

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
P.O. Box 8592
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: May 30, 2024

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 30, 2024

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, 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

Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



MAY 30 2024
St. Finance

May 20, 2024

The Honorable Howard Marklein Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 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), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed grant of \$91,415.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Landmark Conservancy for land acquisition.

The acquisition is in the Town of Barksdale, Bayfield County. The proposed project will provide public outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting water quality and fish habitat in the Whittlesey Creek watershed, a Class II trout stream that flows into Lake Superior. This acquisition will also permanently protect public access on land previously open to public use through Managed Forest Law. The property will be open to nature-based outdoor activities as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats. Pursuant to s. 23.0917(5t)(b), Wis. Stats., Landmark Conservancy has received supportive resolutions from the Town of Barksdale and Bayfield County.

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:
Steven Little
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Steven Little
Deputy Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2024
TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: Steven Little, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Stewardship grant north of State Highway 64

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant of \$91,415 to Landmark Conservancy for the acquisition of 160 acres in Bayfield County. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy
Grant Sub-Program: Stream Bank Protection

Location: The subject property is located in the Town of Barksdale, Bayfield County. Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description: The land is mostly wooded, with a mix of northern hardwoods, red pine, aspen, and swamp conifer. The topography is level to rolling with steep slopes leading down to wetlands, springs, and over 3,000 feet of two-bank frontage on North Fork Whittlesey Creek, a Class II trout stream that flows into the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. An adjacent stretch of the North Fork Whittlesey Creek is designated as an Outstanding Water Resource stream. The property is currently enrolled in Managed Forest Law and the timber stands have been actively managed.

Key Benefits: The acquisition will protect water quality and fish habitat in the South Shore Lake Superior area and the Whittlesey Creek Watershed. Protecting the 160-acre parcel will also allow for continued forest management. The property is located in a Tier 1 Migratory Bird stopover and acquisition of the property will help to preserve this important habitat and provide for additional public, nature-based outdoor recreation.

Partnerships:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – WI Coastal Management Program
- Local resolutions of support (see Appendix B):
 - Town of Barksdale
 - Bayfield County

Project Goals: The Whittlesey Creek acquisition meets or supports goals in the following plans:

- Town of Barksdale Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Bayfield County Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- State of Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
 - Lake Superior South Shore Stream – Conservation Opportunity Area
 - Superior Coastal Plain – Major Conservation Opportunity
- US Fish & Wildlife Whittlesey Creek Wildlife Refuge Management Plan
- Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan

Public Uses: The property will be open to nature-based outdoor activities as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

Property Management: After acquisition, the property will be transferred to Bayfield County, who will manage it according to a land management plan approved by the Department.

Timetable: Pending grant approval, Landmark plans to close on this property no later than March 1, 2025.

II. PROJECT FINANCES

A. Appraisal

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(7)(e), Wis. Stats., one appraisal was used to determine the fair market value of the land. The appraisal report was reviewed and accepted as meeting appraisal guidelines. The property value used for grant calculation is \$176,000.

B: Grant Calculation:

Approved land value	\$176,000.00
Eligible related transaction costs	<u>\$6,830.00</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$182,830.00
NOAA – WI Coastal Management Program	\$71,648.00
Contribution from seller	\$17,600.00
Landmark Conservancy funds	<u>\$2,167.00</u>
Proposed Stewardship grant amount 50%	\$91,415.00

III. RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

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 Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5/22/2024 | 1:32 PM CDT

 Date

DocuSigned by:

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 Tim Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services



