

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION = ST. LOUIS RIVER STREAM BANK AREA- DOUGLAS COUNTY

FOR: APRIL 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Nature Conservancy offered to donate 357.82 acres of land for the St. Louis River Stream Bank Area in Douglas County to the Department.

The Nature Conservancy has offered to donate Clough Island, located in the St. Louis River in Douglas County for the St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Protection Area. The island, which is outside of the project boundary, was acquired in November 2010 by The Nature Conservancy with funds from a US Fish and Wildlife Grant, a Department Stewardship Grant and with the remaining \$2,875 from private donations. The island is located in the center of the St. Louis River Estuary. It includes grassy, brushy, and forest habitats important for a large number of migratory and breeding bird species. About 230 bird species use the estuary and about 115 of these species breed in the area. About 400 acres around the island is extremely valuable and diverse shallow water habitat that includes areas of emergent and submergent vegetation and open-shallow water wetlands. Many species of fish use the shallow water habitats for nursery and/or foraging habitat. The area is especially important for sturgeon and shiners. The Island will be added to the St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Protection Area, providing additional resource protection and recreational opportunities for the public.

The St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Area, located within a few miles of both Superior and Duluth, is bordered on the west by the State of Minnesota, on the north by the St. Louis River, on the east by the Village of Oliver, and on the south by Wrenshall Grade Recreation Trail. This Area supports a large amount of diverse recreational uses for visitors from a very large area. The Superior Municipal Forest is east and south of Clough Island.

The Stream Bank Protection Area was established primarily to protect the water quality of the St. Louis River watershed. This river is the largest tributary stream entering Lake Superior in the United States. The topography within the project is mildly rolling to very steep. The soils are primarily red clay that, due to their poor water infiltration capabilities, have high potential for erosion.

In 2010 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established the 16,697 acre Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. The act of designating the Reserve helps to provide long term protection to the entire estuary. The Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve will join a national system of 27 research reserves, building on existing private, local, state and federal investments in natural resource protection, research and education. As the largest U.S. tributary to Lake Superior, the St. Louis River estuary forms the headwaters of the entire Great Lakes system. Its waters and wetlands are nationally significant and provide critical habitat for birds, fish and plants.

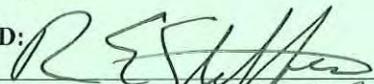
RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 357.82 acres of land for the St. Louis River Stream Bank Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donor and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. Also, that the Board approve a project boundary modification to include Clough Island within the project.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

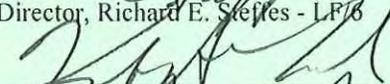
APPROVED:



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

3-21-11

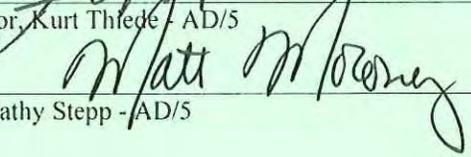
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/5

3-25-11

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/5

4-1-11

Date

- cc:
- S. Miller - LF/6
 - R. Steffes - LF/6
 - L. Ross - AD/5
 - M. Staggs - FM/4
 - J. Gozdziwski - NOR Spooner

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2011

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Cathy Stepp

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Tract, File FM 10120

FILE REF: FM 10120

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

St. Louis River Stream Bank Area
Douglas County

Grantor:

The Nature Conservancy
Attn: Matt Dallman
P.O. Box 421
Minocqua, WI 54548

Acres: 357.82Price: \$0Interest: Fee title gift of land.Improvements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Douglas County about 2 miles west of the City of Superior.Land Description: The subject land is an island in the middle of the St. Louis River Estuary.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	174.80
Brush	143.02
Wetland	40.00

Total: 357.82

Present Use: Resource ProtectionProposed Use: Resource Protection and RecreationTenure: Acquired by TNC in 2010Option Date: March 16, 2011

Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Nature Conservancy has offered to donate Clough Island, located in the St. Louis River in Douglas County for addition to the St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Protection Area. The island was acquired in November of 2010 by The Nature Conservancy with funds from a US Fish and Wildlife Grant, a Stewardship Grant and from private donations. The island is located in the center of the St. Louis River Estuary. It includes grassy, brushy, and forest habitats important for

a large number of migratory and breeding bird species. About 230 bird species use the estuary and about 115 of these species breed in the area. About 400 acres around the island is extremely valuable and diverse shallow water habitat that includes areas of emergent and submergent vegetation and open-shallow water wetlands. Many species of fish use the shallow water habitats for nursery and/or foraging habitat. The area is especially important for Sturgeon and shiners. The Island will be added to the St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Protection Area, providing additional resource protection and recreational opportunities for the public.

