

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
**Howard Marklein**

316 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**Mark Born**

308 East, State Capitol  
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Madison, WI 53708-8953  
Phone: (608) 266-2540

## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein  
Representative Mark Born

Date: June 6, 2023

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 June 6, 2023.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday, June 23, 2023**, 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

HM:MB:jm

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

**Tony Evers, Governor**  
**Adam N. Payne, Secretary**  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 26, 2023

The Honorable Howard Marklein Co-Chair  
Committee on Joint Finance  
Room 316 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair  
Committee on Joint Finance  
Room 308 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed grant of \$325,580 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for a land acquisition.

The acquisition is in the Town of Burnett in Dodge County. The proposed grant funds will protect approximately 82 acres of important habitat area adjacent to the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area. This acquisition will provide both valuable shallow wetland and a large block of upland habitat critical for grassland birds to the existing Horicon Marsh Wildlife area. It will add nesting, brooding, feeding, and staging areas for resident shorebirds, wading birds, and a variety of grassland and wetland songbirds and game birds. It will also provide crucial stopover habitat for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The property will be open to nature-based outdoor activities as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

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,

DocuSigned by:



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For Adam N. Payne  
Secretary Designee

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 26, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Adam N. Payne, Secretary Designee

**SUBJECT:** Request for approval – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship land acquisition grant over \$250,000

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant of \$325,580.00 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for acquisition of approximately 82 acres in Dodge County. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

**I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU)

**Stewardship Grant sub-program:** Habitat Areas

**Location:** The subject property is located within the Town of Burnett in northcentral Dodge County. Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

**Project Description:** The subject property is approximately 82 acres of marginal ag land, intermixed with restorable low quality seasonally flooded potholes. Twenty-eight acres of this land is considered restorable wetland. The topography is gently rolling with elevations ranging from a low of about 870 feet to a high of about 880 feet. The property is immediately adjacent to state land, sharing the full East and North boundaries with the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area. The West and South boundaries are skirted by Swan Road. The property will provide improved access to Horicon Marsh by road and a current parking area on the southeast end. There are no improvements or developments on this vacant property.

The land has been owned by the Maaske family since 1880 and their intent has been to preserve the land as an addition to Horicon Marsh.

**Key benefits:** This acquisition will provide both valuable shallow wetland and a large block of upland habitat critical for grassland birds to the existing Horicon Marsh Wildlife area. It will add nesting, brooding, feeding, and staging areas for resident shorebirds, wading birds, and a variety of grassland and wetland songbirds and game birds. It will also provide crucial stopover habitat for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Horicon Marsh has been designated as “A Wetland of International Importance” by the Ramsar Convention and accepted as a “Globally Important Bird Area” by the American Bird

Conservancy. Due to its geological significance, Horicon Marsh has been included as a unit of the Ice Age National Scenic Reserve in cooperation with the National Park Service. The northern two-thirds of the marsh is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the southern one-third is under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. After many years of damming, ditching, and draining to alter the marsh, the Wisconsin Legislature passed the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge Bill in 1927 for the restoration of the Marsh including land acquisition and dam construction to re-flood this drained wetland. Today, the Horicon Marsh covers about 32,000 acres, making it the largest freshwater marsh in the upper Midwest.

Acquisition of the Maaske parcel will greatly improve fire management efficiency of the larger grassland area. The restoration of the wetlands will increase the water quality draining to the Marsh.

**Project Goals:** The DU acquisition of the Maaske property meets or supports goals in the following plans:

- Town of Burnett Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Dodge County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Wisconsin DNR Horicon Marsh Master Plan
- Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (COA 9.09, Important Bird Area and Land Legacy Places)

**Partnerships:**

- The Town of Burnett and the Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Committee have issued letters in support of DU's Stewardship grant application.
- Letters of support were also received from Friends of Horicon Marsh, Pheasants Forever and the landowner Dennis Maaske.

**Matching funds:** As of May 2023, DU has secured the following grant funds for the purchase and protection of this property:

- \$200,000 North American Wetlands Conservation (NAWCA) Grant
- \$10,000 Pheasants Forever Habitat Funds
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc. will provide any outstanding match requirements with their own funds.

**Public Uses:** The property will be open to the public for recreational activities (NBOA) including hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

**Property Management:** The property will be managed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as an inclusion in the Horicon State Wildlife Area.

**II. PROJECT FINANCES**

**A. Appraisal**

The fair market value used for grant calculation was determined by review of two, third party appraisals, pursuant to S. 23.0917(7)(e)1, Stats.

Appraisal 1 valued the property at \$820,000.00 (~\$10,124/acre)

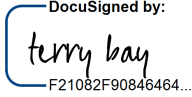
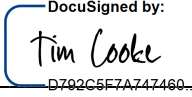
Appraisal 2 valued the property at \$640,000.00 (~\$7,900/acre)

Both appraisal reports were reviewed and accepted as meeting appraisal guidelines. Appraisal 2 was the lower of the two appraisals and has been used for grant calculation.