5/29/2024 | 9:41 AM CDT




 Date

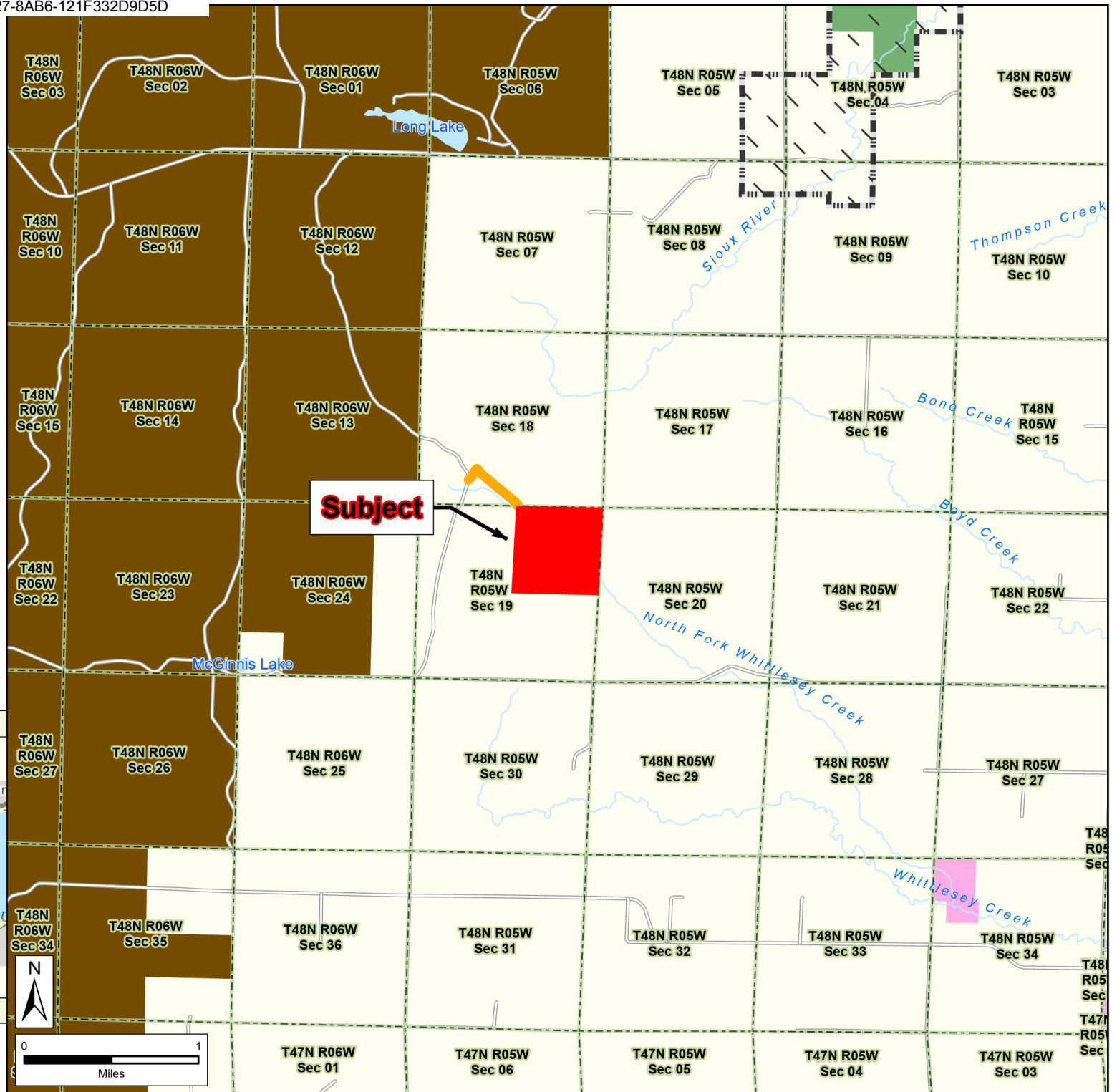
Appendix A. Project Maps

Whittlesey Creek Acquisition

T48N R5W Sec. 19
Town of Barksdale
Bayfield County

-  Subject
-  Access Easement

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Fee Title
-  National Forest
-  U.S. Fish & Wildlife
-  Section Boundary



