RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

APRIL 15, 2009 THROUGH MAY 15, 2009
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RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM APRIL 15, 2009 THROUGH MAY 15, 2009

Prepared by the
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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October 2009
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RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This document constitutes the formal record of the public informational meetings and public comments received as part of the preparation and review of the proposed update to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. As such, this document focuses on a public participation effort conducted from April 15, 2009, to May 15, 2009, and the associated informational materials, advance notice, conduct, public discussion, testimony, and written comments and petitions. This document is intended to aid the Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin and the Regional Planning Commission in considering a plan to help protect biodiversity in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Technical Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the public comment and making any needed changes to the plan prior to forwarding a final recommended plan to the Regional Planning Commission for adoption.

FORMAL MEANS OF NOTIFICATION

Both the products and the processes used to notify the public regarding the preparation of the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan update are important. Because “the public” is in reality a complex fabric of many different segments having variably distinct and often conflicting interests, the task of reaching the entire public in a meaningful way is difficult. The Commission has therefore chosen to direct outreach efforts to targeted audiences consisting of State, county, and local elected and appointed officials, interested citizens and organizations, and central city, minority, and low-income community representatives.

One of the more important means of communicating both the subject matter and the status of the planning process was the SEWRPC Newsletter. The April 2009 Newsletter was devoted to a summary of the findings and preliminary recommendations of the natural areas protection planning process. This Newsletter was distributed to some 2,000 interested officials and citizens. The information contained in the Newsletter is sufficiently detailed, as well as comprehensive, for concerned citizens and elected officials to comprehend fully the scope, recommendations, and implications of the proposed regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan. A copy of the Newsletter, which includes the public informational meeting announcement, was posted to the SEWRPC website and is shown in Exhibit A-1.
A display advertisement regarding the public informational meetings was published in newspapers throughout the Region. Exhibit A-2 shows the announcement as published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and distributed to the Commission’s Environmental Justice Task Force and to other interested parties. Similar paid advertisements were also published in an additional 11 local newspapers in southeastern Wisconsin. Exhibit A-3 contains a listing of these newspapers.

Such notification of the general public supplemented the announcement of public informational meetings on page one of the Newsletter for the Regional Natural Areas Plan, which was direct-mailed first class to all individuals listed on the SEWRPC mailing list, and other interested parties. First-class mailings were also sent to the Commission’s list of central city, minority, and low-income groups and organizations. Representatives of over 80 organizations thereby received the Newsletter enclosed with a personal letter, which included an invitation to meet individually or with their group regarding the preliminary recommended plan. Included within this latter mailing was a one-page summary describing the planning effort to protect the best remaining examples of natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region. This “At a Glance” summary, shown as Exhibit A-4, later served as a public meeting handout.

Formal announcement of the public meetings was further given through a Commission news release sent to the 12 newspapers throughout the Region noted above, and to other interested parties. A copy of the news release is included in Exhibit A-5.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A series of four public informational meetings regarding the update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan was conducted in April 2009. Upon entering the open houses, and at several junctures during each meeting, attendees were encouraged by staff to record their comments, so that their thoughts could be considered by the Regional Natural Areas Plan Advisory Committee and the Commission.

Comments during the public informational meetings were recorded in two basic ways: 1) attendees completing a written comment form—or submitting comments in writing by any other means found convenient; and 2) via dictation to a court reporter in which case the comments from persons registering were transcribed from oral to written form. Exhibits B-1 through B-4 contain the verbatim transcripts of the oral comments received. The complete attendance roster by respective event is attached to the end of each transcript. Exhibit B-5 is a sample court reporter registration and a sample comment form.

Attendees were also advised that their comments could be submitted at any time following the meetings via the Commission’s website, email, fax, or the U.S. Postal Service. Similarly, these comment opportunities were noted in the Newsletter and newspaper advertisements discussed above, with a comment form also available on the SEWRPC website at www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_updated.

Citizens were apprised via the announcements, via speaker registration and plan comment forms, and via presentations at each meeting that the public record would be held open for a period of 15 days following the last of the public meetings, held on April 30, 2009, in Eagle, concluding with materials postmarked May 15, 2009.

A copy of the preliminary recommended plan, in its entirety, was noted as being available at the Commission offices during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Each of the meetings included an informal one-hour “open house” session at which Commission staff were present. During this time, participants were free to review maps and other plan materials, to ask specific and individualized questions, and to offer comments.

