our original request for two DATCP engineering positions in order to establish equal allocation of engineering resources in all regions in the state.**

County Land & Water Resource Management Plans (DATCP) - We are very appreciative of the DATCP effort to work more closely with counties on local goals and objectives through the implementation of these resource plans. Unfortunately, the Soil & Water Resource Management Program does not provide the needed flexibility within their funding structure to allocate GPR or SEG \$ to the implementation of these plans. This is a problem because bonding dollars cannot be used to fund practices needed in northern Wisconsin such as watershed inventory, education work, staffing, or shoreland stabilization/restoration practices. In addition, funding sources previously available for these activities are no longer being made available. **We ask that you work with us to establish at least one half of the LWRM implementation funds as GPR dollars, so that all counties can implement their Land & Water Resource Management Plans.**

Farmland Preservation Program (DATCP) - The purpose of the program should both include protection of valuable farmland from development and conservation of soil & water resources. Proposed changes to this program do not encourage long term commitment to a conservation practice. Whereas, we support the concept of a conservation credit, the proposed structure sets up

- more -

NWLCA comments – page 2
Biennial Budget

landowners to enter annually (when they meet soil conservation standards) and leave the program when is it convenient. It also creates tracking problems for staff with limited resources where access to aerial photography and other information are unavailable. **We encourage the legislature to consider making improvements to the Farmland Preservation Program on a more comprehensive basis, as a separate bill.**

River Protection Grant Program (DNR) – Thank you for recognizing the need for and cost-effectiveness of protecting water quality! It is our hope that, for counties, this program can be integrated into the concept of the Land & Water Resource Management Plan implementation grants. Where local LWRM plans identify protection strategies for rivers, these moneys could be targeted through a single grant application similar to the integration of DNR nonpoint project applications. **We believe that funding for this program should be increased significantly.**

Wisconsin Waters Initiative (DNR) - DNR proposes to provide each watershed basin with a basin educator. We believe these positions will greatly enhance counties' ability to coordinate and provide services to the public. We also recognize the needs for additional DNR staff to work with county staff on water quality programs related to zoning and water regulations.

Stewardship Program Reauthorization (DNR) – The Stewardship Program helps to protect sensitive and/or critical habitat through acquisition of properties or conservation easements. Increased funding is needed to adequately protect northwestern Wisconsin's natural resources. Unfortunately, these dollars have not kept up with inflation. **We hope you will help us by increasing the level of funding in this key program.**

Land Information/Planning Initiative (DOA, DOT) – For some counties this may be the most important initiative Land Conservationists will see for many years! Soil information is currently not available to nine counties in northwestern Wisconsin. This information provides the most basic planning tool for resource managers. **Please help to make the Land Information Board proposal a reality and support inclusion of mapping and digitizing soils information for all Wisconsin Counties.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues. More specific information can be provided upon request. We appreciate your interest in natural resource issues and look forward to working more closely with you as the budget process continues.

Sincerely,



Diane Daulton

Northwest Land & Water Conservation Association Coordinator

Cc: Brett Larson, WLWCA Executive Director
Jean Schomish, President, WALCE
LCC Supervisors, Northwest Counties

Enough is Enough

We are living in a time of transition. Where many have seen, felt and realized that growth is ruining the quality of life we value. The most important change is the reduction and fragmentation of lands, agricultural lands and natural lands—forests, savannas, prairies and wetlands.

Enough is Enough. Some of us espouse planned growth, regulated growth, cluster developments, sewer lake properties, though important, some say enough development. The Enough is Enough Program has been in the works for many years. You might have heard your mother tell you about the program when you were a child saying “Enough is Enough”. It is more important than ever today.

THE STEWARDSHIP FUND should be increased to \$60 million per year, adjusted for inflation for each of the next 10 years. Natural lands, open and wild spaces need to be preserved in Wisconsin. The CENTRAL WISCONSIN LAND TRUST (affectionately called the back to the land trust) supports the results, land preservation, of a grand STEWARDSHIP FUND.

Jo Ellen Seiser
Central Wisconsin Land Trust (BLT)
715 346 3424



WISCONSIN CHAPTER
633 West Main Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

608/251-8140
608/251-8535 FAX

**Statement of Harald Jordahl in support of the Knowles – Nelson Stewardship program.
Stevens Point, April 13, 1999**

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is one of Wisconsin's biggest environmental success stories and will pay great dividends for years to come. The Stewardship Fund, created in 1990 as part of the state budget that year, needs to be renewed as a part of the 1999 - 2001 state budget. Over the past year, The Nature Conservancy has closely watched and participated in the proceedings of Governor Thompson's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the renewal of the Stewardship Fund.

We are happy to support many of the fine recommendations made by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force. This Task Force strongly recommended continuing the long term commitment to land conservation by continuing -- and strengthening -- the Stewardship program.

Three very important themes emerged after nearly a year of Task Force meetings:

- **Stewardship needs to continue.** Stewardship is a success and should be continued without missing a beat. Task Force Members with different backgrounds and political leanings all recognized the successful contributions of Stewardship and the need to continue the program in the future.
- **Stewardship's purchasing power must be restored and expanded.** The Task Force recognized that land is getting more expensive and that the Stewardship Fund must be adjusted for inflation if we want to continue and strengthen a successful Stewardship program. The Conservancy supports State Senator Kevin Shibilski's proposal to the Task Force that new program start at \$60 million per year so that it will recover from inflation and meet new conservation opportunities.
- **Streamlining Stewardship will strengthen Stewardship.** Stewardship can be improved by streamlining some categories and increasing the ability of the Department of Natural Resources Board to respond to unforeseen and pressing conservation land opportunities.

Stewardship needs to continue.

Stewardship has achieved tremendous conservation successes in all parts of the state. Stewardship let the state purchase the 8,700 acre Willow Flowage, protected the last undeveloped stretch of the Wisconsin Dells, created the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, and expanded the Ice Age Trail. Hundreds of smaller purchases have helped to expand and complete existing state parks, trails and wildlife areas. \$45 million of matching grants have been awarded to non profit conservation groups and local governments to expand local parks and protect important conservation lands.

Despite the many successes, the work is not complete. Wisconsinites are always finding new ways to enjoy our natural heritage. Bike trail riding, cross country skiing and sea kayaking were unheard of 30 years ago. Today, these are common activities at many of our most popular parks and conservation lands. In 1960, there were 15 visitors for every acre of state park land while today there are more than 20. With continuing population and tourism growth, we must continue to protect conservation lands before they are lost.

Purchasing power must be restored and expanded

We support State Sen. Kevin Shibilski's proposal to the Task Force calling for the new program to start at \$60 million a year. This funding will help the state to regain the lost purchasing power of the original fund and also let the state be in a position to respond to the rapidly disappearing land resources in the state. The cost of land has grown at an average annual rate of 6.6% while funding for the Stewardship Fund has been frozen at \$25 million. This means that Stewardship is able to protect less and less every year.

In order to strengthen Stewardship, one of the first priorities must be for the Legislative Joint Finance Committee to restore the purchasing power of the fund when it was first established. Because of once in a lifetime opportunities on the horizon with utility restructuring and changes in the forest products industry, we also support increasing the Fund in order for the state to take advantage of potential large conservation opportunities.

Streamlining Stewardship will strengthen Stewardship

We support the Task Force's direction towards streamlining the new Stewardship program. We would suggest the new program should simplify from the current 12 categories and create six larger categories.

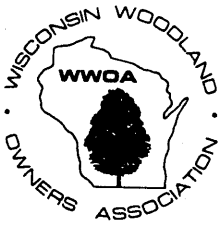
- General Conservation Land Acquisition
- General Development And Local Assistance
- Trails, including the Ice Age Trail and the state trail program.
- Water Resources, including Streambanks, Lower Wisconsin River, Wild Lakes and Rivers and Great Lakes Shorelines
- Natural Areas
- Landscapes of Statewide Significance, starting with areas such as Great Lakes Bluffs, the Middle Moraine, and the Baraboo Hills. This category should be expanded to meet newly identified priorities around the state.

To help the new program meet unexpected opportunities, the program should allow the Natural Resources Board to transfer unexpended funds between categories.

We also support the Task Force recommendation to create a special "Federal Opportunities Fund" separate from Stewardship that the state can utilize as a source of matching funds for federal programs that are distinct from Stewardship. This should be the source of state matching funds for the state Conservation Reserve Enhancement program and other potential federal programs.

The Nature Conservancy pledges to continue to work with state policy makers and conservation groups to support the renewal of this tremendous conservation program.

Stewardship is protecting our children's and grandchildren's natural heritage in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Legislature should take this chance to continue the investment that we are making in the future of our outdoors and renew a strong Stewardship Program.



Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 285, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0285



April 13, 1999

**WVOA OFFICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Nancy C. Bozek
P.O. Box 285
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/346-4798
FAX 715/346-4821

Senator Brian Burke
Co-Chair Joint Committee on Finance

Representative John Gard
Co-Chair Joint Committee on Finance

**WVOA OFFICERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1998-1999**

Dear Sirs:

PRESIDENT
Jack D. Edson
S12824 County Road U
Strum, WI 54770
715/878-4331

The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, a nonprofit, educational organization for private woodland owners in Wisconsin, would like to bring to your attention some of the concerns of Wisconsin's private woodland owners in regard to the proposed budget.

PRESIDENT ELECT
Jim Johnson
5510 Dorsett Dr.
Madison, WI 53711
608/271-9718

Specifically, we request:

SECRETARY
Beverly A. Schendel
9532 Russell Ave. S.
P.O. Box 20471
Bloomington, MN 55420
612/881-7610

1. *the DNR budget item 5122: Fire Control and Suppression Support be fully funded*

The DNR has requested 4 FTE positions and additional equipment to provide support for fire control and suppression. These 4 FTE positions will not only aid in dispatching for fire suppression on private lands but some of them will be available to assist private landowners with forest management advice. These positions are very necessary especially in light of the drought that Wisconsin is currently experiencing.

TREASURER
Dale Lightfuss
N5172 County E
Ogdensburg, WI 54962
920/244-7668

2. *additional service foresters in the DNR to work with private landowners*

In Wisconsin, 57% of the forests are owned by private individuals, and while this percentage has remained fairly consistent over time, the number of private woodland owners has greatly increased due to fragmentation of these lands. Currently, there are over 200,000 private woodland owners in Wisconsin. Many of these individuals are striving to become good stewards of their woodlands. In their search for assistance, landowners frequently turn to their local DNR service forester as their first contact for advice. Unfortunately, many of the DNR service foresters are so backlogged, that landowners must wait 6 months to a year for this needed assistance. During this waiting period we run the risk of losing many landowners with good intentions. How many of you take interest in a project and then if something delays it never return to finish the project? This is exactly what we are seeing happen with private woodland owners.

