Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.9

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION – LOWER WOLF RIVER BOTTOMLANDS NATURAL RESOURCES AREA – OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

FOR: APRIL 2007 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Great Lakes Kraut Company , LLC has offered to donate a 10.51-acre tract to the Department for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area in Outagamie County.

The Great Lakes Kraut Company parcel has river frontage in an area known for its sturgeon spawning. The subject will be served by a 30-foot wide ingress/egress easement through the adjacent lot owned by Great Lakes Kraut Company. In addition, the Department has adjacent ownership to the south, the former railroad corridor which can serve pedestrian users to cross a marshy area accessing the subject's Wolf River frontage and lowland woodlands.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area was established to protect the Lower Wolf River and Embarrass River corridor and their important floodplain forests, and includes portions of the Lake Winnebago Pool system, which is important to many aquatic species, especially the lake sturgeon and walleye. This is an ecologically important landscape tucked away between the urban areas and agricultural communities of east-central Wisconsin and the extensive forests of northern Wisconsin. The project area is predominately open and rural with large, highly productive wetlands that are dominated by native vegetation. Agricultural areas are another predominant element of this landscape. The close proximity of the project area to the population center of the Fox River Valley makes it very popular for a multitude of recreational pursuits, especially fishing and hunting. Land uses in the area are quickly changing and development pressure is increasing. This parcel has 750 feet of Wolf River frontage and abuts a county-owned parcel, also on the river. The Sturgeons for Tomorrow group has done habitat work on the adjoining county-owned frontage.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 10.51 acres of land for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area and that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Great Lakes Kraut Company, LLC and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☒	Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☐	Background Memo	Yes ☒	Attached

APPROVED:

R E Steffes — 3-30-07
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6 — Date

Laurie Osterndorf — 3/30/07
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5 — Date

Scott Hassett — 4/5/07
Secretary, Scott Hassett - AD/5 — Date

cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/5
T. Hauge – WM/6
R. Kazmierczak – NER/Green Bay

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: March 29, 2007 FILE REF: W-1700

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Scott Hassett

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Acquisition, Great Lakes Kraut Company, LLC Tract, File # W-1700,

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area
Outagamie County

Grantor:

Great Lakes Kraut Company, LLC
c/o David Flanagan
P.O. Box 217
Bear Creek, WI 54922

Acres: 10.51
Price: Donation
Appraised Value: N/A
Interest: Donation in fee.
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in the Village of Shiocton in western Outagamie County

Land Description: The subject area is flat to gently rolling, sloping to the Wolf River frontage.

Water: There are 750 feet of frontage along the one bank of the Wolf River.

Covertype Breakdown:	Type	Acreage
	Wooded Lowland	7.51
	Wetland	3.0
	TOTAL	10.51

Zoning: Light manufacturing & commercial
Present Use: part of larger manufacturing property
Proposed Use: Resource Protection and Public Recreation
Tenure: 2 years
Property Taxes: exempt
Option Date: N/A

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department proposes to accept the 10.51-acre Great Lakes Kraut Company tract to allow wildlife management and habitat restoration, to protect the natural values of the property, and to provide opportunities for public recreation and education on the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area. The subject lies approximately 16 miles northwest of the City of Appleton and approximately 9 miles northeast of the City of New London. The neighborhood in this portion of the Village of Shiocton has a mix of small industry and small businesses serving the village as well as travelers along STH "54".

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The Great Lakes Kraut Company, LLC proposed the donation idea to the Village of Shiocton when they presented their Certified Survey Map (CSM) for approval and it received a great deal of support from the wildlife and fishery programs as the parcel has river frontage known for its sturgeon spawning. The subject will be served by a 30-foot wide ingress/egress easement through the adjacent Lot 1 formerly owned by Great Lakes Kraut Company. In addition, the Department has adjacent ownership to the south, the former railroad corridor, which can serve pedestrian users to cross a marshy area accessing the subject's Wolf River frontage and lowland woodlands.

