

Northwoods Land Trust
Iron County Private Shorelands Protection Project – LPT53717

Final Report – April, 1 2019 through December 1, 2020

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Final Report: This is the final report spanning April 1, 2019 to December 1, 2020. The report describes the progress from the previous interim progress project ending March of 2019 for the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) Iron County Private Shorelands Protection Project.

As reported in the previous progress report, the deliverables for **goals and objectives #1** resulted in NWLT having the mapping and contact information for all identified high priority lake shoreline owners in Iron County.

Deliverables- Goals and objectives #2: NWLT mailed the **informational packets to 272 private landowners** with natural (500+ frontage feet) lake shoreline in Iron County on May 24, 2019.

The spreadsheet (in PDF) of the mailing list of landowners is attached to this report.

Deliverables- Goals and objectives #3: NWLT prepared a comprehensive Iron County conservation plan dated June 21, 2019 which establishes priorities for NWLT to pursue in Iron County.

The conservation plan is attached to this report.

Deliverables- Goals and objectives #4: The following events and outings were held to conduct public outreach in relation to land and shoreline conservation.

- NWLT held a presentation at the Mercer Public Library on April 16, 2019 which was publicized in area media, social media and other resources including the Iron County Lakes Association.
- A wetlands talk and field tour was held on June 18, 2019 and included site visits to two NWLT conservation easement properties protecting Iron County lake shorelines and was publicized in area media, social media and other resources including the Iron County Lakes Association.
- A statewide Land Trust Days event was held on August 22 & 23, 2019 and was advertised widely throughout the state and local outlets. NWLT hosted a canoe and

kayak event on Lake Katherine at NWLT's Yawkey Forest Reserve in Oneida County. PBS's Discover Wisconsin filmed an episode featuring this event and NWLT's work which was aired on June 13, 2020.

- A Munninghoff Marsh Wild Ricing demonstration event was held in Oneida County on September 8, 2019.
- A Sack Lake Hemlocks Old-Growth Forest Hike in Iron County was scheduled for October 13, 2019, but was postponed and is now scheduled for 2021.

Four NWLT newsletters and two annual reports were developed and distributed featuring activities and projects that were supported through this DNR grant.

Applicable press releases, newsletters and annual reports are attached to this report.

Deliverables- Goals and objectives #5: NWLT conducted on-site follow-up contacts and provided technical assistance with interested landowners in Iron County, and as a follow-up implementation project in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence and Price Counties.

The stated deliverable of Goals and objectives #4 was to complete a minimum of four conservation easements or other land transactions with values totaling at least \$500,000.

During this final report time period of April 1, 2019 to December 1, 2020:

- 7 properties were protected;
- 18 contacts were through mail, telephone or email;
- 30 received direct technical assistance (after contact through mail, telephone or email) regarding their voluntary conservation options through in-person meetings and on-site visits to their properties;
- 733.4 acres of land was protected;
- 3.2 miles of lake/pond frontage was protected;
- 1.2 miles of stream/river frontage was protected;
- \$628,110 in value was achieved through these charitable conservation easement and land donations, and through the purchase price of the land paid by NWLT through the raising of private grants and gifts.

A generalized listing of landowner contacts is attached to this report.

The following seven projects were protected during this final report time period:

Yawkey Forest Reserve Expansion: On 5/29/2019 Robert & Elke Hagge, Jr. donated 20 acres of land with approximately 1000 feet of frontage on a bog pond & 620 feet of outlet stream corridor into Lake Katherine in the town of Hazelhurst in Oneida County. The diverse property contains forest, wetland, and a small kettle lake. It adds depth to the large, neighboring Yawkey Forest Reserve. This quit claim deed is recorded as Document #793602. The charitable contribution value for this easement donation was not

established by an independent appraisal (no charitable deduction was claimed by the donor) so the value of the donation is estimated at \$18,400.

Moraine Springs Conservation Easement

On December 11, 2019 the Jacqueline Bassett Family donated a conservation easement to NWLT to protect 335 acres of land and over 11,000 feet of shoreline on several bodies of water in the town of Presque Isle in Vilas County, where it borders the Ottawa National Forest. Specific water bodies protected include 2,133 feet of frontage on Moraine Lake, a 90-acre navigable body of water that stretches across the state line, and 6,238 of frontage on spring ponds and 5,500 feet of frontage on cold-water streams that support brook trout. This conservation easement is recorded as Document #567251. The charitable contribution value for this easement donation was established by an independent appraisal as \$151,000

Wildcat Lake, Hemlock Island Conservation Easement

On February 27th, 2020, Richard and Carol Phillips donated a conservation easement to NWLT. This conservation easement protects 4.4 acres and 2,252 feet of frontage (all of Hemlock Island) on Wildcat Lake in the town of Presque Isle in Vilas County. This conservation easement is recorded as Document #569039. The charitable contribution value for this easement donation was established by an independent appraisal as \$78,910.

