

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 17, 2018

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on May 17, 2018.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Tuesday, June 5, 2018**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 18, 2018

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707-7882

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

MAY 17 2018

St. Finance

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to St. Croix County for acquisition of the Eckert property. The proposed grant award of \$800,000.00 is 44% of the appraised land value.

The County requested grant assistance to acquire 114 acres of undeveloped land. The subject property contains ~1,500 feet of bluff frontage that provides scenic views of the St. Croix River. The subject property is adjacent to 53 acres of existing parkland. The County has secured their required matching funds.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

for Daniel L. Meyer
Secretary

Cc: Doug Haag – Administrator, Division of Internal Services
Terry Bay – Director, Bureau of Facilities & Lands

Enclosure

DATE: May 18, 2018
TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: Daniel Meyer, Secretary
**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT
GREATER THAN \$250,000: ST. CROIX COUNTY**

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$800,000 to St. Croix County for acquisition of 114 acres along the St. Croix River. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: St. Croix County

County: St. Croix

Project Name: "Eckert" Acquisition

Grant sub-program: Urban Green Space

Location: The Eckert property is located on the St. Croix River, with a portion in the Town of St. Joseph and a portion in the Town of Hudson.

Project Description: St. Croix County continues to be the fastest growing county in the state, with an expected population increase of 35% in the next 20 years. The Eckert property is the largest undeveloped property in the county along the St. Croix River. The property contains a diverse set of habitat types including springs, wetlands, grasslands, and oak savannas and bluffs overlooking the St. Croix River. The County seeks to acquire this property in order to provide their growing population with access to greenspace and scenic views of the St. Croix River valley.

Project Goals: The proposed acquisition supports goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- St. Croix County, Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013)
- St. Croix County Comprehensive Outdoor Plan
- Lower St. Croix Land Legacy Plan
- Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Cooperative Management Plan
- Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area Plan
- Cooperative Agreement #95704 for St. Croix Riverway Mitigation (Minnesota Dept. of Transportation, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, St. Croix County, and Town of St. Joseph)

Public Uses: St. Croix County intends to manage this property as a nature park offering many opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, and wildlife viewing.

Ownership & Management: St. Croix County will own and operate the park consistent with their management policy.

Timetable: The County is prepared to close on the property in summer 2018, after which the property will be fully open to the public.

Local Government Notification: As required by s. 23.0917(5t), WDNR notified the towns of St. Joseph and Hudson in January 2018 regarding the proposed Eckert acquisition; neither Town expressed concern about the acquisition.

Project Partners:

- St. Croix County: Matching funds, acquisition, and long-term property management.
- Town of St. Joseph: Coordination with the County regarding use of riverway mitigation funds
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Grant assistance; coordination regarding use of riverway mitigation funds.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

Property Appraisal 1: Accepted for Grant Purposes	\$ 1,800,000.00
Property Appraisal 2	\$ 2,100,000.00

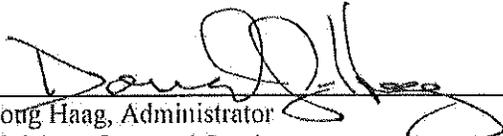
The proposed grant award is based on the lower of the two accepted appraisals:

St. Croix County Matching Funds	\$ 1,000,000.00 (56%)
Proposed WDNR Stewardship Grant	\$ 800,000.00 (44%)
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,800,000.00

The County has secured their required matching funds.

III. RECOMMENDED:

 _____ Terry H. Bay, Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands	<u>5/15/18</u> _____ Date
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 _____ Doug Haag, Administrator Division of Internal Services	<u>5/15/18</u> _____ Date
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IV. ATTACHMENTS:

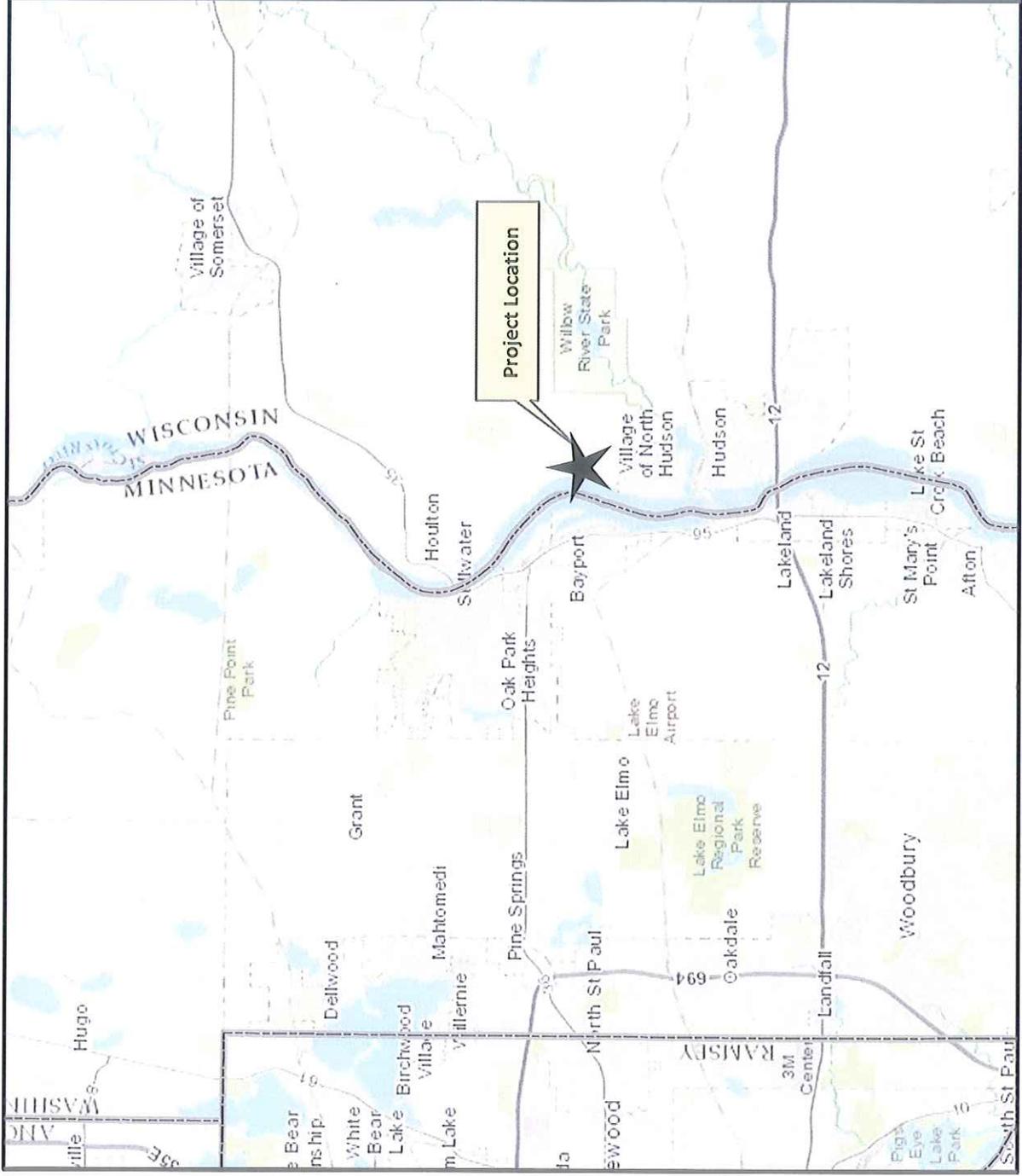
A: Project location map

B: Project site maps

Attachment A

Project Location

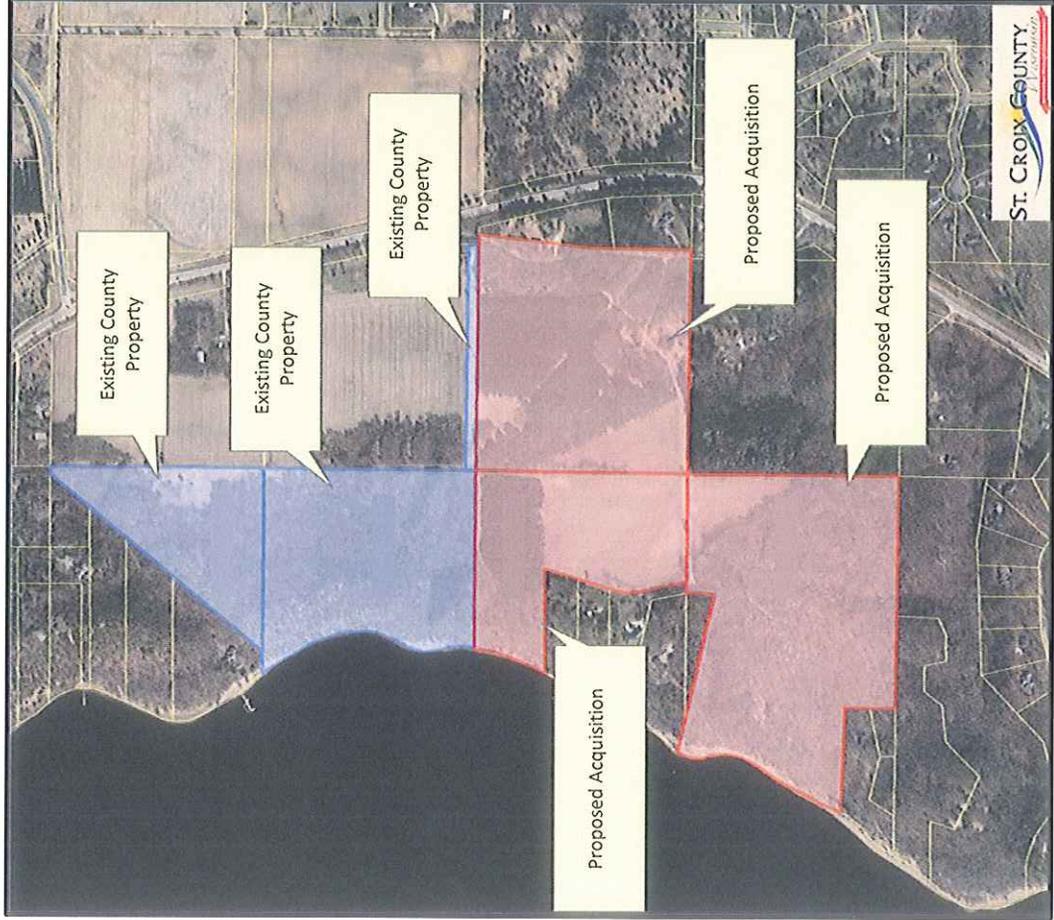
Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
 Eckert Acquisition: St. Croix County



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Eckert Acquisition: St. Croix County

Attachment B
Project Site Maps

Parcel Map



Topographic Map

