

**SUBJECT: DONATION OF STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA EASEMENT AND ARTICLES OF DEDICATION –  
OCONTO COUNTY**

**FOR: DECEMBER 2007 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Richard Steffes

**SUMMARY:** The Department proposes to accept a donation of a 210.7-acre easement and Articles of Dedication from Charles Rohlman for the Statewide Natural Area program in Oconto County. The item is being submitted to the Board because it is a donation.

The easement is located in central Oconto County in the Town of Brazeau. The Kelly Lake Forest State Natural Area supports just over one hundred acres of northern mixed hardwood forest on rolling glacial deposits north and west of Long Lake, a 38-acre seepage lake with a maximum depth of 22 feet. The property includes about 4,000 feet of shoreline on the lake with the upland cover-type of mature white pine, and a maple-beech complex. The forest is mostly second growth (composed of medium size sugar maple, American beech, red oak and paper birch), though a few patches of older forest (eastern hemlock, American beech and yellow birch) are present. Several small conifer swamps composed of (tamarack, black spruce, white cedar, balsam fir, hemlock, and white pine) occur within the matrix of the forest.


The northern mesic forest found on the Rohlman property is very high quality with a mix of beech, hemlock and yellow birch. The donation provides for protection of the natural values of the property.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of a 210.7-acre easement and Articles of Dedication for the Kelly Lake Hemlock and Northern Mesic Forest Statewide Natural Area, that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Board and that a certificate of appreciation be given to the donor.


**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 |

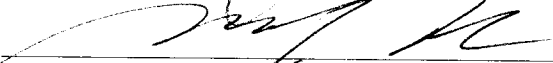
**APPROVED:**

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

10-18-07  
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Date


  
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Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5

10/18/07  
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Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/5

11/7/07  
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- cc: S. Miller – LF/6  
 R. Steffes – LF/6  
 L. Ross – AD/5  
 S. Holtz – ER/6  
 R. Kazmierczak – NER/Green Bay

DATE: October 16, 2007 FILE REF: D-231 E  
TO: Governor Doyle  
FROM: Matthew J. Eran   
SUBJECT: Proposed Easement Dedication, Charles Rohlman Tract, File # D-231 E,  
Approval Requested By December 27, 2007

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area – Kelly Lake Hemlock and  
Northern Mesic Forest State Natural Area  
Oconto County

Grantor:

Charles Rohlman  
1033 Neufeld Street  
Green Bay, WI 54304

Acres: 210.7

Interest: Donation of a conservation easement pursuant to s. 23.27 and s. 23.29, Stats.

Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Oconto County in the Town of Brazeau.

Land Description: The subject area is a rolling, hilly landscape with mature stands of white pine as well as  
hardwoods in a mesic forest complex.

Present Use: Private recreation

Proposed Use: Natural resource protection.

Tenure: Acquired by Rohlman in 1940.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Charles Rohlman has agreed to donate a 210.7-acre easement and Articles of Dedication to the Department for the Kelly Lake Hemlock and Northern Mesic Forest Statewide Natural Area in Oconto County. The easement is located in central Oconto County in the Town of Brazeau. The Kelly Lake Forest State Natural Area supports just over 100 acres of northern mixed hardwood forest on rolling glacial deposits north and west of Long Lake, a 38-acre seepage lake with a maximum depth of 22 feet. The property includes about 4,000 feet of shoreline on the lake with the upland cover-type of mature white pine, and a maple-beech complex. The forest is mostly second growth (composed of medium size sugar maple, American beech, red oak and paper birch), though a few patches of older forest (eastern hemlock, American beech and yellow birch) are present. Several small conifer swamps composed of (tamarack, black spruce, white cedar, balsam fir, hemlock, and white pine) occur within the matrix of the forest. The northern mesic forest found on the Rohlman property is of high quality, having an excellent management history and uncommon species present.

The Statewide Natural Area program was established in 1972 to protect the best remaining examples of Wisconsin's native vegetation as well as habitat for endangered and threatened plants and animals. Natural areas will help protect the natural diversity of the landscape and preserve for future generations a living history of the past.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this dedicated easement due to its significance in terms of protecting the natural values of the site, to allow for natural area management, and to protect the site from development incompatible with the goals of the Statewide Natural Area program.