E-Mail: Dales-Trails@Juno.com

DIRECTORS
Carol Carey
W5781 Lost Arrow Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920/922-2872

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411 W. Merrimac St.
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Virgil D. Kopske
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715/758-8960

Roger J. Perrault
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414/644-6511

Eugene M. Roark
16 Grand Ave.
Madison, WI 53705
608/238-5349

Carl Theiler
522 Park Ave.
Tomahawk, WI 54487
715/453-3314

3. *additional funding for forest appreciation efforts*

We support additional funding for efforts to inform woodland owners and the general public about the benefits forests provide for all the citizens of Wisconsin. We see the need to educate not only school children but adults about the benefits our forests provide whether it is clean water and air, recreation, wood products, or wildlife habitat. Brochures like the new one produced by the Governor's Council on Forestry will go a long way toward answering peoples questions and making them more aware of the importance of our forests.

EDITOR
Timothy Eisele
129 South Segoe Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608/233-2904

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Helen Moberg
2300 Cty Hwy G
Nekoosa, WI 54457
715/886-4601
FAX 715/886-4601

Sincerely,

Nancy C. Bozek
Nancy C. Bozek
Executive Director

①

Statement from Wendy McCalvey, President of the
Caledonia Conservancy Land Trust, 5400 Six Mile Rd.
Racine, Wis. 53402 414-639-5749 on April 8, 1999.

I strongly object to the proposal for changes
in the Stewardship Fund in the years 2000-2010.
I believe money that has been used and intended
to preserve open spaces permanently for
future ^{generations'} recreational use is being siphoned off
from that purpose to fill out other purposes
not related to that goal. \$40 million to fund
the "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program"
or set aside programs for agriculture should
come from Department of Agriculture allotments
because they are not really ~~conservation~~ aimed at
conservation, allowing public use; they are to
prevent overproduction. The provision that \$1 million
of around \$1.3 - 2.3 million of available new funds
be related to brownfields will drastically curtail
money available for pristine, unruined areas
available in rural areas and small towns. It
puts a serious urban bias into the Funds and
should be included in urban renewal legislation.

I'm very disturbed about this gutting of the
original purpose of the Stewardship Program
which is a landmark in the country. At the
National Land Trust conference last fall in
Madison I heard many times about Wisconsin's
Stewardship program as a very positive and

(2)

wonderful resource for land protection. The Ice Age Trail is discussed nationally and praised for its scope and contribution to natural preservation of areas for people to learn from and enjoy long into the future. My land trust has been studying how to preserve a stretch along the Root River that is, so far, unspoiled. We believed we could count on Stewardship Funds to be there ^{to help} when we negotiate an agreement for land surrounding a subdivision which we are afraid ~~the~~ one divider will want subdivision lot prices for even though it is an old-train right of way - perfect for a trail but dubious for building. This leads me to my final concern that changing the amount available to organizations from appraised values to a three year average of property assessments further restricts the opportunity for help. It can make it too hard for a land trust or small town to raise the money that a landowner who feels he has development land worth development prices wants. A quick example is ~~our~~ my former land is assessed at agricultural values - about \$3,000 an acre. My neighbors sold their barn and buildings and are now asked \$10,000 an acre for their hayfield with no sewer and water. An ~~area~~ ^{agricultural field} further from sewer just sold for over \$8,000 an acre. It has frontage close to the Root River. My land trust would have liked to acquire these properties but we would need substantial help.

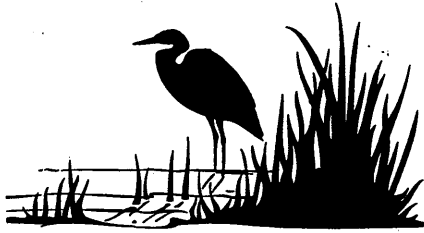
Our DNR programs today are nationally revered and have done great good. Please don't gut them by making them pay for programs of other departments. Sincerely,
W. J. McCalum

(3)

Statement from Wendy McCaloy, President of the
Caledonia Conservancy Land Trust, 5400 Six Mile Rd.
Racine, Wis. 53402. 414-639-5749 on April 8, 1999.

I am voicing support for the study of
the commuter train proposed to travel between
Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee. I believe this
provision was taken out of the present state bill
or it is not being recommended. As a resident of
a rural community which ~~hopes to~~ has elected
in its town plan to preserve the central position
for agriculture and open space, I am concerned
about the mounting traffic going through this
area to get to the interstate to commute to
Milwaukee or Illinois. Commuter rail will
save the state money of widening as many
roads and allow an alternative to commuters.
It is silly to refuse funds for a study of
benefits that are possible.

Sincerely,
Wendy Lee McCaloy



For Immediate Release

April 12, 1999

TO: Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee
Members of the Press

**People for Green Space
in Portage County**

PO Box 861
Stevens Point WI 54481

Steering Committee:

Mike Champion

Chuck Egle

Todd Ernster

Larry Fritsch

Leo Jacoby

Kathy Powell

Larry Sipiorski

Dan Trainer

Kay Witt

Margaret Witt

Rivers, woods, parks, trails, open spaces and wild places. Thanks to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship over 160,000 acres of open spaces have been protected in the last 10 years in Wisconsin for future generations and us. It's a good start, but much more needs to be done.

Open space is a natural need for people and wildlife. As our communities continue to grow, it is urgent to balance development with conserving, restoring and creating green space.

The People for Green Space in Portage County strongly encourage the legislature to renew the Stewardship Fund for another 10 years at a level of funding that can truly make a difference. The green spaces in Wisconsin are rapidly changing color. They will be very difficult to change back.

The benefits of the Stewardship Fund are already felt in our county. The Green Circle Trail was able to purchase 2 1/2 acres of land to help complete the 24-mile greenway that encircles the Stevens Point area. There are many more large and small high priority green spaces in Portage County and around the state that will benefit from a renewed Stewardship Fund.

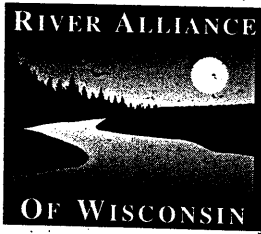
People for Green Space recommend the WI Legislature:

- ☒ Renew the Stewardship Fund
- ☒ At \$60 million annually
- ☒ Adjusted for inflation for each of the next 10 years

Increased funding is critical now to maintain and expand protection for parks, trails, natural and wildlife areas. Adjusting annually for inflation is also critical to help reduce the erosion of the fund's purchasing power from rising land prices (currently at an annual 6.6%).

People for Green Space contacts:

Kathy Powell 715 / 592-4600
Leo Jacoby 715 / 341-2790
Dan Trainer 715 / 341-2715



122 STATE STREET, SUITE 200
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703
608-257-2424 FAX 608-251-1655
wisrivers@igc.apc.com

**Statement of Thomas M. Miller
Chairman of the Board
River Alliance of Wisconsin**

I want to thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee for the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the more than 800 members of the only statewide rivers organization, the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

The proposed Wisconsin Rivers and Streams Protection Grants Program in the Governor's budget is a very good beginning and certainly worthy of your strong support. This is a critical first step in the creation of a long overdue, and much needed, river's program for the citizens of Wisconsin. The program will enhance public/private local interests in their work toward a more community-based watershed stewardship.

I urge that this proposal be viewed favorably by the members of the Joint Finance Committee and indeed, the entire Legislature. This \$400,000 per year outlay is vital to the state's overall goal in bringing public and private stakeholders together for improved watershed management.

Our rivers are the natural arteries of our great state. And as such, we need our Legislature, Chief Executive, and public and private interests to begin a methodical, long term proactive approach to river protection. Outdoor enthusiasts, fishers, boaters, naturalists, hunters and others rely on a healthy, vibrant riparian ecosystem.

My hope is that you will embrace the Governor's proposal and if at all feasible, find additional new General Purpose Revenue and build upon his proposal. Our river's health and vitality not only enhance our state's quality of life, but also bring countless millions of dollars into our state.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. M. Miller".

Thomas M. Miller
Chair
RAW

N2017 County K
Waupaca, WI 54981



GEORGE C. MCDOWELL
County Auditor
(715)726-7948
FAX (715)726-7987



CARLA BROWN
Deputy Auditor
(715)726-7946

LORI ZWIEFELHOFER
Deputy Auditor
(715)726-7947

711 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1876

April 12, 1999

The Honorable Members of the State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee
Osceola Public Hearing

Re: Chippewa County Quality of Life/Land Stewardship Program

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee,

For the past year, Chippewa County has been working on the creation of a Quality of Life/Land Stewardship program, which we feel is now ready to commence. It is felt that the County has a narrow window of opportunity to achieve the goals of the program and that there may not be another opportunity to accomplish these goals. Time is a very critical factor. Chippewa County believes that this pilot program needs to be included in the State Stewardship 2000 Program bonding and funding initiatives.

The program is designed to increase the amount of lands under public ownership for the benefit of future generations. The County has targeted over 10,000 acres with over 400 largely undeveloped lakes to be purchased and added to the Chippewa County Forest to be managed for timber, wildlife, water quality, recreation and ecosystem maintenance. The Chippewa County Board has committed \$1.7 million over an eight-year period to accomplish this program. The Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance has been formed as a not-for-profit group by conservation groups within the County to help facilitate this program. The Wisconsin DNR is on board as a partner. Immediate State funding is needed to make the program a success.

This purchase has the significance of projects like the Ice Age Trail, the Chippewa Morain, and the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. The County has a very narrow window of opportunity to acquire these lands from willing private sellers, but time is of the essence. Land costs are rising significantly, and outside developers are inquiring about some of these properties. There are significant recreational opportunities involved that depend upon these purchases. Also, economic development will be controlled and enhanced for the surrounding areas.

Attached is a sheet of Public Hearing Information, a letter of commendation from DNR Secretary George Meyer, a sample of letters and information sent to our area legislators, and a rough copy of the Proposed Statutory Changes for the 1999-2001 State Building Program, including an approved amendment to the Stewardship 2000 Program for your review.

Chippewa County is requesting your support for inclusion of the Chippewa County Quality of Life/Land Stewardship Program as a special pilot project in the Stewardship 2000 Program. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if further information is needed regarding this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard G. Schafer".