**B: Grant Calculation:**

Subject land value	\$640,000.00
Eligible related transaction costs	<u>\$11,160.00</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$651,160.00
<b>Stewardship grant amount 50%</b>	<b>\$325,580.00</b>






**III. RECOMMENDED:**

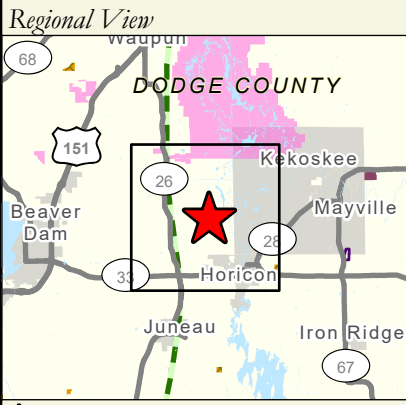
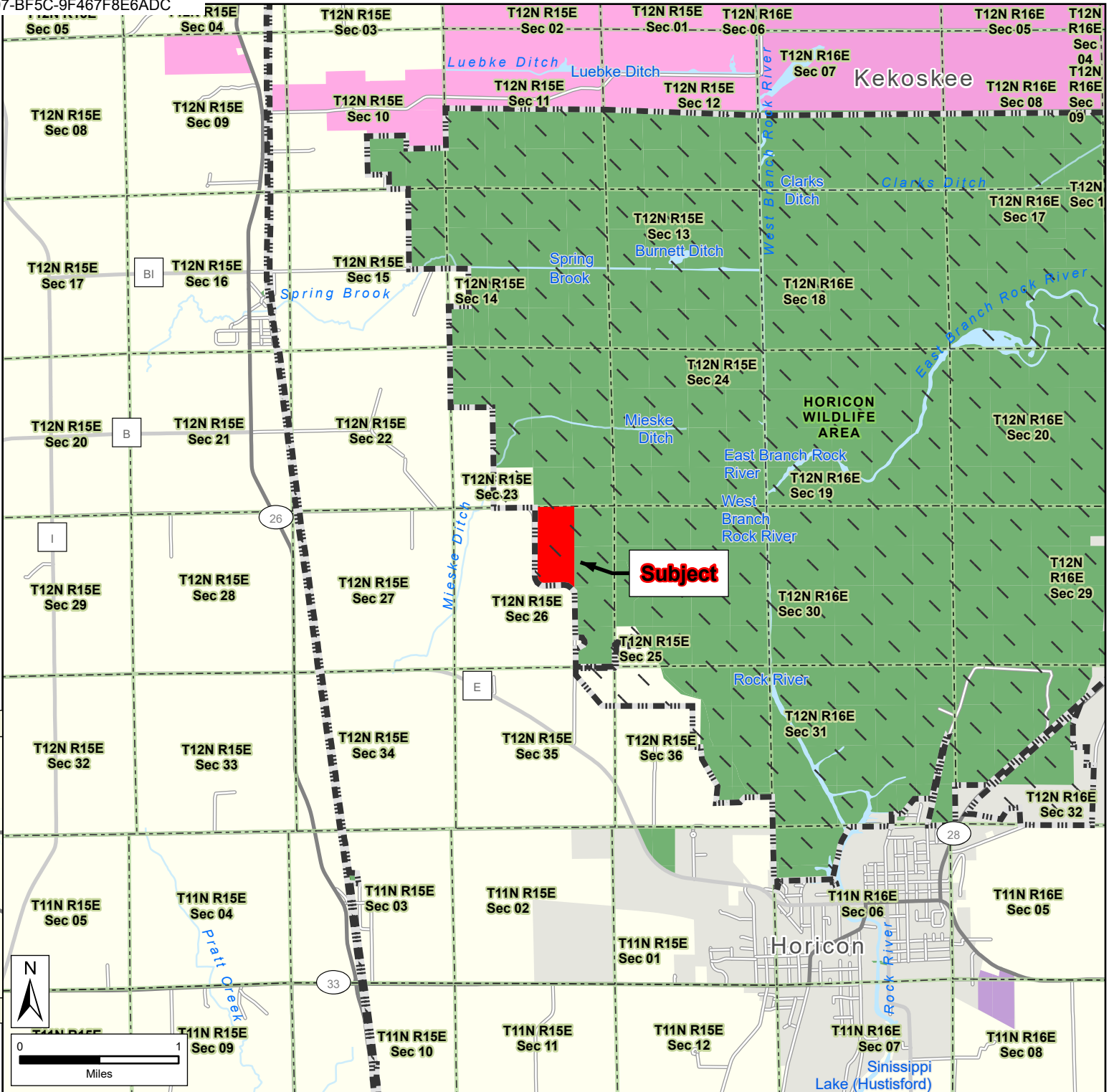
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_____ Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	_____ Date
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_____ Tim Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services	_____ Date