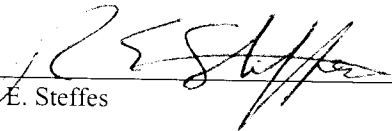
3. FINANCING:

No funding is needed for this transaction since this is a donation. No stewardship grant is involved.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972  
Acres Purchased to Date: 35,327  
Acquisition Goal: 41,000 Acres  
Percent Complete: 86%  
Cost to Date: \$18,842,851

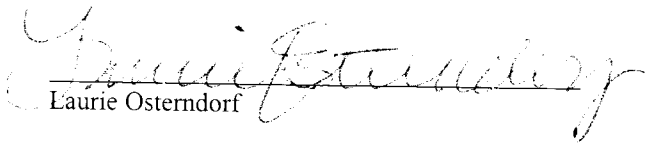
RECOMMENDED:

  
Richard E. Steffes

10-18-07  
Date

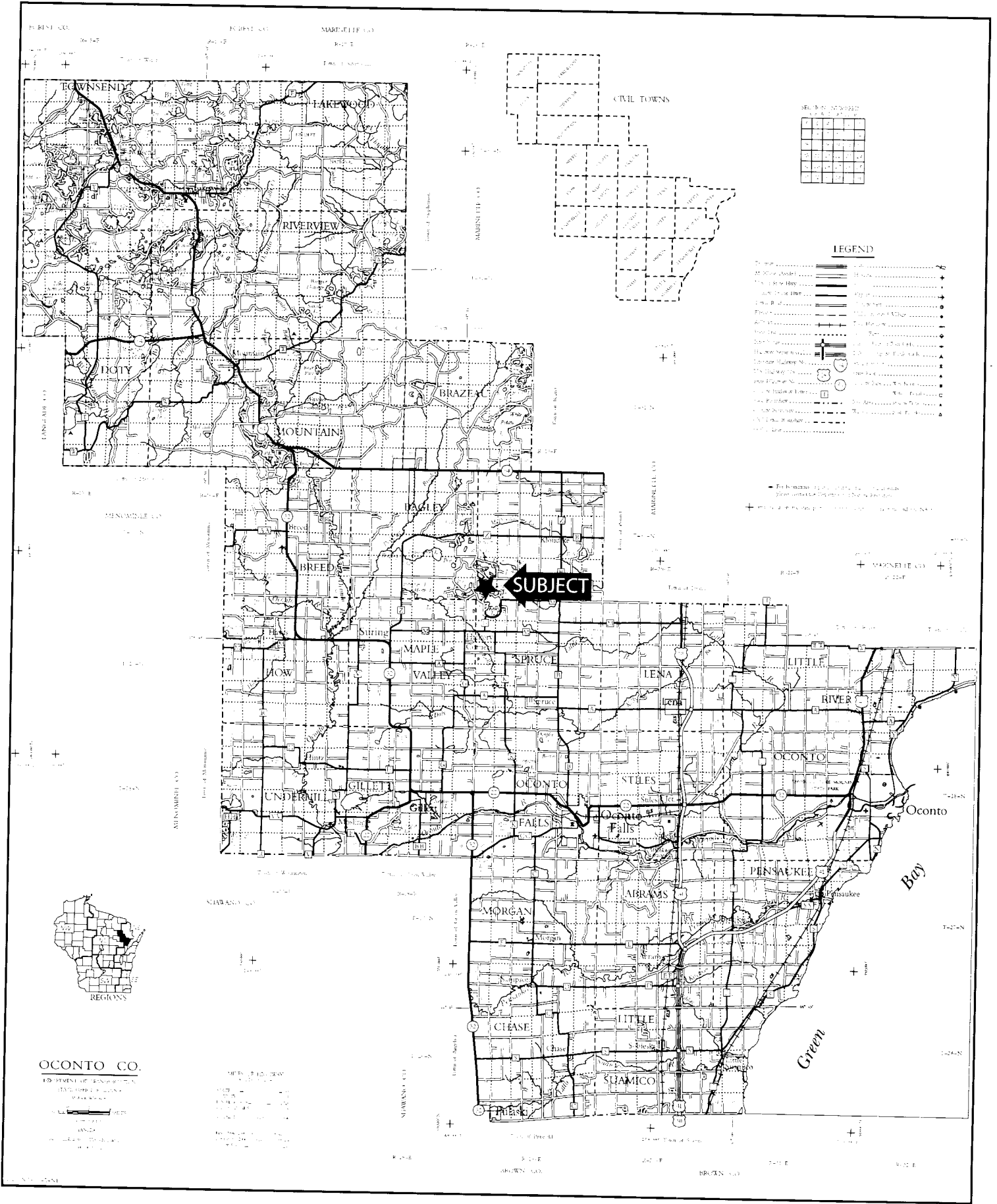
  
Bureau of Legal Services

10/18/07  
Date

  
Laurie Osterndorf

10/18/07  
Date

RES:dv



**SUBJECT**

**LEGEND**

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**Please contact [laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov)  
for a hard copy of this document.**



## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its December 2007 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of a 210.7-acre easement and Articles of Dedication from

### **CHARLES ROHLMAN**

The donation will ensure protection of the natural values of this land and its frontage on Long Lake for the Statewide Natural Area program at Kelly Lake Hemlock and Northern Mesic Forest State Natural Area in Oconto County. It is significant that people like you are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute 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*

Christine L. Thomas, CHAIR