Form 1100-001
(R 2/11)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.3

SUBJECT: Project establishment and designation of the Lake Michigan State Water Trail and continue to study other waterways for inclusion into a State Water Trails Program

FOR: APRIL, 2012 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Dan Schuller and Jeff Prey, Bureau of Parks and Recreation

SUMMARY:

The development of a Lake Michigan State Water Trail is primarily oriented around increasing and improving public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Michigan. This collaborative process surveyed over 330 sites in 10 Wisconsin counties for potential non motorized water access that could be established as the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

During the planning process a series of stakeholder and public meetings were held to review the sites. Both amenity and distance criteria were used to identify zones for improved access. From this analysis 20 "Enhancement Zones" were identified for site improvements or a public access point, resulting in a project acquisition goal of 300 acres and associated improvements.

The establishment of this water trail will set the foundation for an expanded State Water Trails Program that will interlace communities with recreation and conservation opportunities.

With nearly 2 million residents, over one-third of Wisconsin's population living within a 30 minute drive to the Lake Michigan shoreline, this water trail will have positive impacts for public recreation, environmental stewardship and economic development.

Please review Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Water Trail Project on-line at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/lakemichigan/pdfs/LMWT_Dec_2011.pdf

RECOMMENDATION: 1. Project establishment and designation of a State Trail. Wis. Admin NR 51.73(1) State Trails Designation. 2. Continue the study of waterways for State Water Trail designation.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes	☐	Attached

APPROVED:

Bureau Director, Dan Schuller — Date 4-2-12

Administrator, Kurt Thiede — Date 4-3-12

Secretary, Cathy Stepp — Date 4-4-12

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

B. Brown - PR/ 6

J. Prey - PR/6