The 10.51- acre property is almost entirely in the 100-year floodplain except for a small area in the northeast corner near the boundary with the Shiocton lumber yard. The parcel is subject to an access easement in favor of Outagamie County for the ingress/egress of nature education users to access their adjacent 24-acre property. This adjacent county land includes several hundred feet of Wolf River frontage, meandering and connecting to the subject's single bank, frontage. Also, the Department currently owns 688 acres of land with Wolf River frontage north of the subject. Creating partnerships is one of the goals of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area project's landscape approach to protect parcels within the project boundaries and this donated parcel more effectively builds a partnership with Outagamie County as their access traverses the subject parcel.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area was established to protect the Lower Wolf River and Embarrass River corridor and their important floodplain forests, and includes portions of the Lake Winnebago Pool system, which is important to many aquatic species, especially the lake sturgeon. This is an ecologically important landscape tucked away between the urban areas and agricultural communities of east-central Wisconsin and the extensive forests of northern Wisconsin. The project area is predominately open and rural with large, highly productive wetlands that are dominated by native vegetation. Agricultural areas are another predominant element of this landscape. The close proximity of the project area to the population center of the Fox River Valley makes it very popular for a multitude of recreational pursuits, especially fishing and hunting. Land uses in the area are quickly changing and development pressure is increasing. There are existing DNR projects within the Lower Wolf River Bottomland project boundary. The Department owns and manages approximately 31,000 acres within those projects. This area is important for migrating waterfowl and other birds. Approximately ten percent of the world's tundra swans migrate through the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area in the spring, along with other waterfowl numbering in the tens of thousands.

One of the main reasons for accepting this gift is the extensive work that has already been completed on the Wolf River frontage on the adjacent Outagamie County property by Sturgeons for Tomorrow. "Bamboo Bend" as it is locally named is a popular scenic overlook/parking site for the public along STH "54". Sturgeon spawning is a popular ecotourism in the area, and additional public access on this stretch of the river will provide more opportunities for recreation as well as boost the tourism economy for the Village of Shiocton and surrounding communities. If accepted, the subject will be a nice addition to the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area project with its mix of bottomland hardwoods, Wolf River frontage connecting the county-owned river frontage, and the wetland marsh complex to the adjacent state trail ownership. Accepting this gift parcel would protect the land from future development and provide habitat for many species of wildlife, from Blanding's turtles, to birds, like the Prothonotary Warbler. Likewise, mussels such as the snuffbox, which is endangered, and the salamander mussel and buckhorn, which are threatened, will also benefit with the natural shorelines.

The Department recommends acceptance of the Great Lakes Kraut Company parcel to allow management of the area for wildlife and habitat, to provide for public recreation and natural resources education and to consolidate state ownership in the area.

3. FINANCING: None - Donation

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE LOWER WOLF RIVER BOTTOMLANDS NATURAL RESOURCE AREA:

Established: 2002
Acres Purchased to Date: 1,194
Acquisition Goal: 45,000 Acres
Percent Complete: 37%
Cost to Date: $2,000,410

