

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION – NEW MUNSTER WILDLIFE AREA - KENOSHA COUNTY

FOR: JANUARY 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Dr. David Popp has offered to donate to the Department 51.15 acres of land for the New Munster Wildlife Area in Kenosha County. The item is being submitted for Board acceptance of the donation as well as approval to modify the project boundary to include the 51.15-acre parcel.

This 51.15-acre parcel is just southeast of the Wetland Mitigation site proposed for transfer as a January 2008 NRB item from the WI Department of Transportation (DOT). If accepted, the project boundary would include the 51.15-acre tract as well as the transfer of 177.4 acres from DOT. The property will provide opportunities for public recreation, allow wildlife management, and protect the over ¾-mile of riverbank and floodplain along the Fox River.

In 1947, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission created the New Munster Wildlife Area. This wildlife area was established to provide important pheasant and upland game habitat in a more rapidly developing area of Wisconsin. In addition, the project protects water quality, improves fish habitat, and provides public access for fishing and hunting the ownership along Palmer Creek. The New Munster Wildlife Area also encompasses one of the first natural areas, New Munster Bog Island, designated in 1967.

Habitat types found on the property include a floodplain forest along the river, a 12-acre former farm field in the middle, an emergent wetland on the northwest edge, and upland areas on the northern edge. Dr. Popp has done a great deal to improve wildlife habitat on his property. His projects include planting several hundred trees of various species and planted the farm fields into native prairie grasses and forbs and wetland species. He also spent extensive time removing woody invasive plants from the property, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

As part of the donation, the Department will install a sign along Highway 50 with the proposed wording, "William Popp Arboretum - New Munster Wildlife Area", in recognition of Dr. Popp's father. Thomas Popp, Dr. Popp's brother, will retain a life tenancy that includes a brick house and 0.44-acre parcel of land located on the 51.15-acre property. Dr. Popp will occupy the other home on the property until the spring of 2008. Once vacated, the Department will raze the home and pole barn at this site. Dr. Popp will cover the cost of the site demolition and clean-up as well as restoration of native cover.

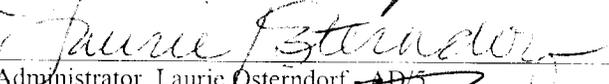
RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 51.15 acres of land for the New Munster Wildlife Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Dr. David Popp and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. In addition, that the New Munster Wildlife Area project boundary be expanded to include this 51.15 parcel.

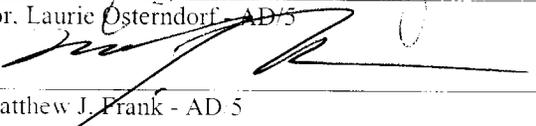
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:


Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6


Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5


Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD 5

12-28-07
Date

12/28/07
Date

1/3/08
Date

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| cc: S. Miller – LF/6 | G. McCutcheon – SER/Milwaukee |
| R. Steffes – LF/6 | T. Hauge – WM 6 |
| L. Ross – AD/6 | |

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: December 28, 2007
TO: Natural Resources Board
FROM: Matthew J. Frank *MJF*
SUBJECT: Proposed Gift of Land - Natural Heritage Land Trust Tract, File #W-1737.

FILE REF: W-1737

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

New Munster Wildlife Area
Kenosha County

Grantor:

Dr. David Popp
31945 68th Place
Salem, WI 53168

Acres: 51.15

Price: N/A

Interest: Donation of fee simple title; life tenancy for one house on the property

Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Kenosha County in the Town of Wheatland about three miles northeast of the Village of Twin Lakes.