Regional View



★ Location of Property



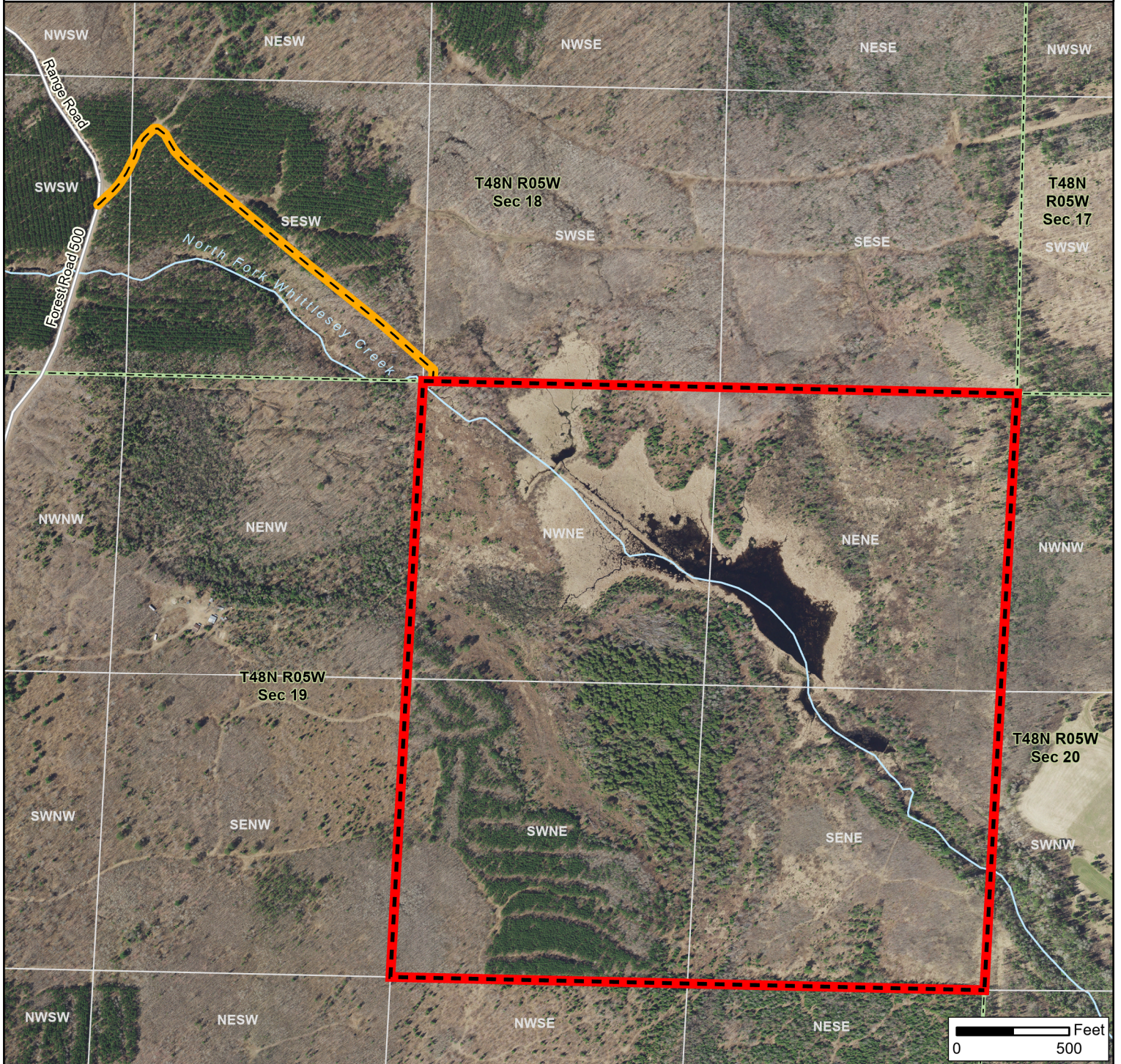
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: May 21, 2024 lec







Whittlesey Creek Acquisition

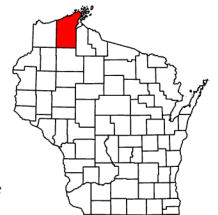
Proposed Stewardship Grant
Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy
Approximate Total Acreage: 160