Following the open house at each of the public meetings, a presentation of the plan was made to help summarize and highlight important matters for the attendees. The staff presentation is reproduced at the end of this narrative, beginning on page 13, along with the accompanying power point.
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Attendance at the four public informational meetings totaled 68 persons. Comments received by the Commission pertaining to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Amendment were received from 18 persons, agencies, municipalities, and organizations, including written comments received at the meetings, comments dictated to the court reporter at the meetings, and comments received via U.S. mail, e-mail, and the comments page of the Commission website. Some submissions had multiple signatories. Some agencies, municipalities, or organizations made multiple submissions or comments.

The Commission’s response to these comments are grouped according to support of, opposition to, and specific aspects of the proposed plan amendment as follows.

Comments in Support of the Preliminary Amendment to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan

Seven comments were received that expressed general support for the preliminary Plan Amendment. In addition, 10 comments were received that, in essence, expressed support for the plan, but also specifically referred to suggested additions or corrections to the plan, including new information that had not been previously received by the Commission staff. Furthermore, one comment was received from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association indicating their support for the joint proposal by the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to update and re-verify the Advanced Identification (ADID) program in Southeastern Wisconsin. Comments received from one signatory were not relevant to the Natural Areas Plan or the Plan Amendment, but rather related to open space issues at the Milwaukee County Grounds.

Comments in Opposition to the Plan Amendment

The Commission received no comments expressing opposition to the plan.

Comments Regarding Specific Aspects of the Plan Amendment

- **Comment:** The Geneva Lake Conservancy recommended that the area locally referred to as the North Shore Woods, located along North Shore Drive in the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, be considered for inclusion in the Plan Amendment.

  **Response:** The Commission staff investigated the site in 2009 and concluded that the quality and species diversity were sufficiently high to warrant inclusion in the Plan Amendment as a natural area of NA-3 status.

- **Comment:** The suggestion was made that a site in “Ozaukee County,” featuring an esker and dry-mesic upland deciduous ‘old growth’ woodland adjacent to an undeveloped glacial lake, be included in the Plan Amendment.

  **Response:** This site, actually located in Washington County, was included in Table 64, page 228, of Planning Report Number 42 as “Myra Wetlands,” a natural area of NA-2 quality, and in Table 104, page 350, as “Myra Esker,” a geological area of GA-2 quality.

- **Comment:** It was suggested that one of the last Silurian limestone rock outcroppings along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County, located on the east river bank, and south of and nearly adjacent to Mill Road, be included in the Plan Amendment.

  **Response:** This site was included in Table 104, page 351, of Planning Report Number 42 as “Mill Road Reef,” a geological area of GA-3 quality.
- **Comment**: It was suggested that the final approach area north of Layton Avenue, aligned with runway 19 at General Mitchell International Airport and consisting of degraded mowed grassland, be included in the Plan Amendment as it supports populations of grassland nesting birds.

**Response**: While it is indeed apparent that grassland birds are using this artificial grassland for nesting, because of the potential conflict with low-flying aircraft, the Commission in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, does not believe it would be prudent to encourage increased bird activity near or within airports by designating this area as a critical bird species habitat site.

- **Comment**: It was suggested that the Commission consider purchasing portions of the Hartland Marsh in Waukesha County so that pro-active land management practices such as controlled burning could be implemented.

**Response**: The Commission, while not an agency that purchases and manages conservation lands directly, does encourage properly managing open space areas such as the Hartland Marsh, even though the site is not of Regional natural area quality according to the criteria set forth in Planning Report Number 42.

- **Comment**: Grootemaat Woods is actually owned by the Village of Greendale, not the City of Greenfield, as listed in the Plan Amendment.

**Response**: The Commission will correct this error.

- **Comment**: The name of the site called “Carity Prairie” should be changed to better describe ecological conditions.

**Response**: The Commission is following the name assigned the site by the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, i.e., “Carity Prairie.”

- **Comment**: The beech woodland in Bender Park, located along the north side of Fitzsimmons Road, should be included in the Plan Amendment. It includes critical plant species and a vernal pond. The woodland south of the road should also be included.