5. APPRAISAL: None

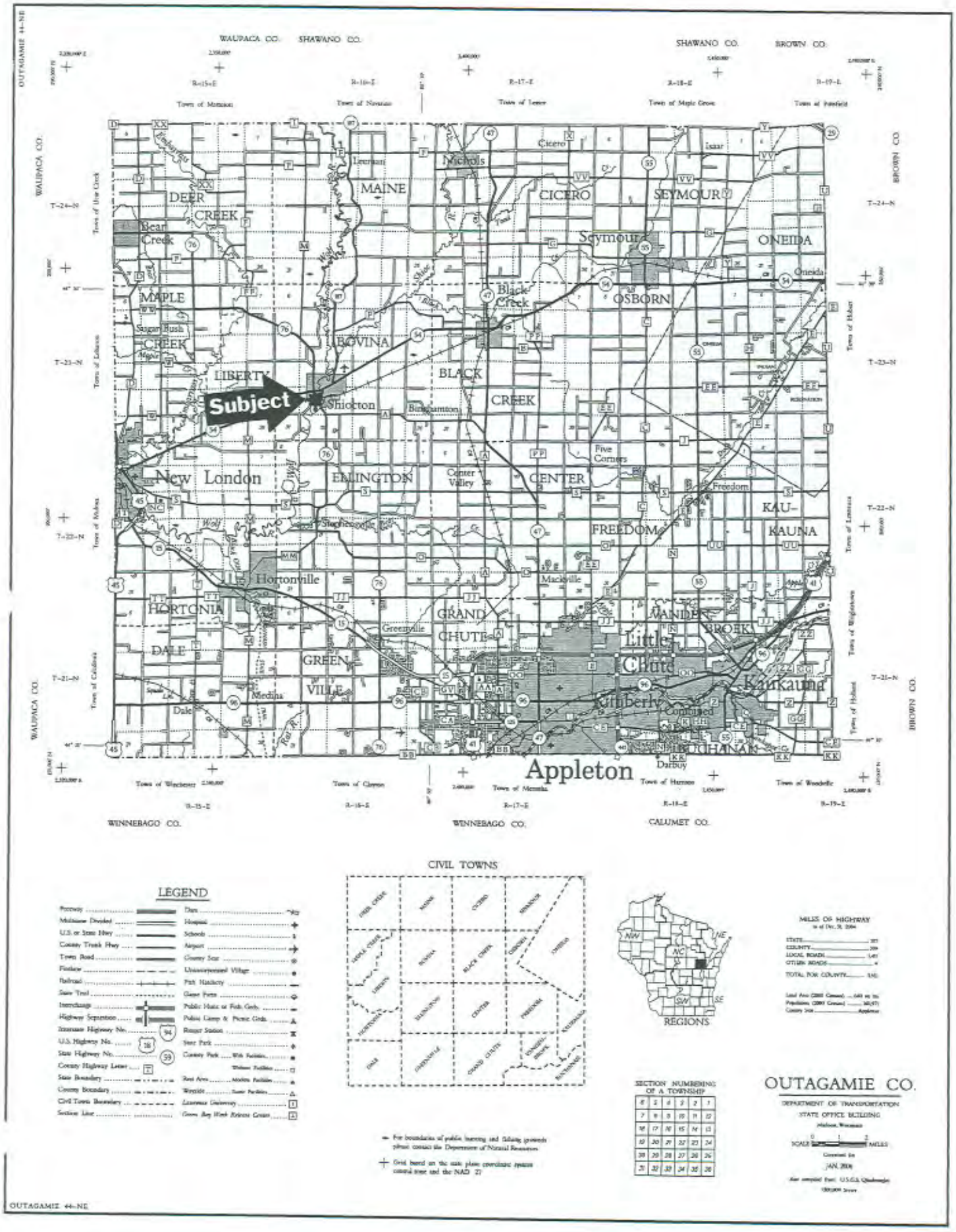
RECOMMENDED:

Richard E. Steffes — Date: 3-30-07

Bureau of Legal Services — Date: 3/30/07

Laurie Osterndorf — Date

RES:ch


WAUPACA CO.
SHAWANO CO.
BROWN CO.
WINNEBAGO CO.
CALUMET CO.
OUTAGAMIE 44-NE
Subject
Shiocton
New London
Hortonville
Appleton
Little Chute
Kimberly
Kaukauna
Seymour
Oneida
Black Creek
Bear Creek
Sugar Bush
Five Corners
Center Valley
Freedom
Mackville
Greenville
Medina
Dale
Darbuy
Cicero
Isaar
Leeman
Nichols
Stephensville
Town of Mattoon
Town of Navarino
Town of Lester
Town of Maple Grove
Town of Fairfield
Town of Bear Creek
Town of Lebanon
Town of Mulvoy
Town of Caledonia
Town of Winchester
Town of Clayton
Town of Menasha
Town of Harrison
Town of Woodville
Town of Hobart
Town of Lawrence
Town of Wrightstown
Town of Holland
DEER CREEK
MAINE
CICERO
SEYMOUR
ONEIDA
MAPLE CREEK
BOVINA
OSBORN
LIBERTY
BLACK CREEK
ELLINGTON
CENTER
FREEDOM
KAU-KAUNA
HORTONIA
GRAND CHUTE
VANDER BROEK
DALE
GREEN VILLE
BUCHANAN
LEGEND
CIVIL TOWNS
REGIONS
MILES OF HIGHWAY
SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP
OUTAGAMIE CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
Madison, Wisconsin
SCALE
MILES
JAN. 2006
OUTAGAMIE 44-NE