Richard G. Schafer, Chippewa County Finance Committee Chairman

cc: Thomas J. Goettl, Chippewa County Board Chairman

Public Hearing Information

I Chippewa County Stewardship/Chippewa County Quality of Life Plan

- A. County has put in \$1.7 Million over 10 years ***
- B. Local Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance supports the project with grass roots support. ***
- C. Partnership with non-profit, County Government, State Government and potential Federal Government ***

II. Property

- A. National and State recognition of the significance of Chippewa County's Lake Region ***
 - 1. Ice Age Trail
 - 2. Chippewa Morain
 - 3. Ice Age National Scientific Reserve
- B. Water Quality, lakes classification-significant water resource
- C. County Forest, green spaces - significant land resource
- D. Recreational Quality
 - 1. Hiking trail for geological factors
 - 2. Observation & Education of significant biological communities, (ie) small lake eco-systems, marsh, mix hardwoods, etc.
 - 3. Canoe portage - hiking trail through County and State properties. Management Partnership ***
 - 4. Increased opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking, etc.
 - 5. Cross Country skiing, snowmobiling and ATV recreation
 - 6. Multiple outdoor recreational use as described above ***
- E. Economics for the Chippewa Valley
 - 1. Preserving these key lands for Public use preserves, a key attraction for people to locate in the Chippewa Valley.
 - 2. Close proximity to Chippewa & Eau Claire Counties gives the communities a recreational base to attract high tech industries and their employees
 - 3. Preserving these lands for recreational & other factors helps to focus development outside these lands, ensuring this key attraction remains for many future generations.

III. Key Issues

- A. Land acquisition from willing sellers
- B. Easements from willing landowners for water quality
- C. Land cost going up - State & National significant. We need State & Federal Dollars!!!
- D. Local commitment is already there at \$1.7 million
- E. True partnership to accomplish task
- F. Local control, local project with partnering a ground level project
- G. Pilot project to accomplish a task through partnership that would otherwise not be obtainable. Can be a model for other groups & Counties

IV. Issues Current Stewardship 2000

- A. Must use appraised value at market value not tax assessment value for matching funds
- B. Need category for significant projects like ours
- C. Need separate formula for funding options that could exceed the 50%
- D. Allow monies for County projects & lands to be in County ownership
- E. Put more of the monies into aids for Counties & non-profit conservation groups

***** denotes key buzz words*****



State of Wisconsin | DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
George E. Meyer, Secretary

Box 7921
101 South Webster Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
TELEPHONE 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TDD 608-267-6897

October 22, 1998

Thomas Goettl and Richard Schafer
Chippewa Co. Board of Supervisors
c/o County Auditor's Office
Chippewa County Courthouse
711 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

SUBJECT: Chippewa County Quality of Life Initiative

Dear Mr. Goettl and Mr. Schafer:

I recently received news of the initiative you are considering to enhance your County Forest Lands. I'd like to extend my personal congratulations to each of the County Board Supervisors, Chippewa County officials, partners and organizations who've assumed leadership roles in pursuit of this initiative. Together, you and the residents of Chippewa County are taking an important step toward preservation of your county's natural heritage and protection and enhancement of recreational opportunities in one of Wisconsin's most beautiful and geologically rich areas.

The availability of core funding through county sales tax revenues would place Chippewa County in an excellent position to benefit from a variety of matching grant programs financed through the state Stewardship Fund. Your strong partnership with outdoor and environmental clubs and organizations represented by the Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance further broadens the availability of those resources.

Our West Central Region staff stands ready to help you and your partners make the best possible use of grant, loan and technical assistance programs designed to help you stretch and protect your investment. We're confident your initiative will serve as an important example of achievement made possible through cooperation between state, county and local governments and non-profit conservation organizations.

We hope you and your partners will share your enthusiasm and news of your successes with other public officials and committees now considering re-authorization of Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Fund has been a vital tool in preserving the quality of life that people have come to expect in Wisconsin. If continued, we hope to see it play an important role in protection of the diverse forest types, undeveloped lakes, scenic vistas, and exceptional recreational opportunities that Chippewa County has been blessed with.

Sincerely,

George Meyer
Secretary

Quality Natural Resources Management
Through Excellent Customer Service



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LORI ZWIEFELHOFER
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711 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1876

April 12, 1999

State Representative Larry Balow
409 N. State Capitol
P. O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Re: Proposed Statutory Changes to the Stewardship 2000 Program.

Dear Representative Balow,

Chippewa County recently received the attached copy of the Proposed Statutory Changes to the 1999-2001 State Building Program, including an approved amendment to the Stewardship 2000 Program giving substantial annual bonding authorization for a special Lake Michigan bluff protection pilot program. We strongly feel that Chippewa County has a very critical pilot program that should be included on this list.

For the past year, Chippewa County has been working on the creation of a Quality of Life/Land Stewardship program, which we feel is now ready to commence. It is felt that the County has a narrow window of opportunity to achieve the goals of the program and that there may not be another opportunity to accomplish these goals. Time is a very critical factor. Chippewa County believes that this pilot program needs to be included in the State Stewardship 2000 Program bonding and funding initiatives.

These programs are ready to go. There is a County commitment of \$1.7 million towards this initiative. There are willing sellers and easements from willing landowners available. The Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance has been incorporated as a not-for-profit representing all conservation groups within the County to help facilitate these goals. The DNR is on board as a partner. The local support and effort is there to accomplish these objectives.

The ability to obtain these goals will help develop recreational opportunities on these lands, which are already of State and national significance (i.e. the Ice Age Trail, the Chippewa Morain, and the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve). Economic development opportunities in the tourism area will be enhanced. Maintaining the quality of life in the area will make the surrounding areas more attractive for development. Targeted areas will be preserved for future generations, not future private owners.

However, time is of the essence. Land costs are rising dramatically. There is competition from outside developers to develop some of the areas targeted in this objective before the County can acquire them. Therefore, it is imperative that this Chippewa County Quality of Life/Land Stewardship pilot program be added to the State Stewardship 2000 Program before what could be the final opportunity passes us by.

The Quality of Life part of the program is designed to increase the amount of lands under public ownership for the benefit of future generations. These benefits include:

1. Providing large forested tracts of land to be managed for timber, wildlife, water quality, recreation and ecosystem maintenance as part of the Chippewa County Forest.
2. The protection of sensitive wetlands and stream corridors from soil erosion and non-point pollution sources.
3. The preservation of undeveloped lakes for current and future recreation opportunities while protecting the quality of the waters from pollution problems caused by development.
4. The creation of green spaces around designated urban sites for future generations.

The County has identified approximately 10,000 acres in northern Chippewa County to acquire to achieve these goals. This area includes over 400 mostly undeveloped lakes.

The Land Stewardship portion of the program will be established to meet long-range and resource management objectives in Chippewa County. These objectives would include:

1. The purchasing of development rights or conservation easements in order to achieve land use policy objectives specified in approved Township or County land use plans. Examples would be the purchase of easements to preserve farmland, woodlots, environmental corridors, shorelands, wetlands, municipal well recharge areas, or planned open space.
2. The purchase of land through fee title for future community needs.
3. The restoration or reclamation of degraded lands having direct public benefit.
4. The purchase of land or easements in support of local fish and wildlife habitat development and improvement projects.
5. Providing cost-share funding to assist landowners to plan and construct best management practices to control stormwater runoff and/or non-point source water pollution from existing sources.

The County is currently working with local townships to obtain these goals.

Chippewa County is requesting your assistance in adding this pilot program to the State Stewardship 2000 Program list. Attached is a list of public hearing information as well as the information received regarding the Stewardship 2000 Program. If there are any questions regarding this request, please call me.

Respectfully,



George C. McDowell, C.P.A., C.G.F.M.
Chippewa County Auditor

Cc: Thomas J. Goettl, Chippewa County Board Chairman
Richard G. Schafer, Chippewa County Finance Committee Chairman
State Senator David A. Zien
State Representative Tom Sykora
United States Senator Herbert Kohl
United States Representative David R. Obey
United States Representative Ron Kind
George Meyer, DNR Secretary
Bruce Neeb, DNR Government Outreach

Proposed Statutory Changes
1999-2001 State Building Program

10. Stewardship 2000 Program

A. Modifies the language of the existing Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program to allow the remaining bonding authority to be spent beyond FY00.

B. Creates the Stewardship 2000 Program which will provide \$350 million of bonding authority over 10 years (from FY01 to FY10) for land acquisition, property development and local assistance. The following categories, except as indicated below, are administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

1) Land Acquisition

This category will provide bonding authority for general land acquisition, which includes, but is not limited to, acquisition of land and conservation easements for:

- a) State forests, state parks, state shooting, trapping or fishing grounds or waters, state fish hatcheries, state forest nurseries or experimental stations, state recreation areas and state natural resources areas;
- b) State trails, including grants for trails;
- c) Preservation of endangered or threatened species;
- d) Lower Wisconsin State Riverway;
- e) Natural areas;
- f) Ice Age Trail;
- g) Habitat areas and fisheries;
- h) Stream bank protection.

2) Property Development

This category will provide bonding authority for property development on DNR lands and on conservation easements adjacent to DNR lands, including \$500,000 in FY01 for the Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park (\$500,000 will be allocated in FY00 from the current program).

3) Local Assistance

This category will provide bonding authority for local assistance programs, including, but not limited to, grants for urban green space, local parks, urban rivers and other recreational projects. In each year, \$1 million will be set aside for projects related to brownfields redevelopment. If federal funding becomes available for grants to local units of government for conservation and recreational activities, an amount of bonding authority equal to the federal funding will be transferred from this category to the Land Acquisition (75%) and Property Development (25%) categories.

4) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program *which not out of Greenland Preservation*

This category will provide \$40 million of bonding authority as state match for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The funds would be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and be used to provide one-time incentive and cost-sharing payments to farmers who enter into 15-year contracts with the federal government to set land aside for water quality or grassland bird habitat improvement and protection. The funds may also be used to acquire state easements that extend beyond the 15-year federal contract period. *80% of 20%*

5) Bluff Protection

This category will provide \$500,000 of bonding authority annually from FY01 to FY04 for acquisition of bluff land or conservation easements to protect bluff land. DNR may acquire the land or easements directly or award grants to local units of government or nonprofit conservation organizations for acquisition. Any unused bonding authority at the end of FY04 will be redistributed to the Land Acquisition (75%) and Property Development (25%) categories.