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The Department recommends the acceptance of this donation of this 350 acre island from the Nature Conservancy and that it be added to the St. Louis and Red River Stream Bank Protection Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to The Nature Conservancy and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction. The Nature Conservancy received a \$736,375 grant from the Department (project number NA3F-160), a \$736,450 grant award from USFWS and TNC put in \$2,875. Total project cost: \$1,475,700.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE ST. LOUIS RIVER STREAM BANK AREA:

Established: 1994

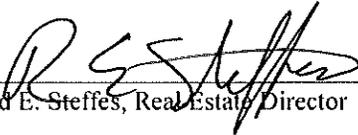
Acres Purchased to Date: 6,444.18

Acquisition Goal: 6,823.00

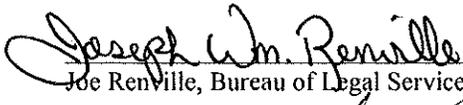
Percent Complete: 94.45 %

Cost to Date: \$1,010,850.00

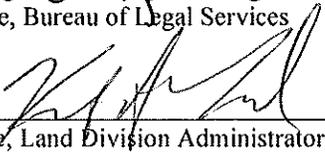
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

3-21-11
Date


Joe Renville, Bureau of Legal Services

3-23-11
Date


Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

3/28/11
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted donation of clough Island in Douglas County for the St. Louis River Stream Bank Area from

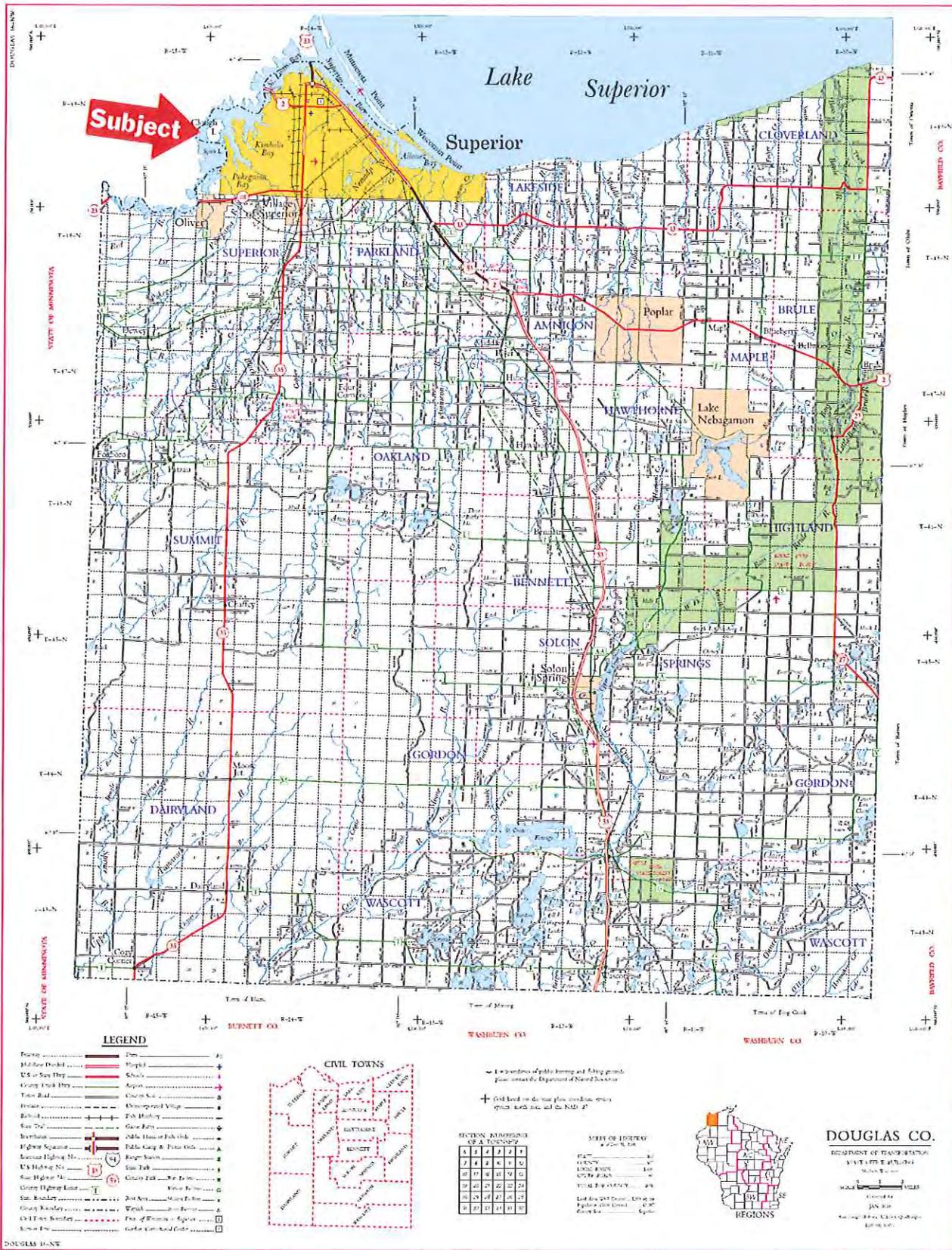
The Nature Conservancy

It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially 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