T48N R5W Sec. 19
Town of Barksdale
County: Bayfield



 Subject
 Access Easement

 Section Boundary
 QQ Section Boundary

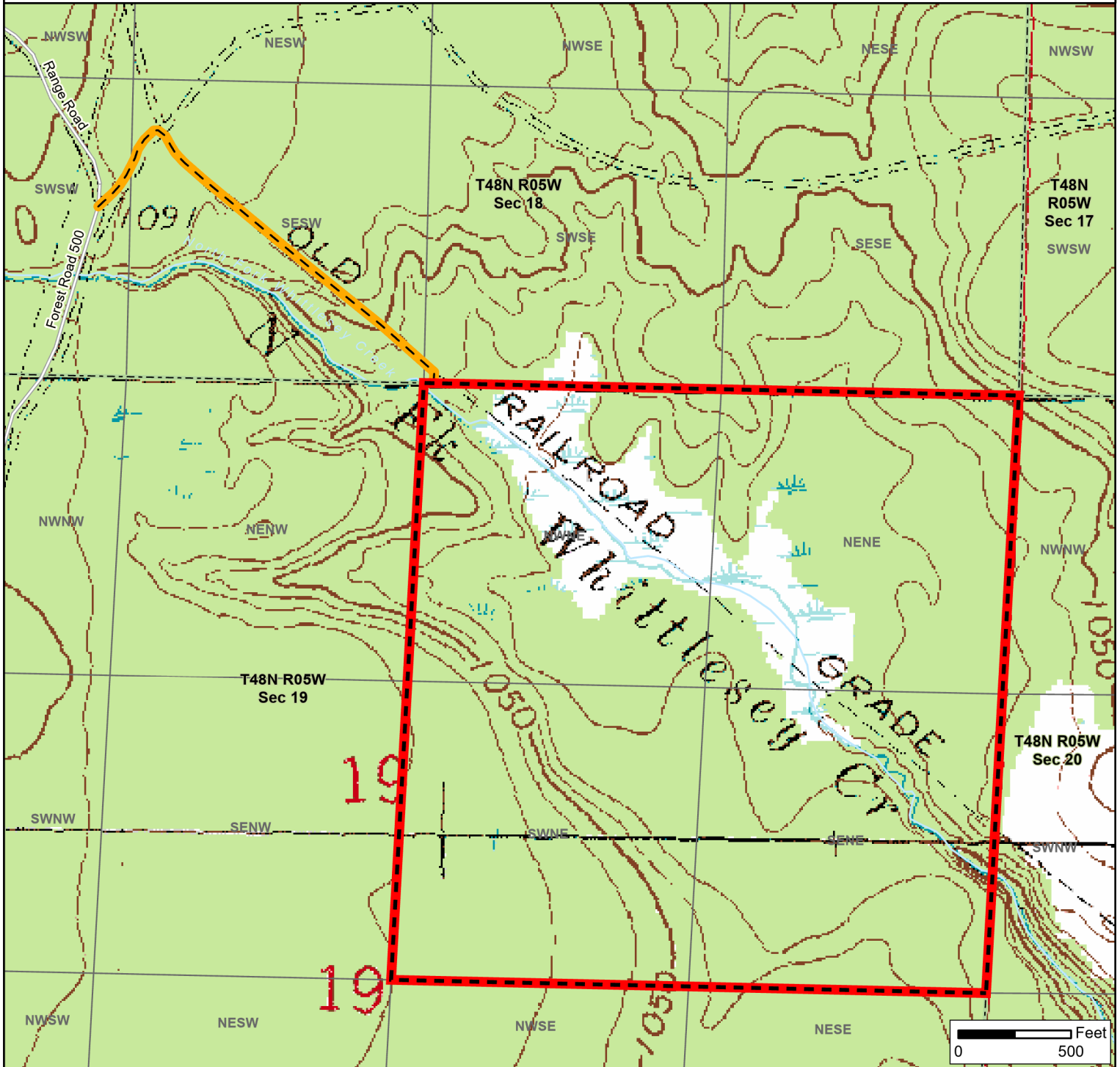




May 21, 2024 *lec*
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands



Whittlesey Creek Acquisition

Proposed Stewardship Grant
Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy
Approximate Total Acreage: 160

T48N R5W Sec. 19
Town of Barksdale
County: Bayfield



 Subject
 Access Easement

 Section Boundary
 QQ Section Boundary



May 21, 2024 *lec*
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Appendix B. Local Support Resolutions