*no government
public access*

Baraboo Range Nat. Landmark

- 6) **Baraboo Hills** - *Needs to be spent by 2006 & reverts to Land Acquisition Program*
 This category will provide \$5 million of bonding authority in FY01 for acquisition of land or conservation easements to protect the Baraboo Hills. The Department of Natural Resources may acquire the land or easements directly or award grants to local units of government or nonprofit conservation organizations for acquisition. The bonding will be released as matching funds become available. The match must be raised by 2005, and 50% of the match must be provided from federal non-transportation sources.

C. Adjustments to Categories

In addition to the adjustments listed under the Local Assistance and Bluff Protection categories, the following adjustments may be made to the Stewardship 2000 categories:

- 1) Any authority not expended or encumbered in a previous fiscal year is added to the current fiscal year's authority for each category;
- * 2) If the Natural Resources Board finds that insufficient funding is available for a project or activity; that the land involved in the project or activity covers a large area or is uniquely valuable in conserving natural resources; and that delaying or deferring all or part of the cost to a subsequent fiscal year is not reasonably possible, DNR may:
 - a) Increase by up to 50% the annual bonding authority in the Land Acquisition, Property Development, Local Assistance and Bluff Protection categories;
 - b) Transfer authority between the Land Acquisition, Property Development, Local Assistance and Bluff Protection categories. This does not apply to the Bluff Protection category after June 30, 2004.
- * 3) If the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection finds that insufficient funding is available for the state match for CREP in a fiscal year and that delaying all or part of the cost to a subsequent fiscal year is not reasonably possible, DATCP may increase the annual bonding authority by up to 50% of the annual bonding authority.
- 4) The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection may approve a transfer of bonding authority from the CREP category to the Land Acquisition, Property Development and Local Assistance categories. Require the board to reimburse the current Stewardship general land acquisition category for any CREP payments made by DNR before July 1, 2000.
- 5) If a transfer or increase is made to a category, a reduction to the increased category will be made in the following or a subsequent fiscal year in an amount equal to the transfer or increase. Transfers from the CREP category after June 30, 2004, are not subject to this reimbursement requirement.

D. Limitations

- 1) DNR must submit any expenditure or encumbrance for a project or activity that exceeds \$250,000 to the Joint Committee on Finance for passive approval before the expenditure or encumbrance is made.
- 2) DNR must report to the Governor the property tax assessments for the three most recent taxable years for any land proposed for acquisition under the Land Acquisition, Bluff Protection and Baraboo Hills categories.
- * 3) DNR may award grants for land acquisition which provide 50% state match, where the state match equals 50% of the average of the property tax assessments for the three most recent taxable years.
- 4) DNR may not expend or encumber funds for the acquisition or development of golf courses.
- 5) DNR may not award grants to a local unit of government which acquires the land involved in the project or activity by condemnation.
- 6) DNR may not award grants to a city, village or town for the acquisition of land that is outside the boundaries of the city, village or town unless both the acquiring government and the city, village or town in which the land is located approve the acquisition.

E. Annual Funding Levels - See Attached

~~APP~~ APPROVED AMENDMENT

**Proposed Statutory Changes to the Stewardship 2000 Program
Motion to Create a Lake Michigan Bluff Protection Pilot program
State Building Commission: 1999-2001 Capital Budget
March 17, 1999**

REQUEST: Requests authority to transfer \$1,400,000 of stewardship funds (\$750,000 from the Land Acquisition category and \$650,000 from the Property Development category) to provide one-time funding (beginning in FY 01) for a Lake Michigan bluff protection pilot program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Under the Lake Michigan bluff protection pilot program, the DNR may award matching funds (50-50 split) to cities, villages, towns or counties to purchase Lake Michigan bluff land for restoration and preservation. The pilot will be conducted in the area defined by the Public Lands Survey System as Ranges 21, 22, 23 and Towns 9 through 12.

JUSTIFICATION: The erosion and recession of shorelines and bluffs constitutes one of the more difficult and costly problems facing local governments and private property owners along the Lake Michigan coastline. From 1963 through 1995, average rates of bluff recession ranged up to about 10 feet per year in Southeastern Wisconsin, although episodic rates were as high as 100 feet during major storms. For this reason, shoreline erosion and bluff stability conditions are important considerations in planning for the sound development and redevelopment of land located along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

BUDGET: \$1,400,000

Stewardship Program

Proposed Annual Bonding Authorization

Fiscal Year	Total Bonding Authorization	Land Acquisition	Property Development	Local Assistance	CREP	Bluff Protection	Baraboo Hills
2001	\$25,000,000	\$6,325,000*	\$2,875,000*	\$2,300,000	\$8,000,000	\$500,000*	\$5,000,000
2002	\$25,000,000	\$6,875,000	\$3,125,000	\$2,500,000	\$12,000,000	\$500,000	\$0
2003	\$27,000,000	\$9,075,000	\$4,125,000	\$3,300,000	\$10,000,000	\$500,000	\$0
2004	\$30,000,000	\$10,725,000	\$4,875,000	\$3,900,000	\$10,000,000	\$500,000	\$0
2005	\$33,000,000	\$18,150,000	\$8,250,000	\$6,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2006	\$36,000,000	\$19,800,000	\$9,000,000	\$7,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2007	\$39,000,000	\$21,450,000	\$9,750,000	\$7,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2008	\$42,000,000	\$23,100,000	\$10,500,000	\$8,400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2009	\$45,000,000	\$24,750,000	\$11,250,000	\$9,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2010	\$48,000,000	\$26,400,000	\$12,000,000	\$9,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$350,000,000	\$166,650,000	\$75,750,000	\$60,600,000	\$40,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
% of Total		48%	22%	17%	11%	1%	1%

* - 750,000

— 650,000

\$1,9M

02/23/20

Office of the City Attorney

Daniel P. Wright
City Attorney



Guadalupe G. Villarreal
Deputy City Attorney

Scott Lewis -
Assistant City Attorney

Stacey Salvo
Paralegal

REMARKS OF CITY ATTORNEY AT JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE FORUM

I would like to address two topics that are of particular interest to the City of Racine. The first relates to changes needed to create more equity in the area of incorporation and annexations and secondly the issue of reuse of brownfields in municipalities.

I. City – Town Relations.

In the beginning, the state created a system of unincorporated towns overlaid by incorporated villages and incorporated cities. This structure provided citizens with a framework to meet the needs of areas ranging from sparsely populated agricultural areas to densely populated city areas. Over time, legislative restrictions on annexation have resulted in significant areas of population adjacent to cities remaining as unincorporated town territory. The effect is generally that of a tax sheltered area that does not provide the typical broad range of municipal services but yet town residents enjoy a variety of municipal services provided by the adjoining cities.

Within the last several years more than a dozen townships, including the Town of Mt. Pleasant where this meeting is being held, have begun incorporation proceedings. In many cases such proceedings place the growth of incorporated cities and villages on hold until final action occurs on the incorporation petition. Such action has often taken a lengthy period of time, measured in years and not months. During the time that a petition for incorporation is pending, adjacent cities and villages are not permitted to begin annexation of town property that is included in the petition. There are many problems that could be addressed by the legislature to recognize the proper role of each layer of government but we are proposing that an amendment be made to Sec. 66.014 of the Wisconsin Statutes to address one part of the incorporation versus annexation issue. Mayor Smith will be meeting with Governor Thompson to discuss the proposal that appears in my written comments. This would create Sec. 66.014(11), which would allow annexations to begin and be completed even though an incorporation for petition affecting the same territory is pending. We believe that in many cases the town strategy is to begin an incorporation effort knowing that it is likely to fail but also knowing that the town would thereby be protected from any annexation for a lengthy period of time. We believe that the following amendment would make the process more equitable:

City Hall
730 Washington Avenue, Room 201
Racine, Wisconsin 53403
414-636-9115
414-636-9570 FAX

Create § (11) as follows:

Annexation notwithstanding incorporation petition.

Annexation of territory included in an incorporation petition may be commenced and may proceed to a conclusion notwithstanding the incorporation petition. Lands annexed by a city or village during the incorporation process shall be deleted from the area described in the incorporation petition. An incorporation that becomes effective prior to the effective date of an annexation including the same territory shall preclude the effect of the annexation to the extent that the area incorporated overlaps the annexation area.

The City of Racine also opposes the Charter Towns Bill, which contains provisions similar to the former Urban Towns Bills. Such legislation would bring special privileges and benefits to qualifying towns without placing upon such towns the duty to provide a full range of municipal services. The legislature needs to take seriously the crisis facing cities as a result of laws that could be characterized as archaic in the context of the social and economic development of Wisconsin in the last 150 years. It is imperative that relief be provided to cities to ensure the continuing vigor of the Wisconsin economy as a whole.

II. Brownfields.

The City of Racine is pleased that Governor Thompson's budget bill includes a number of brownfields initiatives that will encourage the reuse of contaminated property in urban areas. The proposal that would allow municipalities to recover the costs of investigation and cleanup of property it acquires in specified ways, including tax delinquency or condemnation acquisitions, is a very encouraging proposal that is to be funded with \$1,000,000. Expansion of the environmental remediation tax incremental districts to include payment of remediation of property owned by private persons would also encourage reuse of such property. The bill also expands the types of costs that can be covered in such districts. We encourage your committee to take positive action on such programs and to provide additional incentives for brownfields redevelopment to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the City's position on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel P. Wright', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel P. Wright
City Attorney

INFORMATION SERVICES

Brown County

111 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET, ROOM 205
P.O. BOX 23600
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600

NOEL S. HALVORSEN

P:920.448.6295 F:920.448.6266 E:halvorsen_ns@co.brown.wi.us

LAND INFORMATION OFFICE COORDINATOR

To: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance
From: Noel S. Halvorsen, Brown County Land Information Office Coordinator
Re: Land Information Initiative in the Governor's Budget Recommendation for the Department of Administration

March 26, 1999

The Wisconsin Land Information Program has enabled Brown County to modernize tax parcel mapping, soils mapping, farm field mapping, ~~soils mapping~~, and practices related to land use planning, stormwater management, agricultural management, and local assessment operations.

A critical element of the Wisconsin Land Information Program that has contributed to our success in Brown County has been the availability of grants from the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB). Without these grants (funded by dollars contributed by all 72 Wisconsin Counties) our efforts would be years behind their current status.