Sack Lake Hemlocks Old-Growth Forest Fee Land Acquisition

On December 11, 2019 NWLT acquired the Sack Lake Hemlocks Old-Growth Forest which includes 129 acres of land and 871 feet of natural shoreline on Sack Lake, a WDNR identified "wild lake," in the town of Knight, Iron County. The property is home to an old-growth hemlock-hardwood forest, cedar swamps and a black-spruce tamarack bog. The property was previously owned by the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. NWLT received a land patent to the property in exchange for purchasing land from Minocqua Timber, LLC, which was then transferred to the Board of Commissioners of Public Land. NWLT raised grant funding from various private foundations for the \$142,000 for the land purchase/transfer. The land transaction closed with a Special Warranty Deed from Minocqua Timber, LLC to NWLT recoded Document #167118, a Quit Claim Deed from NWLT to Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land recorded Document #167119, and Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Swamp Land Patent #47196. *The land patent is attached to this report.*

Kabol Lake Conservation Easement

On July 27, 2020, Timothy Wycoff & Susan West of Appleton, Wisconsin donated a conservation easement to NWLT. This conservation easement protects 142 acres and 4,000 feet of frontage on Kabol Lake, a WDNR identified "wild lake," in the Town of Eisenstein in Price County. This conservation easement is recorded as Document #389258. The charitable contribution value for this easement donation was not established by an independent appraisal (no charitable deduction was claimed by the donor) so the value of the donation is estimated at \$158,600.

Marsh Lake Conservation Easement

On October 7, 2020, Katherine Bucht of Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin donated a conservation easement to NWLT. This conservation easement protects 76 acres and 530 feet of frontage on Marsh Lake, a WDNR identified "wild lake," in the town of Land O' Lakes in Vilas County. This conservation easement is recorded as Document #575613. The charitable contribution value for this easement donation was not established by an independent appraisal (no charitable deduction was claimed by the donor) so the value of the donation is estimated at \$49,200.

Beaver Creek Hemlocks Access Parcel Fee Acquisition

On December 1, 2020 NWLT closed on the Beaver Creek Hemlocks Access Parcel which includes 27 acres of land along Highway 182 in the town of Sherman in Iron County. (The deed recording date is December 2, 2020; because of the close proximity in time this property is included in this report.) The purpose of this acquisition is to provide legal access to the adjacent Beaver Creek Hemlocks parcel that NWLT is planning to acquire in 2021. The Beaver Creek Hemlocks property includes 240 acres of old hemlock-hardwood forest, approximately 1,250 feet of natural shoreline frontage, wildlife habitat, other woodlands, wetlands and other natural resources in Iron County. NWLT raised grant funding from various private foundations for this purchase price of \$30,000. The land transaction closed with a Special Warranty Deed recorded Document #169172.

All of the closing documents, deeds and/or conservation easements have received legal and technical reviews from the NWLT staff and Conservation Committee members, and also received third party legal review. Baseline documentation photos and maps, title reports, environmental hazard assessments, conservation values assessments and other technical information were prepared by NWLT staff for all of the properties as well.

Copies of the recorded conservation easements and deeds are attached to this report. Pictures and maps of these conservation properties (if authorized by the landowner) can be found in the newsletters and annual reports attached to this report.

For the entire grant period of April 15, 2017 to December 1, 2020, the following totals have been achieved by NWLT as a result of the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) Iron County Private Shorelands Protection Project. **DNR Grant:**

- 30 properties were protected;
- 73 contacts were through mail, telephone or email;
- 67 received direct technical assistance (after contact through mail, telephone or email) regarding their voluntary conservation options through in-person meetings and on-site visits to their properties;
- 2,596 acres of land protected;
- **13.3 miles of lake/pond frontage protected;**
- 2.9 miles of stream/river frontage protected;
- **\$13,191,910 in value was achieved** through these charitable conservation easement and land donations, and through the purchase price of the land paid by NWLT through the raising of private grants and gifts.