



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

PO BOX 321, EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521-0321

March 28, 2018

Jane Malischke
Environmental Grants Specialist
WDNR Northern Region
810 West Maple St.
Spooner, WI 54801

Kevin Gauthier
Lakes Coordinator
WDNR Northern Region
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568

Dear Jane and Kevin,

On behalf of the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL), I would like to submit the enclosed Final Project Report and Reimbursement Claim for our Price County Private Shorelands Protection Project—DNR Lake Protection Grant # LPT 465-14.

Included is the summary description of all 13 completed conservation projects—many more than the two projects we originally included in our grant proposal. As indicated in the report, this project was able to permanently protect a total of **1,636 acres of land**. The projects include **15,360 feet of lake frontage (2.9 miles)** and an additional **37,872 feet (7.17 miles)** of frontage on rivers, streams and flowages. The donation values of these 13 projects total **\$1,308,125**, a very significant leveraging of the DNR grant funds.

Along with the final Reimbursement Claim form, I have enclosed the Reimbursement Claim worksheet (3 pages) detailing the actual expenses and in-kind match, and the Final Narrative Report on the project through 2017.

With Jane's copy I have included the detailed financial documents including copies of the receipts, bank statements and cancelled checks.

With Kevin's copy I have included additional informational attachments including the most recent generalized landowner contact list, newsletters, publicity, NWLT's Price County Conservation Plan, and a DVD with the electronic pdf files of the lake parcel maps and also the GIS data/layer files.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional documentation. I can be reached at (715) 479-2490 or through email at pierce@northwoodslandtrust.org. We greatly appreciate all of the DNR's support of our conservation efforts. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bryan Pierce, Executive Director

Northwoods Land Trust
Price County Private Shorelands Protection Project – LPT 465-14
2013-2017

Final Narrative Report – Through December 2017

Contact Person:

Bryan Pierce, Executive Director
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Project Final Narrative Report:

This final narrative report describes the progress from the initiation of the project through December 2017 on the Northwoods Land Trust Price County Private Shorelands Protection Project.

The goal of the project was to conduct an intensive, multi-year effort targeted to encourage Price County lake property owners with 500+ feet of natural shoreland frontage to protect their shorelines. The project sought to educate private lake property owners in Price County on voluntary conservation options available to permanently protect lake watersheds and water quality through preservation of their natural shorelands. Those options include Land Protection Agreement (Conservation Easement), Land Donation, Land Registry and Conservation Buyer programs.

Project objectives included the following:

- 1) To identify all lakefront property owners in Price County with approximately 500 feet or more of natural shoreland frontage. These landowners will include all property owners with frontage on DNR-identified “wild lakes”.
- 2) To prepare and distribute through direct mail an informational packet on voluntary conservation options private landowners in Price County can utilize to protect their private lake shoreland habitats.
- 3) To prepare a comprehensive conservation plan which establishes priorities for the Northwoods Land Trust to pursue in Price County. These priorities will focus on permanent shoreland protection and potential easement or fee simple property acquisition through the state Stewardship Fund, Lake Protection Grants or other programs.
- 4) To provide greater public awareness for voluntary conservation options through direct educational presentations, educational displays at events, and preparation and distribution of press releases and public service announcements to area media.
- 5) To conduct on-site follow-up contacts and provide technical assistance with interested landowners in Price County, and as a follow-up implementation project in Vilas, Oneida, Florence and Forest Counties, in order to implement any selected options. It is anticipated that a minimum of two conservation easements or land donations will result from these landowner contacts within the project timeline.

GIS parcel maps and tax roll above, a direct mail campaign resulted in the mailing of 374 of the landowner guides in July of 2016. Landowner guides have also been distributed to interested lake property owners in the NWLT multi-county service territory based on inquiries received.

3. Public Awareness Campaign - An educational public awareness campaign of press releases and public service announcements will be developed to include at least one press release/PSA every six months distributed to all media serving Price County. Powerpoint presentations will be conducted to explain the voluntary conservation program options offered to Price County lake property owners. In the 5-year strategic plan, NWLT plans to continue to prepare and distribute media releases in the region at least through the year 2018. A minimum of two educational presentations and/or displays at educational events for lake or other conservation organizations will be conducted each year of the project.

Newspaper press releases were prepared and distributed for the Vilas County News Review Progress Issue, snowshoe hike at Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve, NWLT's public snowshoe trails, Deerskin River conservation easement donation, hike at Holmboe Conifer Forest, two-part series on the Northwoods Land Trust for the Lakeland Times/Northwoods River News, Marshall property donation, Price County Waterways Association presentation, Deerskin River paddle event, Lake Tides newsletter article, Marshall property dedication, and Gathering Waters newsletter article.

The Spring 2017 NWLT newsletter featured the donation of the Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area in Vilas County, the Heal Creek conservation easement in Oneida County, and the Geisness conservation easement donation on the Flambeau River flowage in Price County. The Fall-Winter 2017-18 NWLT newsletter featured the two conservation easements donated by the Letts family in Price County, which protected two-thirds of the shoreline of a "wild lake." Copies of the newsletters are attached.