The Land Information Initiative (Number 6) in the Governor's Proposed Budget for the Department of Administration contains two specific proposals that could adversely impact land records modernization efforts in Brown County and throughout Wisconsin by limiting the availability of grant funds to counties. These are listed on Page 23 of the Governor's Executive Budget as Items 1 and 2 under the Land Information Initiative.

The first Item proposes reallocating \$620,000 annually from the Wisconsin Land Information Board and funds from several state agencies to contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete soils surveys and soils mapping statewide over the next four years. Brown County has recently received countywide soil maps from the NRCS and we can attest to their usefulness. Completing soils mapping statewide is an excellent proposal and will provide much valuable information. In January of this year, the Wisconsin Land Information Board voted to support this project and contribute funding toward it over a six-year period. The WLIB approved a six-year funding period because representatives of the NRCS stated that completing the mapping in four years was not technically feasible. Also, the four-year cycle would reduce funds available to counties via grants by over \$200,000 annually. The Brown County Land Information Office asks that you use the six-year project cycle suggested by the NRCS and approved by the Land Information Board.

The second Item proposes reallocating \$202,300 in FY00 and \$410,300 in FY01 from the WLIB to develop and implement a statewide Land Information System. While this goal is praiseworthy, there does not seem to be enough local data available to make a significant impact on local planning decisions. As a professional land use planner, I know the value of current, local data to making sound land use and policy decisions. The statewide data sets currently available can help in various natural resource or transportation planning efforts, but they are no substitute for locally developed data when making land use decisions. Funding a statewide land information system from funds collected at the county level, and that would otherwise be available to local government to continue to modernize local data, is premature. Funding such a system now will only delay the completion of the databases such a system is designed to serve. Please remove this item from the Land Information Initiative. If it is imperative that a system be built in the next biennium, please fund its development from other sources because as stated, this proposal will slow Wisconsin counties' efforts to build that data for making sound local planning decisions.

Budget Hearing
Friday, March 26, 1999
Brown County Public Library, Green Bay

Proposals in the Governor's Budget Bill call for the Department of Administration taking over the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), taking away half of the Program grant money, and removing the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) even before the year 2003 sunset. This budget initiative ignores 10 years of foundational work by land information professionals in the state.

The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA), organized in 1987, conceived the idea of a "bottom-up" approach to a land information system. The WLIA promoted legislation creating the WLIP and the WLIB.

The Wisconsin Land Information Association and Wisconsin Land Information Board have worked together and built a partnership in developing a confederated system. The integrity and statutory role of the WLIB must be preserved. The funding of the WLIP for Board approved and directed activities must also be preserved.

Diverting WLIP funds to an undefined Wisconsin Land Information system that has the disastrous potential of becoming a monolithic database housed and controlled at the DOA ignores the basic grass roots approach that has been so successful in modernization efforts across the state of Wisconsin.

Marilyn G. Mueller
Kewaunee County Register of Deeds
Land Information Office

613 Dodge St
Kewaunee WI 54216

920-388-7126

ADAMS COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Jodi M. Helgeson



Julie A. Goodhue- Deputy JoAnn Reichhoff- Deputy
402 Main St ♦ PO Box 219 ♦ Friendship WI 53934
Phone 608-339-4206

April 13, 1999

I am writing to you to express my concern over two provisions in the Governor's Budget Bill. Please refer to the "Budget in Brief", page 23. I urge you to support a redraft of Item #1, soils mapping and digitization initiative with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to allow the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) control over the rate of funding. The WLIB and NRCS have agreed to a six-year time frame. The Governor's proposal shortens the time frame to 4 years which NRCS says is not feasible. By shortening the time period, funding available for local projects would be reduced. I especially am concerned with Item #2, reallocating funds to the Department of Administration for the purpose of building and housing a Wisconsin Land Information System without direction or supervision of the WLIB.

Let me give you a little history of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP). In 1990, Senators Wineke and Welsh promoted legislation to establish a program where retained fees would be used to benefit local government and state-wide programs through grants and the retained fees (of each recording fee received by the Register of Deeds offices, \$2.00 is sent to the WLIP and \$4.00 is retained at the county level for a Land Records Modernization Program). The WLIB which is composed of land records professionals from the private sector, local and state government guides the program. A statewide land information system has always been a goal of the WLIP. Data generated could be used by all levels of government and the private sector. If the WLIB control of the program would shift to the Department of Administration, all the hard work and money that has been put into the program will be for naught and the state will spend thousands of dollars needlessly, to start over again.

Adams County has benefited greatly from the current WLIP program. We have completed our pilot project in digital mapping and are currently working with a municipality to assist them in digitally mapping their township. The funds we have received through WLIP grants have assisted us in realizing our modernization plan. Without these funds, our mapping project would come to a stand still and the work we have completed would be for nothing. Other counties, such as ours, have also benefited from these funds as most do not have the monies locally to implement such a program. The benefits received from these programs could generate revenue in the future and save precious taxpayer dollars by reducing the cost to produce certain products such as soil and zoning overlays.

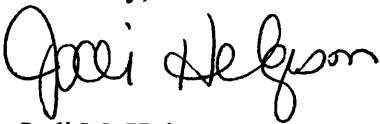
"FEW THINGS MUST LAST AS LONG AS COUNTY RECORDS"

The existing relationship of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association with several state offices, including Department of Financial Institutions, Department of Health and Family Services, Vital Records Division, and the Department of Revenue, by establishing an open discussion of what is need from both ends of government (our offices from the user's end and the state offices from the final product end) has proven to increase the effectiveness of implemented programs and reduce the cost of state government I am sure that an open discussion with the Department of Administration and the Wisconsin Land Information Board is in order here. It appears that the above mentioned items were included in the budget bill without any consultation between the two groups (DOA and WLIB) as we know happens. It also appears that the Wisconsin Land Council (created in the 1997-1998 budget and functions with DOA) was unaware of these items in the budget. Until now, it had seemed that all parties were working cooperatively together.

It is my desire that you would support a redraft of Item #1 and support removal of Item #2 as noted in the "Budget in Brief". I feel that both of these items need to be looked at further by all parties involved before being included in this budget.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,



Jodi M. Helgeson
Register of Deeds

Monies Adams County has received from WLIP grants
1995 - \$75,000.00 – Pilot project for digital mapping including setting some GPS points
– covered 2 full townships and 2 partial townships.

1998 - \$10,000.00 – Assisted Town of Rome to initial digital mapping. Township has placed money into budget for this project also. Mapping will continue as grant funds are available

Projected 1999 - \$4,000.00 – Continue mapping Town of Rome

I am especially concerned with partially completed projects. If no further grant monies are available then this project would be shelved and the changes in technology could hinder start-up.

TO: State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee
Budget Public Hearing: April 13, 1999, UW-Stevens Point

FROM: Paula Cummings, Director, Wisconsin Land Information Association
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Pine Grove, Portage County, WI

This position paper is being presented to increase awareness of two items in the proposed State Budget as relates to land information initiatives and problems felt to come about, if these items are left as proposed. I would ask that legislation be redrafted, as relates to the soils mapping and digitization initiative with the Natural Resources conservation Service, to allow the WLIP to retain control over the rate of funding for the Statewide soil initiative; as well as redrafting the legislation relating to reallocating WLIP funds to the DOA for the purpose of building and housing a Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) without direction or supervision of the WLIP, by recognizing the importance of the WLIP and removing this from the proposed budget in its entirety. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading through this position paper.

Position of the Wisconsin Land Information Association
Regarding the Governors 1999/2001 Biennium Budget
Land Information Initiative

In 1989, the Legislature approved the formation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) and then in 1991 created a funding mechanism for the program based on deed recording fees. In addition to the funding mechanism, the Legislature provided that the WLIP:

1. Direct and supervise the overall Land Information Program for Wisconsin,
2. Serve as the State Clearinghouse for access to Land Information and to maintain and distribute an inventory of land information systems,
3. Provide technical assistance and advice to state and local governments,
4. Prepare guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and information systems,
5. Review and approve applications for grants-in-aid from local government units and
6. Review for approval, countywide plans for land records modernization.

Funding and oversight of the legislative charges above is guided and controlled by the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIPB), whose membership is appointed by the Governor. This innovative program implemented organizational reforms, introduced new technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and guided the modernization of local land records in such a way as to enhance overall statewide land information resources. Counties and other program participants soon realized WLIP funding was insufficient to pay for all modernization activities single-handedly. Consequently, local governments quickly became innovative in planning and finding supplemental funding for individual projects. (E.G.: \$50 million in WLIP funds have been supplemented with at least another \$50 million in non-program funds.) Therefore, the program has been directly responsible for widespread cooperation between agencies at all levels of government and the private sector. The WLIP has been a critical factor in reducing duplication of governmental records and activities, resulting in significant taxpayer savings. The Wisconsin Land Information Program has become a national model based on this cooperative, grass roots and bottom up system of modernization.

The role of the WLIPB in supervising the WLIP funding was to assure that funds for individual projects are used in concert with the overall WLIP plans, so as to enhance the entire state's land information resources. The ultimate goal was to build a coordinated statewide Land Information System (LIS) through the use of a distributed system of local data warehouses. In other words, data would be generated and used locally but integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, allowing "horizontal" and "vertical" access to data by all layers of government and private sector users. The WLIPB recognizes that the realization of a confederated LIS is only possible if the combined expertise found within the community of land information professionals in this great state is used to the fullest extent possible.

This expertise resides, for the most part, in the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA), which was organized in 1987. The WLIA conceived the idea of a "bottom-up" approach to a land information system, organized throughout the state, involved in and based on the data and systems of the same agencies producing and maintaining the information. WLIA promoted the legislation creating the WLIP and the WLIPB. This community, of stakeholders and concerned land information professionals, is committed to the continued deliberate development of an integrated land information system for Wisconsin, thereby guaranteeing the success of not only the system but that of the decision makers who will use it.

ISSUES

In the Governor's Budget, there are two Land Information Initiatives that dramatically change the intent of the original legislation regarding the WLIP and the ability of the WLIB to control the funding and direction of the program. These proposals, found in "The Budget in Brief" on page 23, are:

1. To increase the amount of yearly WLIP contribution for the NRCS soil mapping/digitization initiative allocated by the WLIB, by decreasing the timeframe for payment.
2. To use WLIP funds to create a Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) housed and controlled exclusively by the DOA.

