

SUBJECT: Land Donation and Expansion of Project Boundary – Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area– Burnett County

FOR: AUGUST 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Friends of Crex has offered to donate 0.8 acres of land to the Department for the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area in Burnett County.

This parcel lies immediately adjacent to, but outside the approved project boundary of the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area, and next to County Road "N." For at least 40 years, this parcel has been used by the Department with landowner permission, as a parking area and public access to the wildlife area. Acceptance of this donation will ensure permanent public accessibility to this portion of the wildlife area and resolve any future trespass or access issues.

The Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area began with acquisitions in 1956 and management proceeded in 1968 when a dike was constructed to create the 500-acre Black Brook Flowage. Since then, several smaller flowages have been constructed. Seventy-five potholes, averaging 1/10-acre in size, were dug to function as breeding ponds for waterfowl. Several miles of firebreaks were constructed to facilitate prescribed burning used to restore and maintain the native brush-prairie. Native prairie grasses were planted to provide nesting cover for waterfowl.

Located in the wildlife area, Blomberg Lake is a 94-acre northern bog lake with ringneck ducks, common yellowthroats, and loons and unusual bog plants such as Labrador tea, bog rosemary and the insect-eating pitcher plant. Portions of two other lakes – Fish Lake and Little Doctor Lake – are also located within the wildlife area.

Much of the interior is accessible only by foot. The lakes and flowages of Amsterdam Sloughs offer excellent duck and goose hunting and upland bird hunters find healthy ruffed grouse and woodcock populations. Populations of beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, raccoon, and fox provide excellent opportunities for trappers.

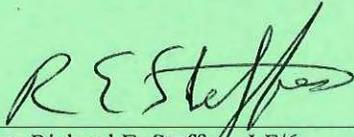
This 0.8-acre gift is an excellent opportunity to solidify permanent public accessibility to the abundant recreational amenities of the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 0.8 acres of land for the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area program and expand the project boundary to include this parcel; that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Friends of Crex; and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

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 |

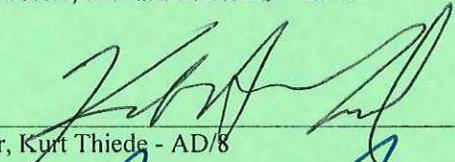
APPROVED:



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

7-6-12

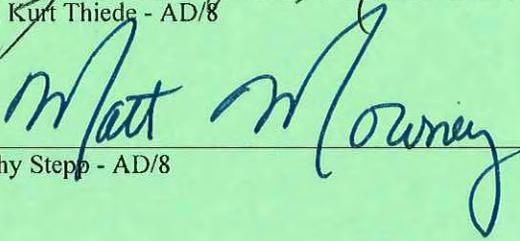
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

7/12/12

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

7/19/12

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
T. Hauge - WM/6
W. Smith (Spooner) - NOR - SPOONER

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 6, 2012
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Friends Of Crex
 Tract, File # WM 60184

FILE REF: WM 60184

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area
 Burnett County

Grantor:

Virgil Bjorklund
 c/o Paul Kooiker
 Friends of Crex
 P.O. Box 141
 Grantsburg, WI 54840

Acres: 0.8Price: GiftAppraised Value: No appraisal was done by the DepartmentInterest: Fee titleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located about 6 miles northwest of SirenLand Description: The subject land is a level parking area.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Urban / Developed	0.8
Total:	0.8

Present Use: Permission given for parking area for wildlife areaProposed Use: Public parking area for wildlife areaTenure: Mr. Bjorklund has owned the parcel for more than 40 yearsAgreement Date: June 27, 2012Stewardship 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 Friends of Crex has offered to donate a 0.8-acre tract of land for addition to the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area. This parcel lies immediately adjacent to, but outside the approved project boundary of the ASWA, and immediately off County Road "N." For at least 40 years, this parcel has been used by the

Department with landowner permission, as a parking area and public access to the wildlife area. Acceptance of this donation will ensure permanent public accessibility to this portion of the wildlife area and resolve any future trespass or access issues. The property is owned by Virgil Bjorklund who allows the Department to use the parcel as a parking lot and access point for the project. The Friends of Crex will pay Mr. Bjorklund for the parcel and it will be deeded to the state.

The Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area began with acquisitions in 1956 and management proceeded in 1968 when a dike was constructed to create the 500-acre Black Brook Flowage. Since then, several smaller flowages have been constructed. Seventy-five potholes, averaging 1/10-acre in size, were dug to function as breeding ponds for waterfowl. Several miles of firebreaks were constructed to facilitate prescribed burning used to restore and maintain the native brush-prairie. Native prairie grasses were planted to provide nesting cover for waterfowl.