Education events from prior years were reported previously. Education events featuring talks, PowerPoint presentations, table-top displays and/or field tours during 2017 included the following:

- Dugan Preserve Snowshoe Hike, January 2017
- Sustainability Fair, Newbold, April 2017
- Nicolet College Learning in Retirement, April 2017.
- Price County Waterways Association Annual Meeting, May 2017
- Lac du Flambeau Lakes Fest, June 2017
- High, Fishtrap & Rush Lakes Association, June 2017
- Forest Fest, Eagle River, August 2017
- Deerskin River Canoe Trip, August 2017
- Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area dedication, September 2017

4. Price County Conservation Plan - A comprehensive conservation plan/needs assessment will be prepared which establishes priorities for the Northwoods Land Trust to pursue for permanent shoreland protection and potential easement or fee simple property acquisition in Price County. Such land or easement acquisitions could be

Cindy Walters & Sue Kartman – This project is their second conservation easement granted to NWLT and includes a total of 178.5 acres of land on the Sailor Creek Flowage in the town of Fifield, Price County. Sailor Creek Flowage is approximately 215 acres in size with a maximum depth of 8 feet—the 20th largest of 389 lakes identified by WDNR in Price County. The water levels of the flowage are regulated by a dam owned and managed by Price County. The property includes roughly 9,600 feet of natural shoreline frontage on Sailor Creek Flowage (about 1.8 miles of frontage).

Butch & Mary Lobermeier – Also a second conservation easement, this project includes 46 acres with about 1,850 feet of natural shoreline on Coolidge Lake in the town of Fifield, Price County. This parcel was purchased by the Lobermeiers for conservation purposes and is adjacent to the 250-acre conservation easement granted by the family previously. The two conservation easements together complete the protection of all of the privately-owned shoreline on this small “wild lake.” The remaining shoreline on Coolidge Lake is part of the Price County Forest.

William Lynch & Barbara Manger – This 223-acre conservation easement property includes about 8,750 feet (1.66 miles) of frontage on the North Fork of the Flambeau River in the town of Lake, Price County. The river in this section is a flowage controlled by the Pixley dam upstream and the Crowley dam downstream. The river is accessible to the public and supports populations of muskellunge, northern pike, walleyed pike, smallmouth bass and panfish with significant recreation value for anglers. This segment of the North Fork of the Flambeau River is popular and has been noted as one of the best areas in Wisconsin for river fishing for muskies (*Wisconsin Sportsman* magazine, June 2014). Both the main river channel and its backwaters and shoreland-wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

Craig Everts – This 153-acre conservation easement is a woodland and wetland parcel which provides “headwaters” watershed protection upstream of Rice Lake in the town of Nashville, Forest County. Small intermittent streams flow through the property generally in a southerly direction and are tributaries to Rice Lake. Rice Lake is a 208-acre publicly-accessible drainage lake and is part of the Upper Wolf River watershed.

Marena Kehl & Peter McKeever – Their 75-acre perpetual conservation easement protects about 1,200 feet of Deerskin River corridor (2,400 ft. frontage) in the town of Washington, Vilas County. The Deerskin River is an important tributary to the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. From its headwaters at the outlet dam on Long Lake, the Deerskin River runs mostly through Nicolet National Forest lands. Only about four miles of the river runs through privately-owned lands, including through the Kehl-McKeever property.

Alden Geisness – This project is immediately upstream and adjacent to the conservation easement granted to NWLT by William Lynch and Barbara Manger. This 52.82-acre conservation easement property includes about 2,130 feet (0.4 mile) of frontage on the North Fork of the Flambeau River in the town of Lake, Price County.

Altogether, the **13 completed conservation projects** now permanently protect a total of **1,636 acres of land**. The projects include **15,360 feet of lake frontage (2.9 miles)** and an additional **37,872 feet (7.17 miles)** of frontage on rivers, streams and flowages.

Of the twelve conservation easement donations, nine of these conservation easement donations have been valued by independent appraisals. Three easements were donated but the owners elected not to claim the donation as a charitable contribution, so the value was estimated from assessed values only. The outright conservation land donation was also appraised for IRA charitable donation purposes.

The donation values of all of these 13 projects total **\$1,308,125**, a very significant leveraging of the DNR grant funds. Copies of maps and the recorded conservation easement documents and warranty deed for these projects were provided previously.

Project products or deliverables:

Copies of color maps of each of the towns in Price County were provided in hard copy and electronic format pdf files are submitted with this report. GIS project file/data layers are also provided. These maps illustrate the parcels/landowners identified with 500+ feet of existing natural shoreland frontage.

Sample copies of press releases and public service announcements have been provided with each progress report.

A copy of the Conservation Plan for Price County which serves as the Northwoods Land Trust's needs assessment for priority land protection is attached. The plan was approved by the NWLT Board of Directors.

A generalized listing of landowner follow-up contacts by program type has been provided with each progress report. However, due to the confidentiality of landowner interests, names, addresses or other identifiable information has not been included in the project reports.

Copies of recorded conservation easements and the deed from the land donation have been provided with each progress report.