ITEM #1- SOILS MAPPING & DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE WITH NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

The NRCS has proposed a cost-sharing program to speed up the mapping of soils and digitization of soil data in Wisconsin. This project was considered beneficial by the WLIB and they were willing to contribute program funds at the rate of 20% (approximately \$415,000) of the available funds over a six year period because:

1. It completes a much needed foundational element enhancing the state's overall resources for planning initiatives
2. It captures almost 8 million dollars in federal funds by partnering with NRCS.
3. It will take a minimum of 6 years to complete the entire project.
4. It keeps 80% of the WLIP funds available for other much-needed local projects.

This deliberate rate of funding allows the continuance of the original intent of the legislative charges and vision of the WLIP.

The Governor's proposal has the following ramifications:

1. It reduces the time frame for completion of the soils digitization and mapping project to 4 years, which is technically infeasible according to the NRCS (stated at the WLIB meeting on 3/10/99).
2. It increases the rate of funding to approximately 35% of the available program funds (\$620,000), reducing the funding available for local projects.
3. It abrogates the WLIB's legislative charge to control allocation of the WLIP funding.

WLIA PROPOSAL ON ITEM #1

- **Redraft the legislation allowing the WLIB to retain control over the rate of funding for the statewide soil initiative.**

ITEM #2- REALLOCATING WLIP FUNDS TO THE DOA FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND HOUSING A WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM (WLIS) WITHOUT DIRECTION OR SUPERVISION OF THE WLIB

Throughout the history of the WLIP, we have recognized the need for and have been working deliberately toward a confederated, integrated, and accessible Wisconsin Land Information System. With the advent of the Wisconsin Land Council in 1997, the WLIB and the WLIA have all agreed to a partnership that works in concert to develop a system worthy of Council's legislative charges, without compromising the vision of the WLIP. Specific agreements made included:

1. Preserving the integrity and statutory role of the WLIB
2. Preserving the funding of the WLIP for Board approved and directed activities
3. That the..."proposed council provides new opportunities to expand, not restrict, the resources available to collect and use land information needed by local governments..."¹
4. That the council activities "involve researching, developing, designing, recommending and coordinating. They do not involve policy making, rule making, controlling, directing or restricting the authority of any state agency or local government."²
5. The creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOA, WLC and the WLIB; which is evidence of the clear intent by at least two of the groups to work together in harmony for the betterment of Wisconsin.

This budget initiative is the antithesis of the legislative intent of the 1991 acts providing for the supervision and funding of the WLIP, the functionality of the MOU (that is yet to be ratified), the agreements and assurances of the DOA, and 10 years of foundational work by the land information professionals in the state. The funding of the DOA's WLIS is premature, since the statutory charge of the WLC is to study and propose recommendations for a WLIS prior to legislative funding requests.

The Governor's proposal has the following ramifications:

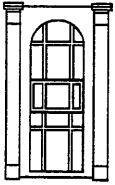
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2. It also creates an incredibly costly duplication of effort as the WLIB has a statutory charge to serve as a clearinghouse for land information, and has been funding and guiding a partnership with the State Cartographer's Office to such ends.
3. It eliminates a confederated systems approach, which support individual local needs while allows the most current information to be made available to all citizens statewide.
4. It removes all funding control and development supervision of the WLIS from the Wisconsin Land Information Board and allows the Department of Administration to invest itself with the entire responsibility of building a statewide tool for decision making; thereby ignoring the expertise of the land information specialists in the form of WLIA, working in concert with WLIB, which is the foundation for the achievements realized in the last 10 years.

WLIA PROPOSAL ON ITEM #2

- **Remove item #2 from the budget in its entirety**
- **Restore control of the funding to the WLIB**
- **Require the DOA to adhere to the legislative charges of the Wisconsin Land Information Board and Program, the Wisconsin Land Council and to follow the proposed MOU between WLIB, WLC and DOA.**

¹ DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997

² DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997



REGISTER OF DEEDS
COUNTY OF KENOSHA
ESTABLISHED 1850

April 8, 1999

Members of the Finance Committee

Re: Governor's Budget Bill /WLIA

Dear Members:

I am writing to alert you of two provisions in the Governor's Budget bill that are of great concern to me a register of deeds. You are probably somewhat familiar with the Wisconsin Land Information (WLIB) which has been a model for the nation. Our county, in particular, has benefited from the retained fees and the grant program from the surcharge collected from customers in my office. Back in 1990, Senators Wineke and Welsh promoted legislation to establish the program and many others signed on as co-sponsors. Instead of a "top-down" approach where bureaucrats at the state level design a program with little input from those of us at the local level who are charged with implementation, the program was designed to be a grass-roots effort. This makes good sense since the collection, maintenance and storage of land-related information takes place at the local level. The WLIB would provide guidance, technical assistance, and grant monies, particularly in counties where the retained fees are insufficient to complete a major modernization project. To date, every single county in the state has prepared a land information modernization plan that has been approved by the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB), and a newly updated plan is in the drafting stage right now. The WLIB is composed of land records professionals from the private sector, local and state government.

Unfortunately, the level of expertise that has developed over the last ten years within the WLIB and the county land information offices (LIO'S) and take over is being ignored by the Department of Administration officials who wish to immediately do away with the WLIB and take over the program. If the Governor's budget bill is passed, half the grant money would be diverted from county government and control of the program and the original vision would be abruptly changed.

The Department of Administration is touting the notion of a statewide geographic land information system without having a clear understanding of what it will look like and how it will operate. While a statewide land information system has always been the goal of the WLIB, the method to get there is drastically different. The vision for the last ten years has been to build a coordinated statewide Land Information System (LIS) through the use of a distributed system of local data warehouses. Data would be generated and used locally but integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, allowing access to information by all levels of government and the private sector, easier access to land records which should be the goal of this program.

Please refer to the "Budget in Brief", page 23. I urge you to support of a redraft of the item #1, soils mapping and digitization initiative with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to allow WLIB control over the rate of funding. The WLIB and the NRCS had agreed to a six-year time frame. The Governor's proposal shortens the time frame to four years (which the NRCS say is not feasible) thus reducing the funding available for local projects. I especially urge you to support removal of item #2, reallocating funds to the DOA for the purpose of building and housing a WLIS without direction or supervision of the WLIB.

Not only do these proposals take money away from our county, I believe they are doomed to failure. There is no magic solution to building these complicated systems. Every local LIO, register of deeds, real property lister, treasurer, planning and development department, county conservationist, and a representative voice from the private sector as well as land records-oriented state agencies must be involved in the planning and the hard work to get the job done properly. We are all stakeholders. Top-down won't work!

Yours truly,

Louise I. Principe
Registrar

LOUISE I. PRINCIPE - REGISTER OF DEEDS

1010-56TH STREET KENOSHA, WI 53140-3738

PHONE: (414)653-2444 FAX: (414)653-2564



Position of the Wisconsin Land Information Association
Regarding the Governors 1999/2001 Biennium Budget
Land Information Initiative

In 1989, the Legislature approved the formation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) and then in 1991 created a funding mechanism for the program based on deed recording fees. In addition to the funding mechanism, the Legislature provided that the WLIB:

1. Direct and supervise the overall Land Information Program for Wisconsin,
2. Serve as the State Clearinghouse for access to Land Information and to maintain and distribute an inventory of land information systems,
3. Provide technical assistance and advice to state and local governments,
4. Prepare guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and information systems,
5. Review and approve applications for grants-in-aid from local government units and
6. Review for approval, countywide plans for land records modernization.

Funding and oversight of the legislative charges above is guided and controlled by the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB), whose membership is appointed by the Governor. This innovative program implemented organizational reforms, introduced new technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and guided the modernization of local land records in such a way as to enhance overall statewide land information resources. Counties and other program participants soon realized WLIP funding was insufficient to pay for all modernization activities single-handedly. Consequently, local governments quickly became innovative in planning and finding supplemental funding for individual projects. (E.G. : \$50 million in WLIP funds have been supplemented with at least another \$50 million in non-program funds.) Therefore, the program has been directly responsible for widespread cooperation between agencies at all levels of government and the private sector. The WLIP has been a critical factor in reducing duplication of governmental records and activities, resulting in significant taxpayer savings. The Wisconsin Land Information Program has become a national model based on this cooperative, grass roots and bottom up system of modernization.

The role of the WLIB in supervising the WLIP funding was to assure that funds for individual projects are used in concert with the overall WLIP plans, so as to enhance the entire state's land information resources. The ultimate goal was to build a coordinated statewide Land Information System (LIS) through the use of a distributed system of local data warehouses. In other words, data would be generated and used locally but integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, allowing "horizontal" and "vertical" access to data by all layers of government and private sector users. The WLIB recognizes that the realization of a confederated LIS is only possible if the combined expertise found within the community of land information professionals in this great state is used to the fullest extent possible.

This expertise resides, for the most part, in the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA), which was organized in 1987. The WLIA conceived the idea of a "bottom-up" approach to a land information system, organized throughout the state, involved in and based on the data and systems of the same agencies producing and maintaining the information. WLIA promoted the legislation creating the WLIP and the WLIB. This community, of stakeholders and concerned land information professionals, is committed to the continued deliberate development of an integrated land information system for Wisconsin, thereby guaranteeing the success of not only the system but that of the decision makers who will use it.

ISSUES

In the Governor's Budget, there are two Land Information Initiatives that dramatically change the intent of the original legislation regarding the WLIP and the ability of the WLIB to control the funding and direction of the program. These proposals, found in "The Budget in Brief" on page 23, are:

1. To increase the amount of yearly WLIP contribution for the NRCS soil mapping/digitization initiative allocated by the WLIB, by decreasing the timeframe for payment.
2. To use WLIP funds to create a Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) housed and controlled exclusively by the DOA.

ITEM #1- SOILS MAPPING & DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE WITH NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

The NRCS has proposed a cost-sharing program to speed up the mapping of soils and digitization of soil data in Wisconsin. This project was considered beneficial by the WLIB and they were willing to contribute program funds at the rate of 20% (approximately \$415,000) of the available funds over a six year period because:

1. It completes a much needed foundational element enhancing the state's overall resources for planning initiatives
2. It captures almost 8 million dollars in federal funds by partnering with NRCS.
3. It will take a minimum of 6 years to complete the entire project.
4. It keeps 80% of the WLIP funds available for other much-needed local projects.

This deliberate rate of funding allows the continuance of the original intent of the legislative charges and vision of the WLIP.

The Governor's proposal has the following ramifications:

1. It reduces the time frame for completion of the soils digitization and mapping project to 4 years, which is technically infeasible according to the NRCS (stated at the WLIB meeting on 3/10/99).
2. It increases the rate of funding to approximately 35% of the available program funds (\$620,000), reducing the funding available for local projects.
3. It abrogates the WLIB's legislative charge to control allocation of the WLIP funding.