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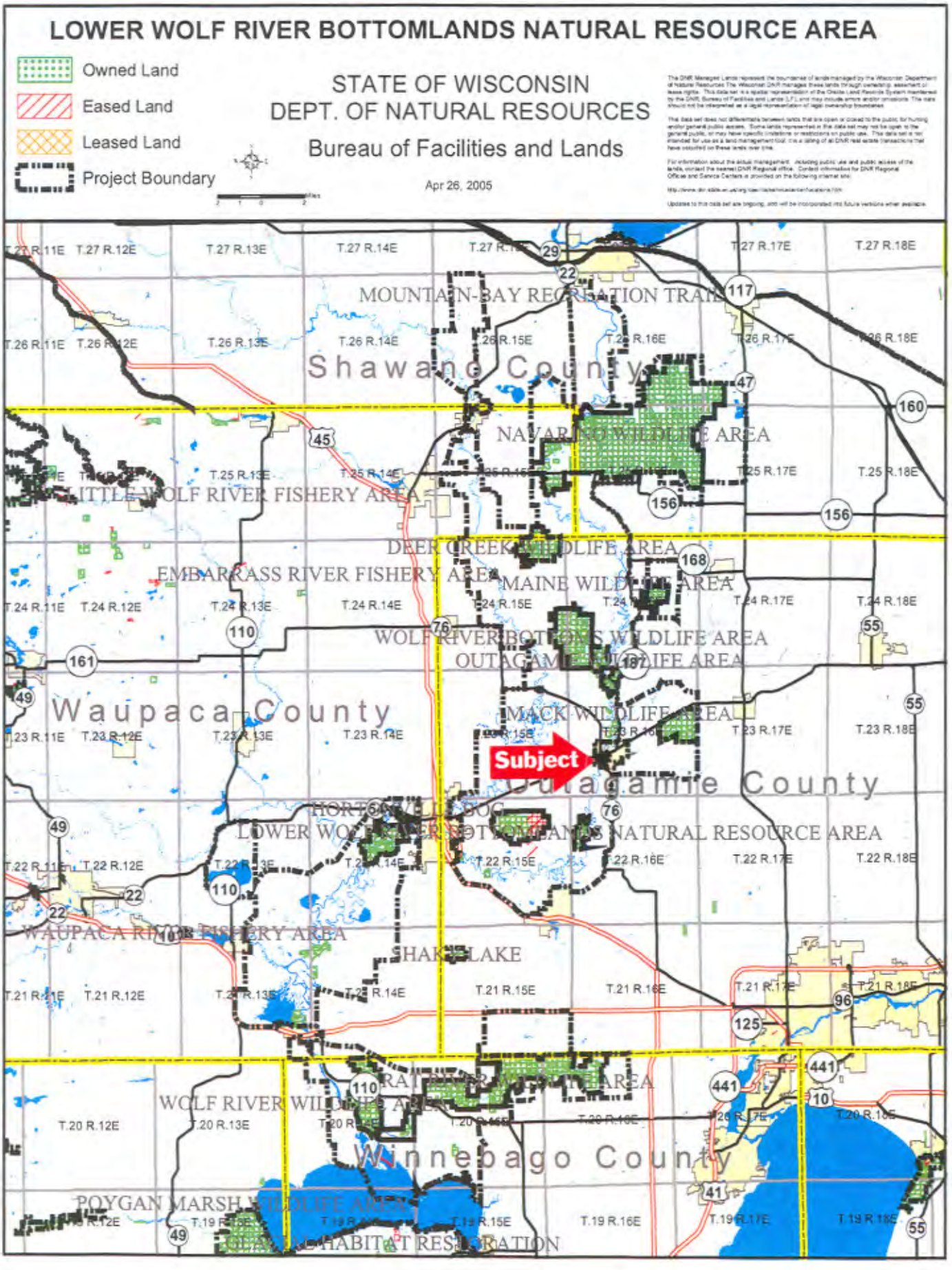
LOWER WOLF RIVER BOTTOMLANDS NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
Owned Land
Eased Land
Leased Land
Project Boundary
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Apr 26, 2005
MOUNTAIN-BAY RECREATION TRAIL
Shawano County
NAVARINO WILDLIFE AREA
LITTLE WOLF RIVER FISHERY AREA
DEER CREEK WILDLIFE AREA
EMBARRASS RIVER FISHERY AREA
MAINE WILDLIFE AREA
WOLF RIVER BOTTOMS WILDLIFE AREA
OUTAGAMIE WILDLIFE AREA
Waupaca County
MACK WILDLIFE AREA
Subject
Outagamie County
HORTON WILDLIFE AREA
LOWER WOLF RIVER BOTTOMLANDS NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
WAUPACA RIVER FISHERY AREA
SHAKO LAKE
WOLF RIVER WILDLIFE AREA
Winnebago County
POYGAN MARSH WILDLIFE AREA
HABITAT RESTORATION