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIRMAN



The Nature Conservancy Gift Land

T49N R15W Secs 24 & 25, T49N R14W Secs 19 & 30 City of Superior, Douglas County



St Louis River
Stream Bank Area
FM 10120

 Subject Parcel

----- 1/4-1/4 Section Line
----- Section Line

0 0.25 0.5 Miles


N



March 18, 2011
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

**The Nature
Conservancy
Gift Land**

St Louis River
Stream Bank Area

FM 10120

T49N R15W Secs 24 & 25
T49N R14W Secs 19 & 30
City of Superior, Douglas County
(357.82 acres -deed)

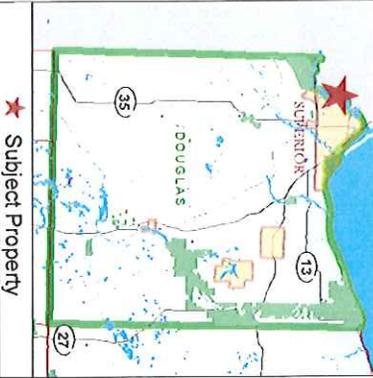


PLSS Section Line

City of Superior

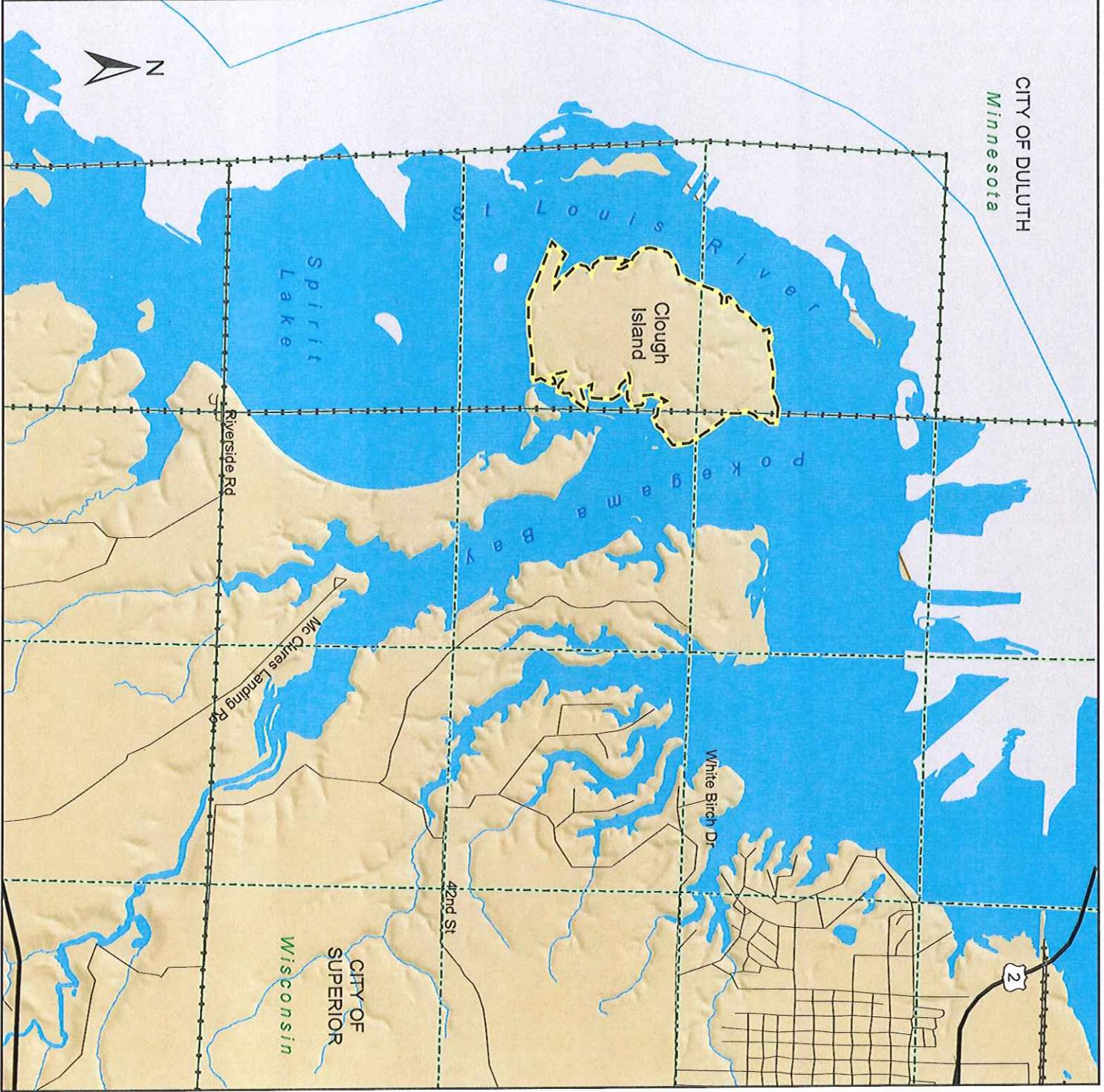


Douglas County View



★ Subject Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Map Created: March 18, 2011 acr



DULUTH MN