WLIA PROPOSAL ON ITEM #1

- **Redraft the legislation allowing the WLIB to retain control over the rate of funding for the statewide soil initiative.**

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¹ DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997

² DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997

March 26, 1999

MEMO TO: State Legislative Joint Finance Committee
on occasion of hearing at Green Bay

FROM: Tom & Elaine McIntosh
148 Rose Lane, Green Bay

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program

We are members of the Historic Preservation Committee of the Brown County Historical Society. We favor the legislative efforts to encourage saving components of our heritage for the benefit of future generations. Such preservation may include maintaining physical artifacts and/or suitable documentation of their prior existence and reason for being. Such preservation costs money.

Much preservation effort is supported by private funds, either by individuals or non-profit charitable institutions such as Historical Societies and Museums. Even small amounts of supplemental funding can provide substantial assistance to these groups and their efforts to preserve our heritage. Perhaps of greater importance is the message which state support of Preservation and Heritage legislation and funding sends to local developers and political leaders. Namely, that consideration of our prehistoric and historic places, artifacts and records are important and should be considered as changes are being made in the local environment to meet current and future needs of the community.

Presenters' Background:

Tom McIntosh is Professor Emeritus, Department of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Wisconsin Green Bay. Other Memberships include; Mayor's Beautification Committee, Neville Public Museum, National Railroad Museum, Burlington Route Historical Society, and Brown County Historical Society.

Elaine McIntosh is Professor Emerita, Department of Human Biology, University of Wisconsin Green Bay. She is author of the book, American Food Habits in Historical Perspective (Praeger Publ.). Memberships include; Center for Western Studies, National Railroad Museum, Neville Public Museum, Brown County Historical Society and Norskadalen.

Heritage Hill

State Historical Park

2640 South Webster Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301
Phone: 920-448-5150
Fax: 920-448-5147

March 26, 1999

I wish to express my support for legislation of the Heritage Trust Bill.

I am the Site Manager at Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay WI. Heritage Hill is a living history museum whose land and buildings are owned by the Department of Natural Resources. Heritage Hill is unique in that its operations are not funded by the State. The Park is governed by Heritage Hill Corporation, a non-profit organization.

The mission of Heritage Hill is to preserve the material culture of Northeastern Wisconsin. This includes preservation of buildings, artifacts and material culture.

At Heritage Hill we often hear statements from elderly visitors, such as the following: "I remember my parents or grandparents threshing that way or cooking on a wood stove or churning butter." Visitors are entranced as our oxen plow a field or the blacksmith pounds iron. Children eagerly participate in making book marks in the print shop, or in shocking corn with our farm interpreter. These are historic activities with meaning and connection to modern life. Our heritage is important to us. Technology continually changes our lives and our communities. By knowing and understanding our past we are more effective in planning our future.

Visitors to Heritage Hill often pick up an artifact and remark "We had one of those, but someone threw it away." The next sentence is invariably, "I sure wish we had kept it." We need to learn from the example of throwing the past away, only to regret it in the future.

We can not afford to throw our history away. We are losing buildings, artifacts, land, and cultural knowledge at an alarming rate. We may currently be familiar with small town cheese factories, corn as far as the eye can see, wilderness areas, diverse architectural styles, and ethnic diversity, but will future generations? It is vitally important that aspects of what makes us a society, what shapes and defines us, not be lost.

The Heritage Trust bill will enable local communities to preserve and protect what is unique to them. Funded projects will allow us to better know our communities, our state and to make our heritage accessible to residents as well as to the growing heritage tourism industry. Wisconsin's many sesquicentennial celebrations demonstrated that state residents felt the importance of our heritage. Without the funding provided by the State and other agencies, many communities would not have had the resources to participate in events such as wagon trains, historic plays, school programs, cultural events and ethnic festivals. The Heritage Trust legislation will provide many communities with the opportunity and expertise to preserve their heritage. We must make the connection between our heritage and our daily lives, and appreciate the delicate balance between the past, present and future.

Sincerely,


Christine Dunbar

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY THROUGH LIVING HISTORY

OPERATED BY HERITAGE HILL CORPORATION

VILLAGE OF HORTONVILLE

118 North Mill Street • P.O. Box 268

Hortonville, WI 54944-0268

(414) 779-6011

March 30, 1999

Honorable Cloyd Porter
State Representative – 66th Assembly District
309 North, State Capital
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear State Representative Porter,

The Village would like your support and cosponsorship of the Heritage Trust legislation introduced and supported by Senator Jauch, Rep. Freese, Sen. Burke, Sen. Grobschmidt, and Sen. Rude. The possibility of having a grant program administered by the State Historical Society would be very advantageous to our community, which has a structure that could take advantage of this opportunity.

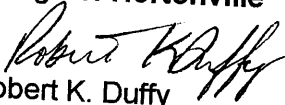
The Village of Hortonville is home to a building that is on the National Register of Historic Places. The current Community Hall was originally built between 1913 and 1915 as an opera house and was later used for community events. If you desire to view the building it is located at 312 West Main Street.

This structure is a very important part of the past, present, and hopefully the future of the Village of Hortonville. A program such as the Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program is vital to the continued preservation of the Hortonville Community Hall, as well as other historical buildings throughout the State of Wisconsin.

I would appreciate hearing from you regarding your position on the issue. If you have any questions, or would like to tour the Hortonville Community Hall and discuss our plans for the building with the Historical Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me at (920) 779-6011.

Sincerely,

Village of Hortonville


Robert K. Duffy
Administrator

Cc: Heritage Trust Project, P.O. Box 620614, Middleton, WI 53562

TOM BERGER - RIC
SAGE PROGRAM



State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street ♦ Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1488 ♦ 608/264-6400 ♦ Fax 264-6504



Division of Historic Preservation
608/264-6500

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fellow Preservationist

FROM: Alicia Goehring *Alicia*

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Heritage Trust Proposal

DATE: March 26, 1999

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	3/29/99	# of pages	5
To	Matt Wagner	From	Alicia Goehring		
Co./Dept.		Co.	SHSW		
Phone #		Phone #	608-264-6500		
Fax #	414-634-1504	Fax #	608-264-6504		

I have exciting news! State Senator Bob Jauch of Poplar, Wisconsin has introduced a proposal to make state funds available to be used for building rehabilitation grants. All the proposal details are outlined in the Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program policy statements included with this fax.

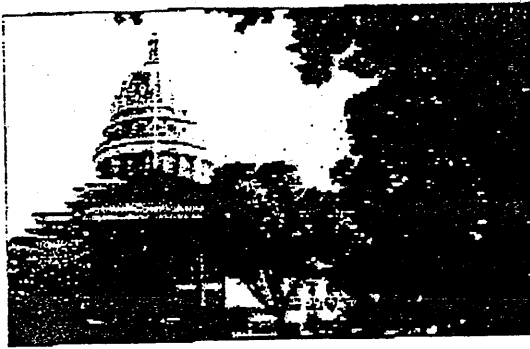
Just think. After years of telling people that there is no money available for rehab projects, next year you might be able to happily explain the details of the Heritage Trust program instead.

But this proposal needs your help. The legislature needs to know if anyone in the state believes this program could be beneficial. Would it benefit the people of Wisconsin? Would it help preserve our precious cultural and historic resources? Would this program fill a void that no other current preservation incentive program fills? If you believe the answers are yes, yes, and yes, there is something you can do to help.

First, you can plan to attend and speak at one of several public hearings or listening sessions being held throughout the state. These hearings/sessions are being held by the Joint Finance Committee to give the citizens of Wisconsin an opportunity to speak out regarding this year's budget bill. This committee represents an important hurdle for Senator Jauch's proposal. As I understand it, a dozen or so people speaking on a particular subject at each of these meetings can make a huge impact, so bring along a few other preservation supporters from your community to highlight various preservation needs in your city or village. A list of these hearings/sessions is included with this fax.

Second, you can write your own legislators expressing your support. There is no bill number to identify this proposal, so just refer to it as the "Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program". If you support this proposal, your legislators want to know.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal or the hearings/sessions, please give me a call at 608/264-6515.



Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program

Policy Statements

OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Heritage Trust will be established following the Sesquicentennial as a tangible way to build upon the enthusiasm and pride evident throughout the state in 1998. It is a legacy fund supporting the work of our citizens to preserve our heritage for generations to come and to commemorate Wisconsin's Bicentennial.

By Wisconsin's 150th year:

- 80% of the State's archaeological sites have been destroyed or severely damaged
- Our icon barns are rapidly disappearing
- Wisconsin loses an estimated 400 plus historic properties every year
- Of 77 historic properties recorded in rural Dodge County in 1975, not one remained in 1995

In our 151st year, we have decided to put a stop to this widespread degradation of our heritage, to save the places that define who we are, and that make Wisconsin *Wisconsin*.

Senator Bob Jauch and Representative Stephen Freese (Sponsors), Senators Brian Rude, Brian Burke, Richard Grobschmidt and many other legislative colleagues, the major statewide historic preservation organizations listed (combined membership over 8,000), and numerous private and public sector leaders identified the urgent need for a program to safeguard Wisconsin's irreplaceable heritage.

- The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Heritage Tourism (Dept. of Tourism)
- Wisconsin Archaeological Survey and Society
- Wisconsin Main Street (Dept. of Commerce)
- Barns N.O.W! (Network of Wisconsin)
- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions
- Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation

PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Heritage Trust will be established by a one time authorization of \$20 million over a 10-year period. The fund will provide \$15 million in preservation grants over 10 years and \$5 million in seed money to create a major endowment generating preservation grants and low interest loans in perpetuity. The 10 year program will be administered by the State Historical Society while the endowment will be established and administered by the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation.

MISSION

The mission of the Wisconsin Heritage Trust is to promote our heritage by providing support to projects that serve the public good by saving important prehistoric and historic places, and that protect our unique cultural heritage.

GOALS

- Preserve those places and objects representing the unique character of Wisconsin.
- Ensure the availability of support in perpetuity by creating a substantial endowment by a modest contribution of public seed money with which to attract private donations.
- Provide a source of funds for the commemoration of Wisconsin's Bicentennial.

