

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

317 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
John Nygren

309 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8593
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2343

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

J. 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 the Town of St. Joseph (St. Croix County) for land acquisition. The proposed grant award of \$508,000.00 is 50% of the project cost.

The Town requested grant assistance to acquire 117 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the existing St. Croix County Homestead Park. The Town and County intend to coordinate closely on management of these properties in order to develop an interconnected trail system and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities at Perch Lake. The Town 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,

Ed Elberle

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: TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH**

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 \$508,000. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Town of St. Joseph

County: St. Croix

Project Name: Town Park "Waldroff" Acquisition

Grant sub-programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks & Urban Green Space

Location: The Town Park property is located in the Town of St. Joseph, approximately two miles north of Willow River State Park, adjacent to the St. Croix County Homestead Park.

Project Description: Via acquisition of this 117-acre property, the Town hopes to establish its first major park. The property contains a diverse set of habitat types including springs, wetlands, grasslands, and oak savannas. As a nature park, it will offer many opportunities for outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, and bird watching.

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

- Town of St. Joseph Comprehensive Plan
- St. Croix County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation 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: The Town intends to manage this property as a developed nature park offering many opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, and wildlife viewing. Town Park trails will link with trails in the St. Croix County Homestead Park, which lies directly adjacent to the subject property.

Ownership & Management: The Town of St. Joseph will operate and maintain the park consistent with their management policy. The Town and St. Croix County intend to cooperate on management of the

Town Park & Homestead Park to develop linked trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities, as these properties lie adjacent to each other. As an indication of their cooperative relationship, the County will provide a portion of the required grant matching funds to support the Town's proposed purchase.

Timetable: The Town 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 St. Croix County in January 2018 regarding the proposed Waldroff acquisition. The County expressed no concerns about the proposed acquisition.

Partnerships:

- Town of St. Joseph: Matching funds, acquisition, and long-term property management.
- St. Croix County: Matching funds; coordination with the Town 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	\$ 996,000.00
Property Appraisal 2	\$ 1,350,000.00

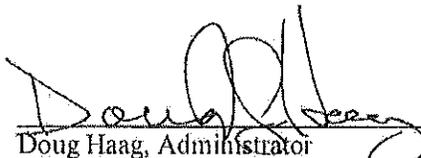
The proposed grant award is based on the lower of the two accepted appraisals (\$996,000.00) and \$20,000 of acquisition costs (eligible per ch. NR 51.002(1), Wis. Admin. Code) for a total eligible project cost of \$1,016,000.00.

Local Government Match	\$ 508,000.00 (50%)
Proposed WDNR Stewardship Grant	\$ 508,000.00 (50%)
Total Grant Project Cost	\$ 1,016,000.00

The Town has secured their required matching funds. Local match is a combination of funds from the Town of St. Joseph and St. Croix County.

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>5/18/18</u> Date
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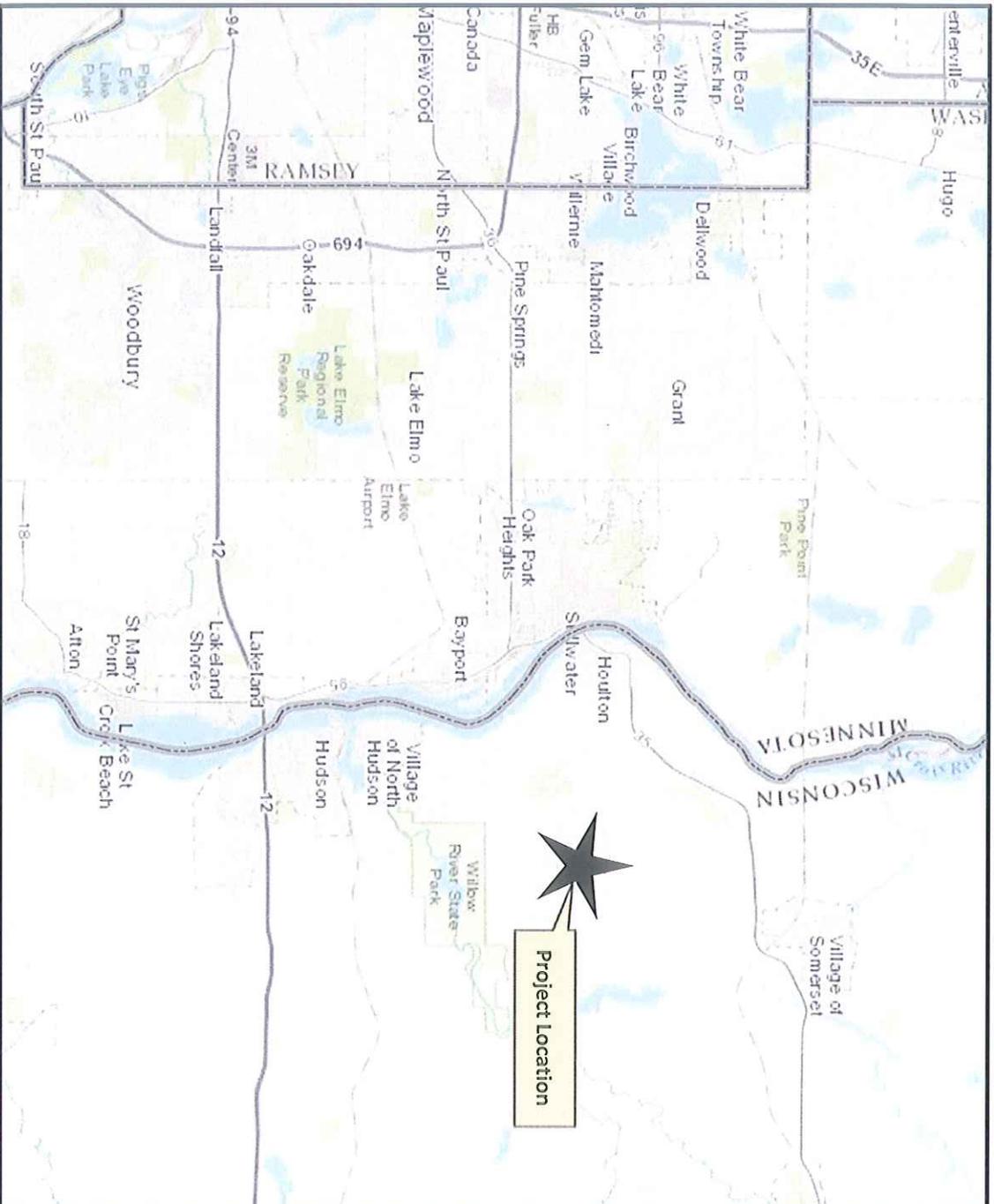
IV. ATTACHMENTS:

A: Project location map

B: Project site maps



**Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Town Park (Waldroff) Acquisition: Town of St. Joseph**



**Attachment A
Project Location**



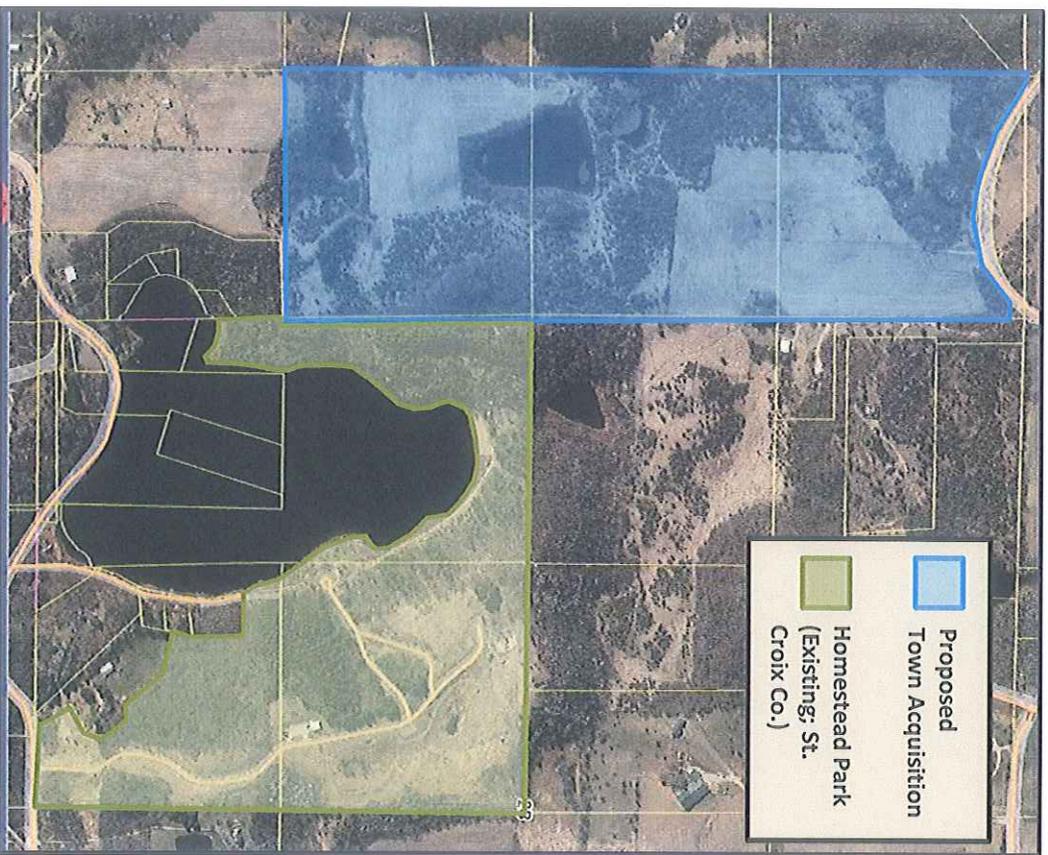


Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
 Town Park (Waldroff) Acquisition: Town of St. Joseph

Attachment B

Project Site Maps

Parcel Map



Site Development Plan