Land Description: The subject is generally flat to gently rolling terrain.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acreege</u>
	Upland Prairie	30.21
	Lowland Woodland	10.0
	Wetland	10.0
	Building Site	<u>0.94</u>
	TOTAL	51.15

Zoning: Agriculture, Conservancy, and Floodplain

Present Use: Residential and Recreation

Proposed Use: Wildlife Management and Public Recreation

Tenure: N/A

Letter of intent date: May 8, 2007

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Dr. David Popp has offered to donate a 51.15-acre parcel just southeast of the wetland mitigation site proposed for transfer as a January 2008 NRB item from the WI Department of Transportation (DOT) to the nearby New Munster Wildlife Area. If accepted, the project boundary would include the entire 51.15-acre tract as well as the transfer of 177.4 acres from DOT. The property will provide opportunities for public recreation, allow wildlife management, and protect the over ¼-mile of riverbank and floodplain along the Fox River.

In 1947, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission created the New Munster Wildlife Area. This wildlife area was established to provide important pheasant and upland game habitat in a more rapidly developing area of Wisconsin. In addition, the project protects water quality, improves fish habitat, and provides public access for fishing and hunting the ownership along Palmer Creek. The New Munster Wildlife Area also encompasses one of the first natural areas, New Munster Bog Island, designated in 1967. The natural area is characterized by a sandy knoll of hardwoods surrounded by tamarack and a shrub-carr bog. On the east side of the knoll is a 200 foot-wide strip of northern hardwoods with a unique association of yellow birch, paper birch, birch hybrids, June berry, and alternate-leaved dogwood. The remainder of the knoll



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includes wild geranium, sweet cicely, honewort, may apple, and golden alexanders. The island is home to many mammals as well as has recorded accounts of numerous nesting birds including northern waterthrush, here at its southern limit in Wisconsin.

Habitat types found on the property include a floodplain forest along the river, a 12-acre former farm field in the middle, an emergent wetland on the northwest edge, and upland areas on the northern edge.

Dr. David Popp is very conservation minded and has done a great deal to improve wildlife habitat on his property. His projects include planting several hundred trees of various species and planted the farm fields into native prairie grasses and forbs and wetland species. He also spent extensive time removing woody invasive plants from the property, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

As part of the donation, the Department will install a sign along Highway 50 with the proposed wording, "William Popp Arboretum - New Munster Wildlife Area", in recognition of Dr. Popp's father. Thomas Popp, Dr. Popp's brother will retain a life tenancy that includes a brick house and 0.44-acre parcel of land located on the 51.15-acre property. Dr. Popp will occupy the other home on the property until the spring of 2008. Once vacated, the Department will raze the home and pole barn at this site. Dr. Popp will cover the cost of the site demolition and clean-up as well as restoration of native cover.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this gift to provide wildlife management, protect water quality, provide opportunities for public recreation in a heavily populated and rapidly urbanizing area of the state as well as protect the natural values of the property from the impacts of development incompatible with the goals of the project. Additionally, the Department recommends that with the approval of this parcel that the project boundary be modified to include this parcel.

3. FINANCING:

Funds are not required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE NEW MUNSTER WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1947

Acres Purchased to Date: 1,048.58

Acquisition Goal: 1,386.68 Acres*

Percent Complete: 75.6%

Cost to Date: \$163,480.00

Comments: The acreage goal will be increased to include this parcel upon acceptance by the Natural Resources Board.

RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

12-28-07
Date


Bureau of Legal Services

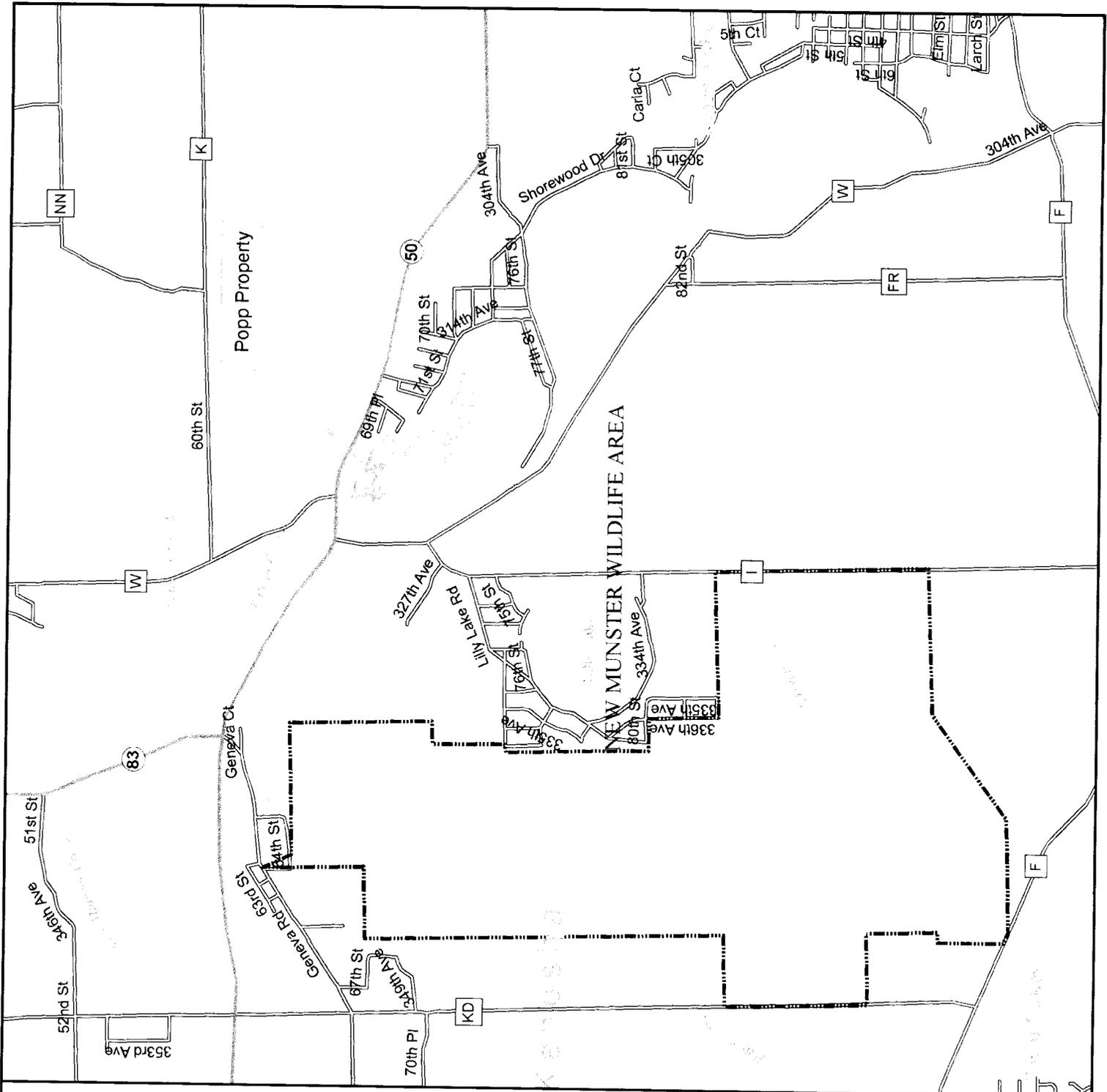
12/28/07
Date


Laurie Osterndorf

12/28/07
Date

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for a hard copy of this document.**



Popp Donation

New Munster
Wildlife Area

-  Subject Property
-  WDNR Owned
-  WNDR Eased
-  WDNR Leased

-  Ice Age Trail
-  Project Boundary
-  Open Water



The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. This data set is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LF), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries.

This data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands held in trust for the state may not be open to the general public, or may be subject to special rules or restrictions on public use. This data set is not intended for use as a listing of all DNR real estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time.

For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional Office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/ce/ef/ef/locations.htm>

Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Facilities and Lands

December 21, 2007

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 51.15 acres of land from

DR. DAVID POPP

This donation of land will be used as an addition to the New Munster Wildlife Area in Kenosha County. It is significant that the Department work with conservation minded individuals such as yourself who are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

Christine L. Thomas, CHAIR