

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program Overview

FOR: April 2013 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Lavane Hessler and Pam Foster Felt, Stewardship Grant Managers

SUMMARY:

The Department has been administering the grants portion of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program since its inception in 1990. Of the 11 grant subprograms, four provide grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) only and four provide grants to both local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations, as follows:

<p><u>NCO Only</u> Natural Areas Habitat Areas Ice Age Trail Streambank Protection</p>	<p><u>Both Local Governments and NCO</u> Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Urban Rivers Urban Green Spaces Acquisition of Development Rights</p>
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Chapter 23, Wis. Stats., created each subprogram and generally describes eligible projects. Chapter NR 51, Wis. Adm. Code, provides further subprogram details, project eligibility, and grant administration details. Chapter NR 52, Wis. Adm. Code, describes the process by which the Natural Resources Board may allow prohibition of hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing – collectively known as the five "nature-based outdoor activities" (NBOAs).

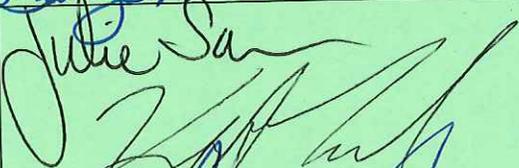
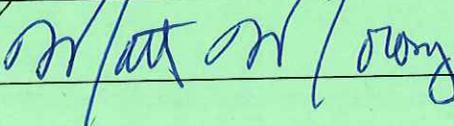
Each grant cycle, eligible projects are selected through scoring and ranking criteria for each subprogram: successful projects are awarded from funds allocated for grant spending per the state budget.

Department staff will be available to answer any NRB questions about staff decision-making related to application assignment to subprograms, application review and scoring, and Jt. Finance processes.

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant subprogram descriptions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flowcharts of grant review cycles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scoring Criteria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example projects |

Approved by	Signature	Date
Mary Rose Teves, Bureau Director		April 11, 2013
Julie Sauer, Administrator		April 12, 2013
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		4/12/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		4/12/13