Resolution

No. 2024-09

Support for Whittlesey Creek Project in Partnership with Landmark Conservancy

WHEREAS, Bayfield County (the County) will be contacted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources related to Landmark Conservancy's (Landmark) grant application to the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for its Whittlesey Creek project (Project), inviting the County to adopt a non-binding resolution of support for the Project;

WHEREAS, this Project would involve the acquisition of approximately 160 acres (see Exhibit A), near FR 500/Range Road, in the Town of Barksdale, contains significant frontage on the North Fork of Whittlesey Creek, including its headwaters, and would be fully funded, in part, by the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program for natural resource protection and public recreational access including hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing and trapping;

WHEREAS, the County and Landmark share like visions with regards to land conservation and management and have partnered on numerous similar land acquisition projects over the past decade;

WHEREAS, as part of this acquisition Project, both Landmark and the County, with assistance from Landmark, would apply for grants or similar financial aids with the goal of securing full funding (the total cost of the Project is estimated to be around \$180,000.00);

WHEREAS, Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department, with assistance from Landmark, is seeking grant funding from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, in the amount of roughly \$72,000.00 to support the Project with an intent to own the property;

WHEREAS, the County is interested in improving land protection with public access to the Whittlesey Creek watershed of the South Shore Streams area of Lake Superior and other nearby and/or similar natural areas as supported by Bayfield County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Bayfield County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as well as the Town of Barksdale's Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, once full funding has been secured, Landmark would facilitate the completion of the acquisition and, upon closing, transfer ownership and the associated management responsibilities of the property, in full, to the County;

WHEREAS, the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Committee voted to support this Project during their meeting on January 8, 2024, including pursuing funding through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, receiving ownership of the property and being responsible for future management;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 30th day of January 2024, do hereby support Landmark's Whittlesey Creek project, as described above;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors also supports pursuing funding through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program for assistance in the acquisition of land, as described above;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Forestry and Parks Administrator and County Administrator to act on behalf of the County to: submit an application to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program for land acquisition grant funding; sign documents; and take all necessary and required action(s) to undertake, direct, and complete an approved land acquisition project.

By Action of the:

Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

) ss.

COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2024-09, Volume 30, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 30th day of January 2024.