# NCO Grant - Ducks Unlimited Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area


T12N R15E Sec. 26  
Town of Burnett  
Dodge County


 Subject

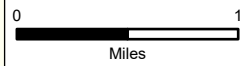
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Fee Title
-  DNR Easement
-  U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
-  Section Boundary



 Location of Property

 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: May 08, 2023 lec

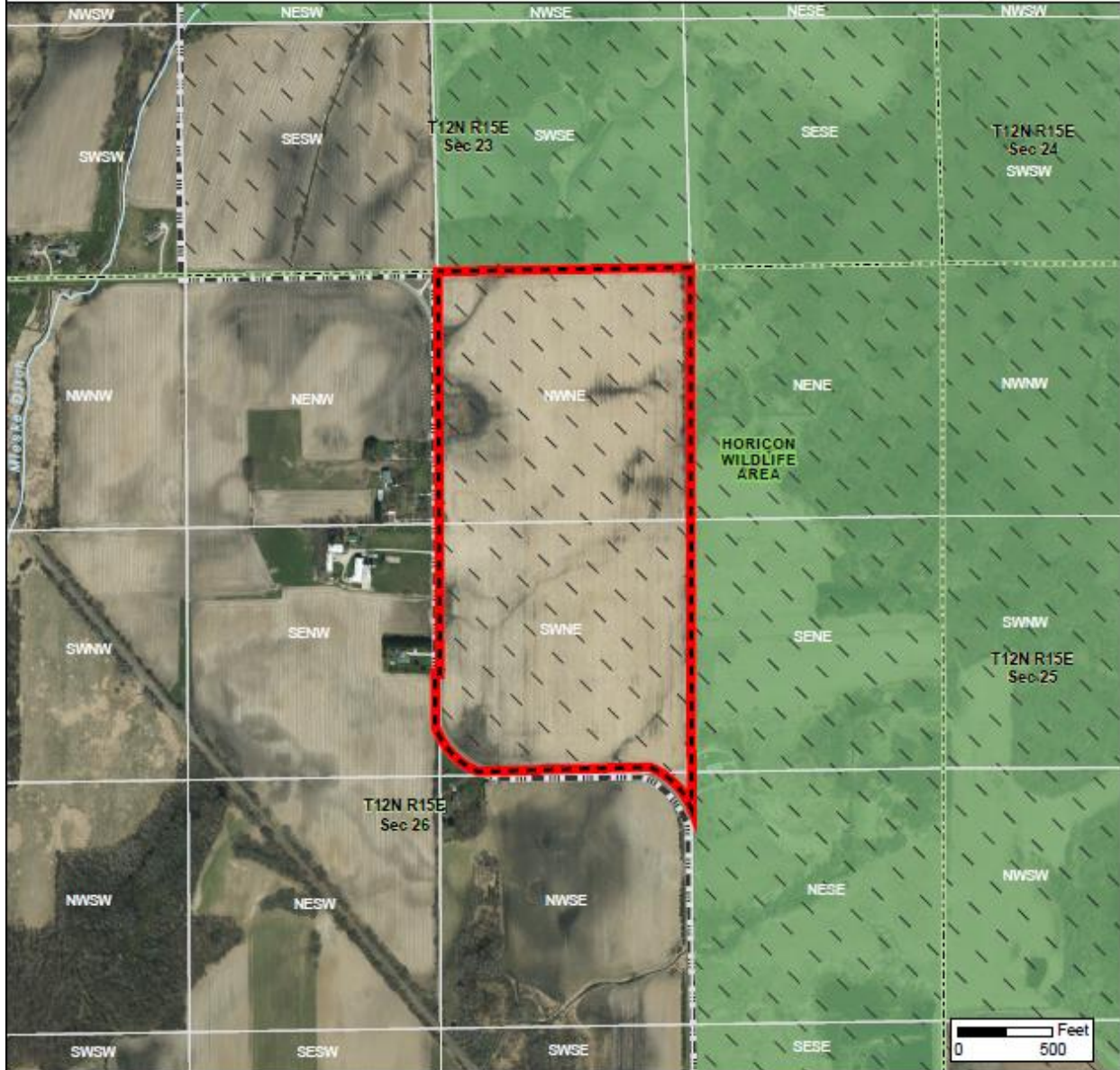
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### NCO Grant - Ducks Unlimited, Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area

Proposed Stewardship Grant  
Landowner: Dennis Maaske  
Approximate Total Acreage: 81.32

T12N R15E Sec. 26  
Town of Burnett  
County: Dodge



 **Subject**

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Fee Title
-  Section Labels
-  QQ Section Boundary



May 10, 2023 *lec*  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.