

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Stewardship Acquisition Strategy - Land Acquisition Ranking and Priority Process

FOR: OCTOBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Kurt Thiede and Doug Haag

SUMMARY:

At its December 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board approved the Department's Land Acquisition Strategy for the Stewardship Program. The strategy is based on Wisconsin conservation statutes and based on a foundation of conservation projects approved by the Legislature and Board over the years. The Department sought public input in developing that plan.

With a reduction in Stewardship funding in the 2011-2013 budget, and to acquire the most important properties for conservation projects, the Department has developed criteria to rank available land parcels to select the most needed, for conservation and outdoor recreation.

The Department developed general criteria for ranking land parcels that apply across programs. Examples are a parcel's utility for public use, its consolidation of current state ownership or its need for completing conservation infra-structure development. After defining these criteria, the Department charged the various programs (Parks, Forestry, Wildlife, etc.) to develop land acquisition criteria specific to their goals. An example would be the need to protect cold water resources for trout and associated spawning habitat. Each program ranked all active land transactions and only the highest ranked parcels are being considered for purchase.

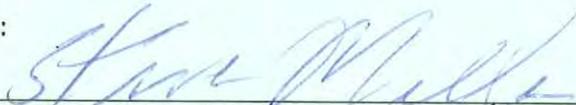
RECOMMENDATION: None, for information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

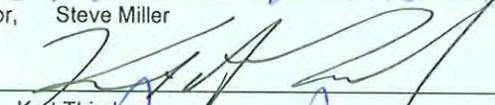
- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

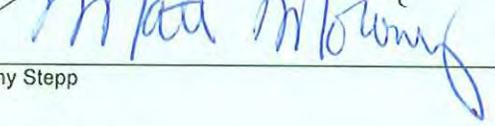
APPROVED:


Bureau Director, Steve Miller

10-10-11
Date


Administrator, Kurt Thiede

10-10-11
Date


Secretary, Cathy Stepp

10-10-11
Date

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

DATE: October 10, 2011

FILE REF:

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Cathy Stepp

SUBJECT: Informational Item – Department Land Acquisition Priorities

In December, 2010 the Natural Resources Board approved a five year land acquisition strategy that was intended to guide the Department in its implementation of the land acquisition component of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program (Agenda Item 3.B.5, approved on December 8th, 2010). This strategy was presented to the public at three public open house meetings and the public also commented in writing and through an on-line survey. This public involvement helped formulate the final plan approved by the Board in December.

After that document was approved by the Board each of the land management Bureaus of the Department (Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, Facilities and Lands, Parks and Recreation, Fisheries Management and Forestry) developed specific land acquisition strategies that reflected their programs goals and objectives and included their most important priorities for land acquisition during the next five years.

In April, 2011 I asked each of the land management Bureaus to develop specific parcel ranking systems to assist them with the evaluation of land acquisition opportunities on a case by case basis and to forward the highest ranking parcels to my office for approval. My reasons for requesting these parcel ranking systems are to ensure the Natural Resources Board policies and statutory priorities were guiding the Department's land acquisition program and to document that the Department is making the best use of precious financial resources.

Department staff will inform the Board on the results of this work.