CRITERIA

The determination of eligibility for program support will be based on two sets of criteria:

Place or Property

- Rare and/or distinct
- Endangered through neglect or impending destruction
- Responsive to appropriate public access
- Contributes to the telling and the revitalizing of Wisconsin's history statewide
- Catalyst for related benefits in the surrounding area

Applicant/Owner

- Demonstration of need and lack of other sources of funding
- Ability to sustain the project after completion
- Evidence of matching support
- Demonstration of community, units of government and other endorsement
- Non-profit organizations, units of government, small business and individuals eligible

Recipient selection will be made by a panel composed of one representative from seven of the statewide agencies identified above.

RESULTS

Over the next fifty years, the Wisconsin Heritage Trust Program will:

- Support and safeguard about 20 projects per year
- Directly benefit the historic resources of every county in the state
- Create a permanent endowment of \$35 million, or more, with all but 20% originating from private contributions and accrued interest
- Distribute an estimated \$55 million to safeguard and revitalize Wisconsin's heritage
- Ensure substantial start up funds for the commemoration of the Bicentennial

With a commitment of \$20 million in 1999, the State will generate disbursements of \$55 million statewide and create a \$35 million endowment for the preservation of Wisconsin's heritage and identity for generations to come.

Wisconsin Heritage Trust Endowment

Projections of Capital Sum Invested plus Disbursements Available from Accrued Interest

After 5 years

Capital est. \$4 million (\$3 million public + \$1 million private donations)
Annual Disbursement available - \$200,000

After 10 years

Capital est. \$9 million (\$5 million public + \$4 million private donations)
Annual Disbursement available - \$450,000

After 25 years

Capital est. \$20 million (\$5 million public + \$15 million private donations)
Annual Disbursement available - \$1 million

After 50 years

Capital est. \$35 million (\$5 million public + \$30 million private donations)
Annual Disbursement available - \$1,750,000

Total Endowment Interest Dispersed after 25 years - Over \$13.5 million

Total Endowment Interest Disbursed after 50 years - Over \$40 million (i.e. eight times the State's original \$5 million investment with the capital sum remaining intact)

Notes

- No allowance made for reinvestment of any interest generated over and above annual grant and loan commitments.
- Projected annual disbursements assume 5% return on capital investment.
- No allowance included for repayments of low interest preservation loans.

The above projections are thus potentially conservative in terms of the capital sum and the interest available for disbursement. Projections of private sector donations have been reviewed by other parties and are considered reasonably attainable.

CALL TO ACTION FOR HISTORY

GOOD NEWS! A bipartisan group of legislators is introducing a bill to create a Heritage Trust for Wisconsin. Leading the effort are Senator Bob Jauch, Rep. Steve Freese, Sen. Brian Burke, Sen. Rick Grobschmidt, and Sen. Brian Rude. The purpose is to create a \$20 million, ten year grant program run by the State Historical Society and an endowment for cultural preservation run by the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation.

HERITAGE TRUST. Have you ever wished for a source of grant monies to help restore a historic house? Have you wondered if the state could help purchase and protect an endangered archaeological site? Has your historical society or museum tried to raise money to purchase, catalog, or store an important collection of objects, papers, or photographs?

The most frequently heard request from citizens is "How do we find grant money or seed money for our historical projects?"

The Heritage Trust legislation will create a source of funding that can be tapped for local historical projects. Please read the enclosed information sheet on the Heritage Trust and help make it come to life.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP? There are two things you can do. We need people and organizations to testify before the Joint Finance Committee at their hearings and listening sessions around the state. Committee members want to hear what you want to see in the budget, and you can tell them.

We also need a flood of letters and calls to all legislators asking them to support the Heritage Trust.

- (1) Immediately call and write to your local legislators and ask for:
 - Their cosponsorship of the Heritage Trust legislation — \$20 million over 10 years
- (2) Check the hearings schedule and help arrange for a local group to attend and testify. We want to have at least a dozen supporters of the Heritage Trust on hand and ready to speak at each hearing.

HOW DO I MAKE THE CASE? Read the tips on the back of this sheet, and then write or call your legislators using the phones and addresses given below. **Members of the Joint Finance Committee — the legislators who write the budget — are listed in bold.** Mailing addresses are listed on the reverse.

JFC Hearing or Listening Session Schedule

March 28	Green Bay Brown Cty Library 515 Pine St.	10:30 - 5:00
March 30	Ashland Ashland High School 1900 Beaser Ave.	10:00 - 1:00
March 31	Milwaukee MPS Admin Bldg 5225 W. Vliet St	10:00 - 2:00
April 8	Racine J.I. Case High School 7345 Washington Ave.	10:30 - 5:00
April 13	Stevens Point UW-Stevens Point Univ Center - Alumni Room 1015 Reserve St.	10:30 - 5:00
April 14	Osceola Osceola High School 1029 Oakridge Drive	10:30 - 5:00
April 15	Madison Room 411 South State Capitol	10:30 - 5:00

SENATORS & OFFICE PHONES (Area 608)

Baumgart, James	266-2056
Breske, Roger	266-2509
Burke, Brian	266-8535
Chvala, Charles	266-9170
Clausing, Alice	266-7745
Cowles, Robert	266-0484
Darling, Alberta	266-5830
Decker, Russell	266-2502
Drzewiecki, Gary	266-5670
Ellis, Michael	266-0718
Erpenbach, Jon	266-6670
Farrow, Margaret	266-9174
Fitzgerald, Scott	266-5660
George, Gary	266-2500
Grobschmidt, Richard	266-7505
Huelsman, Joanne	266-2635
Jauch, Robert	266-3510
Lasee, Alan	266-3512
Lazich, Mary	266-5400
Moen, Rodney	266-8546
Moore, Gwendolynne	266-5810
Panzer, Mary	266-7513
Plache, Kimberly	266-1832
Risser, Fred	266-1527
Robson, Judy	266-2253
Rössler, Carol	266-5300
Rosanzweig, Peggy	266-2512
Rude, Brian	266-5490
Schultz, Dale	266-0703
Kevin Shibilski	266-3123
Walch, Robert	266-0751
Wirch, Robert	267-8979
Zien, David	266-7511

1. Politeness is important. Never display anger or threaten.
2. Personal conversations or phone calls to the legislative office are the most effective approach.
3. If you write, use your own words and don't worry about typing them.
4. Make it clear, particularly if you are writing from a second home or vacation spot, that you are one of the legislator's constituents.
5. Request a specific action (i.e., support for Heritage Trust) and explain how failure to act could hurt people or organizations in the legislative district.
6. Always ask the legislator politely to let you

know his or her position on the matter as quickly as possible. (Don't let them off the hook!)

7. When the legislator responds, take the time to send a short thank-you note. If the response was disappointing, say so, but also say thanks for his or her attention to the matter.

ADDRESSES

Hon. _____, Wisconsin Assembly, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

Hon. _____, Wisconsin Senate, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707

The Legislative Hot-Line — 608/266-9950 or 1-800-362-WISG — can tell you who your legislators are if you are uncertain.

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND OFFICE PHONES
(All phones are Area Code 608)

Ainsworth, John	266-3097
Albers, Sheryl	266-8531
Baiow, Larry	266-9172
Berceau, Terese	266-3784
Black, Spencer	266-7521
Bock, Peter	266-8580
Boyle, Frank	266-0640
Brandemuehl, David	266-1170
Carpenter, Tim	266-1707
Coggs, G. Spencer	266-5580
Colon, Pedro	267-7669
Cullen, David	267-9836
Duff, Marc	266-1190
Foti, Steven	266-2401
Freese, Stephen	266-7502
Gard, John	266-2343
Goetsch, Robert	266-2540
Gronemus, Barbara	266-7015
Grothman, Glenn	264-8486
Gundersen, Scott	266-3363
Gundrum, Mark	267-5158
Hahn, Eugene	266-3404
Handrick, Joseph	266-7141
Hasenohr, Donald	266-8366
Hebl, Tom	266-7678
Hoven, Timothy	267-2369
Huber, Gregory	266-0854
Hubler, Mary	266-2519
Huebsch, Michael	266-0631
Hundertmark, Jean	266-3794
Hutchison, David	266-5350
Jensen, Scott	266-3387
Jeskewitz, Suzanne	266-3796
Johnsrud, DuWayne	266-3534
Kaufert, Dean	266-6719
Kedzie, Neal	266-9650
Kelso, Carol	266-0485
Kestell, Steve	266-8530
Klusman, Judith	266-7500
Kreibich, Robin	266-0660
Kreuser, James	266-5504
Krug, Shirley	266-5313
Krusick, Margaret	266-1733
Ladwig, Bonnie	266-9171
La Fave, John	266-0486
Lasee, Frank	266-9870
Lassa, Julie	267-9649
Lehman, John	266-0634
Lehman, Michael	267-2367
Liebham, Joseph	266-0656
Meyer, Mark	266-5780
Meyerhofer, Lee	266-2418
Miller, Mark	266-5342

Montgomery, Phil	266-5840
Morris-Tatum, Johnnie	266-3756
Musser, Terry	266-7461
Nass, Stephen	266-5715
Olsen, Luther	266-8077
Ott, Alvin	266-5831
Owens, Carol	267-7990
Petrowski, Jerry	266-1182
Pettis, Mark	267-2365
Plate, Jeffray	266-0610
Plouff, Joe	266-7055
Pocan, Mark	266-8670
Porter, Cloyd	266-2530
Powers, Michael	266-1192
Reynolds, Martin	266-7506
Rhoades, Kitty	266-1526
Richards, Jon	266-0650
Riley, Antonio	266-0645
Ryba, John	266-0616
Schneider, Martin	266-0215
Schoof, Dan	266-9967
Seratti, Lorraine	266-3760
Sherman, Gary	266-7690
Sinicki, Christine	266-8588
Skindrud, Richard	266-3520
Spillner, Joan	266-7746
Staskunas, Tony	266-0620
Steinbrink, John	266-0455
Stone, Jeff	266-8590
Suder, Scott	267-0280
Sykora, Tom	266-1194
Townsend, John	266-3516
Travis, David	266-5340
Turner, Robert	266-0731
Underheim, Gregg	266-2254
Urban, Frank	266-9175
Vrakas, Daniel	266-3007
Walker, Scott	266-9180
Ward, David	266-3790
Wasserman, Sheldon	266-7671
Wieckert, Steve	266-3070
Williams, Annette	266-0960
Wood, Wayne	266-7503
Young, Leon	266-3786
Ziegelbauer, Robert	266-0315

Remember: To help us keep track of support, please send copies of your letters and messages, as well as any replies, to Heritage Trust Project, P.O. Box 520614, Middleton, WI 53562.