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This 0.8-acre gift is an excellent opportunity to solidify permanent public accessibility to the abundant recreational amenities of the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

Tract will continue to be managed by Wildlife Management staff as a parking lot for the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area within current budget.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE AMSTERDAM SLOUGHS WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1956

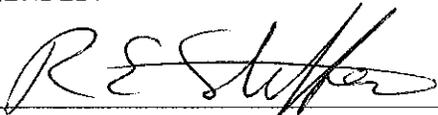
Acres Purchased to Date: 6,138.33

Acquisition Goal: 7,233.30

Percent Complete: 84.86 %

Cost to Date: \$489,255.75

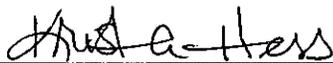
RECOMMENDED:



Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

7-6-12

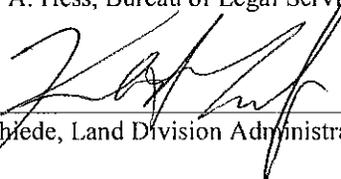
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

7/11/12

Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

7/12/12

Date

RES:

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its August 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 0.8 acre of land in Burnett County for the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area from

Friends of Crex

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.

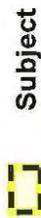
Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Friends of Crex - Fee Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area

WM 60184

T39N R17W Sec 33
Town of Lincoln
Burnett County
0.8 Acres



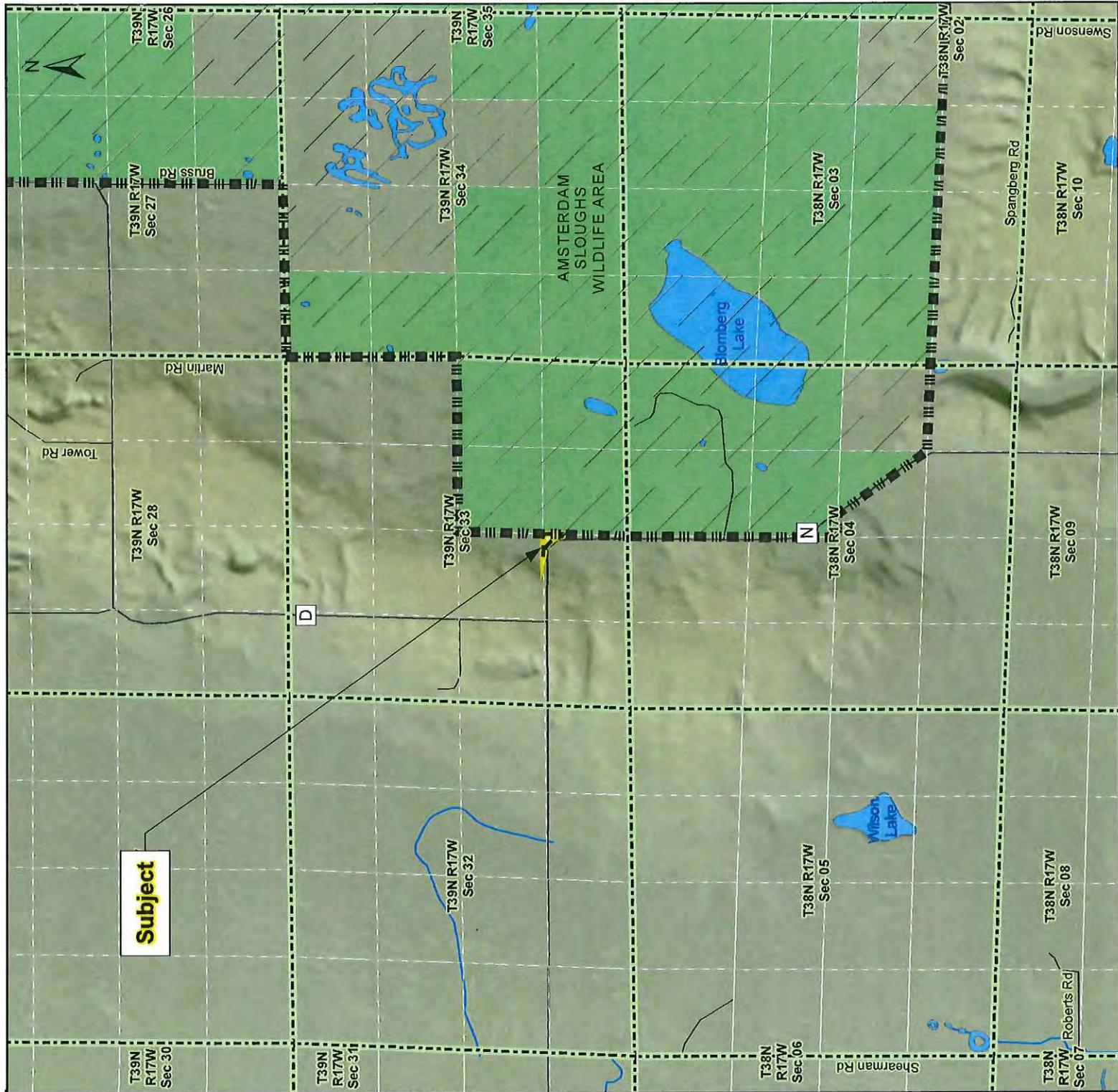
- WDNR Owned
- WDNR Easement
- DNR Project Boundary
- County Forest Land
- PLSS Section Line
- QQ Section Boundary