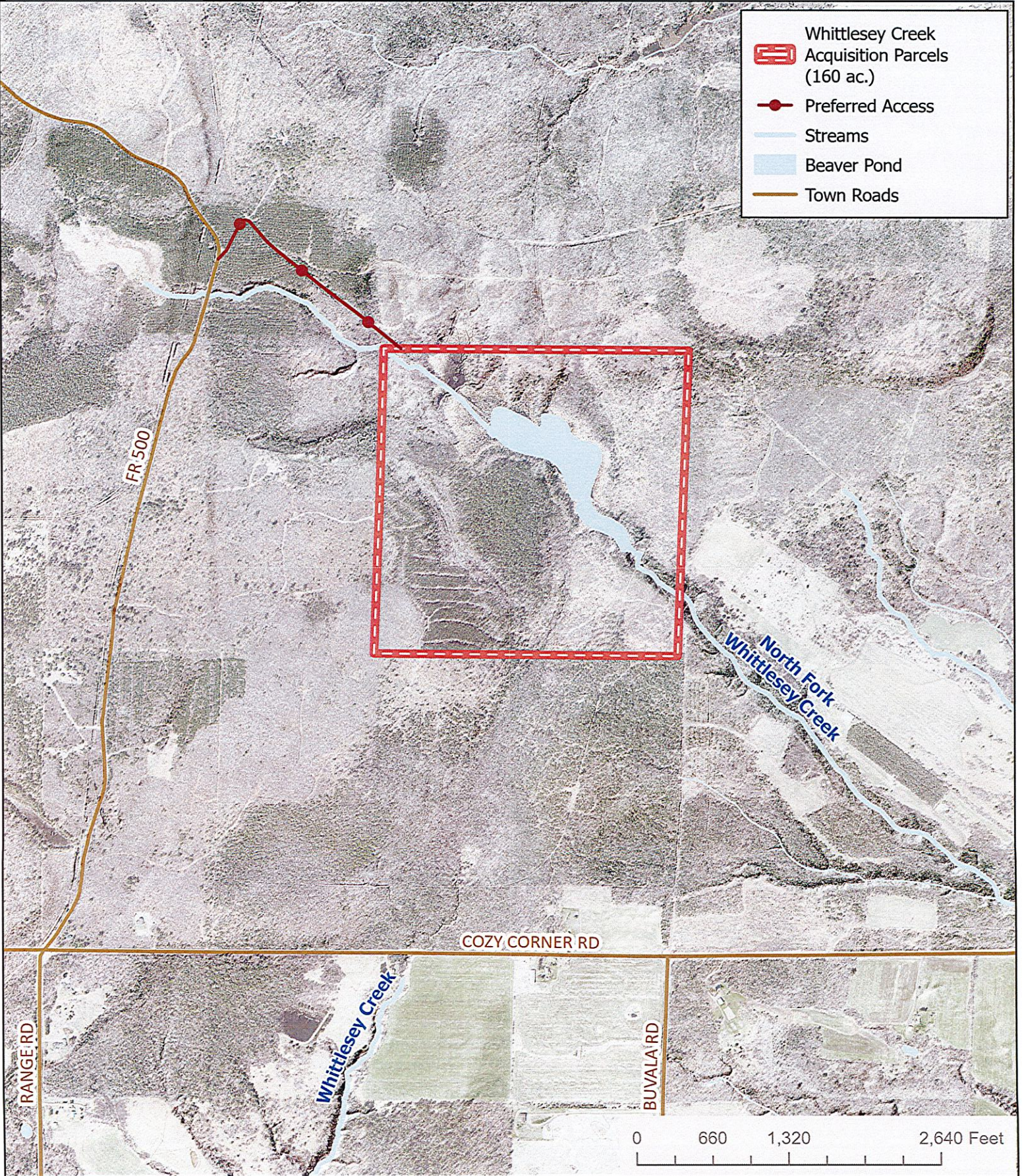
Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*

Whittlesey Creek Acquisition



RAYFIELD
C O U N T Y

LANDMARK
CONSERVANCY



TOWN OF BARKSDALE

RESOLUTION

2024-02

WHEREAS, The Town of Barksdale will be contacted by the Bayfield County Forestry Department related to Landmark Conservancy's grant application to the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for its Whittlesey Creek Project, inviting the Town of Barksdale to adopt a resolution of support for the project; and

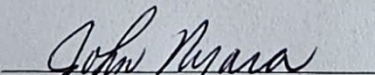
WHEREAS, this project would involve the acquisition of approximately 160 acres near FR 500/Range Road in the Town of Barksdale, containing significant frontage on the North Fork of Whittlesey Creek, including its headwaters, and would be fully funded by the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program for natural resource protection and public recreational access including hiking, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing and trapping; and

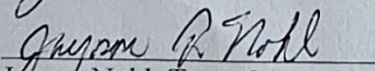
WHEREAS, the Town of Barksdale Planning Commission reviewed this project on May 13, 2024, and supports land protection with public access to the Whittlesey Creek project as supported by the Town of Barksdale Comprehensive Plan; and

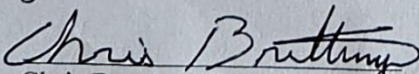
WHEREAS, The Town of Barksdale Board of Supervisors voted to support this project during its meeting held on May 14, 2024;

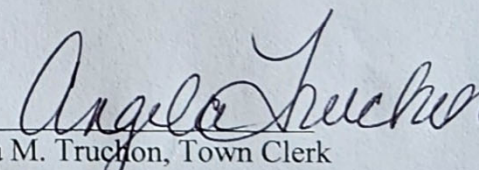
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Barksdale Board of Supervisors, assembled this 14th day of **May, 2024**, does hereby support Landmark Conservancy's Whittlesey Creek Headwaters project, as described above.

By action of the Barksdale Town Board
This 14th day of **May, 2024**


John Nyara, Town Chairman


Jayson Nohl, Town Supervisor


Chris Bretting, Town Supervisor

Attest: 
Angela M. Truchon, Town Clerk