★ Location of Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Jul 05, 2012 kmh

Subject



Friends of Crex - Fee

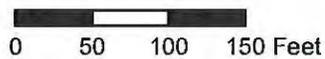
T39N R17W Sec 33 Town of Lincoln, Burnett County



Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area

 Subject

-  DNR Owned
-  DNR Eased
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  Section Line
-  QQ Section Lines



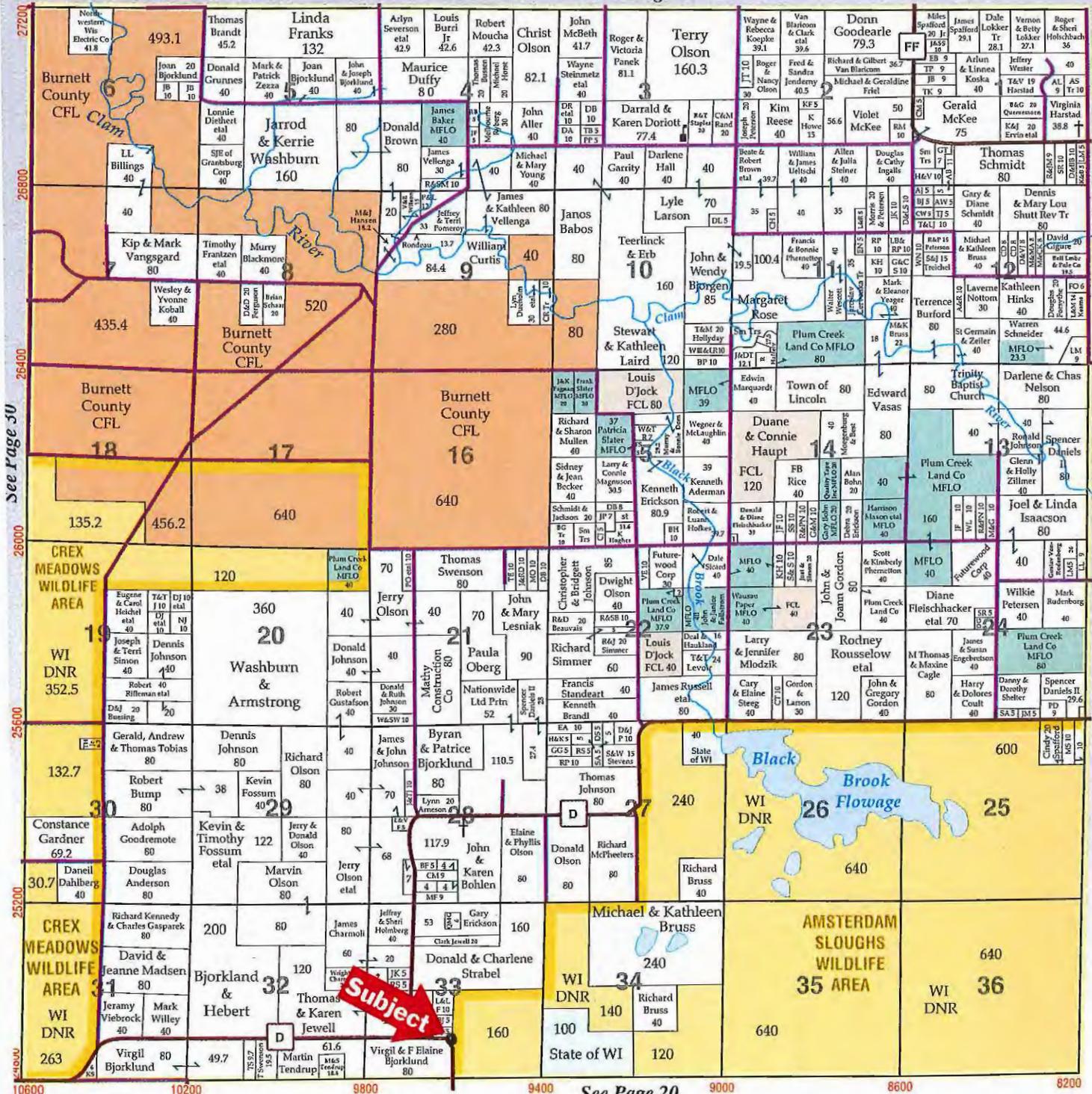
Jul 05, 2012 kmb
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

13. Lincoln

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T.39N. - R.17W.

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