**Response**: This site was included in Table 69, page 260, of Planning Report Number 42 as “Bender Park Woods—South,” a Critical Species Habitat area so classified because of the presence of the State-designated endangered bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*). However, the woodland south of the road was not included since it did not contain any critical species nor was it continuous with the delineated woods, separated from it by a road.

- **Comment**: Considering the fact that sites in the north half of Milwaukee County are extremely rare, suitable areas should be given close scrutiny. Specifically, a small but diverse woodland owned by a Catholic order of nuns near N. 76th Street that was described by Dr. James Levenson in his dissertation should be considered.

**Response**: The Commission staff, after reviewing the available data, agrees that this site (to be designated as “Convent Woods”), though small, is of sufficient quality to warrant inclusion in the Plan Amendment, and thus will be added as a natural area of NA-3 quality.

- **Comment**: Designation of the “Trestle Creek Woods” in St. Francis as a Critical Species Habitat area is encouraging. More areas near Seminary Woods Natural Area in St. Francis should be protected, including more open space owned by WE Energies, particularly areas planted to prairie (two comments).

**Response**: “Trestle Creek Woods” provides habitat for the State-designated endangered bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), which automatically classifies it as a Critical Species Habitat area. However,
the other open spaces mentioned do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Natural Areas Plan, i.e., they do not support State-designated critical species, nor do they contain natural plant communities.

- **Comment**: There was a request that the Commission publish larger scale maps of the locations of natural areas and critical species habitat areas.

  **Response**: Publication of larger scale maps indicating more specifically the locations of the more than 700 sites would be prohibitively expensive. In addition, publication of such maps may contribute to unwanted attention to these critical resources, resulting in unwanted trespass on private lands and over-collecting and other uses on public lands. Finally, the specific locations of critical species habitat sites related to State and Federal endangered and threatened species is protected by law.

- **Comment**: Interest was expressed in creating some process by which updates to the Natural Areas Plan could be accomplished in a shorter period of time, rather than a 10-year cycle.

  **Response**: There is a general land use process through which the Commission updates plans, based on available funds. There is a possibility of an annual vetting process, with Committee and Bureau of Endangered Resources review. Changes in sites, and addition of new sites, could then be added to the Natural Areas Plan as part of that 10-year cycle. In addition, more frequent “interim” type updates to the plan could be addressed through amendments to the individual county park, recreation, and open space plans.

- **Comment**: There was a question as to whether there are minimum size criteria for ADID wetlands.

  **Response**: There are no minimum size criteria for ADID wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin.

### Comments Received From Washington County Planning and Parks Department

- **Comment**: Maps and tables should have a date (at least the year) showing data currency.

  **Response**: The year “2008” will be included in the title of all tables and maps in the Plan Amendment.

- **Comment**: Map 7 (page 18) and map 35 (page 164) in the Plan Amendment appear to be the same. It says Map 35 is ‘to be updated.’ When will the updated version be available?

  **Response**: It is estimated that the final versions will be made available in the Fall, 2009.

- **Comment**: Supposedly, the natural area known as “Cedar-Sauk Low Woods” lies within both Washington and Ozaukee counties, yet in both Planning Report Number 42 and the Plan Amendment it is listed as being in Ozaukee County only. Which is correct?

  **Response**: The protocol for the Commission for sites occurring across county boundaries is to identify them by the primary county only. This will prevent such multi-county sites from being tallied multiple times when total number of sites is calculated. However, the actual tables listing the sites also indicate the secondary county, plus the amount of acreage within that county.

- **Comment**: Table 18 (page 96) in the Plan Amendment doesn’t list the Jackson Swamp State Natural Area as being in Section 17, or the Pike Lake Woods as being in Section 23. Are these errors?

  **Response**: The final version of Table 18 will include these U.S. Public Land Survey Sections.

- **Comment**: It would be helpful if Tables 19-22 listed the original (1994) and new net acreages for natural areas and critical species habitat areas. Are all changes in these tables based on the original data in Planning Report Number 42?
Response: All changes in these tables reflect the original acreages as presented in Planning Report Number 42. Tables 19-22 of the Plan Amendment will be revised to include the original acreages.

- **Comment:** Table 21 of the Plan Amendment (page 112) says that the boundaries of Kettle Moraine Drive Woods have been adjusted to include six additional acres. This site overlaps both Washington and Fond du Lac counties. Were the six acres added to Washington County, Fond du Lac County, or both?

**Response:** The additional acreage was located only in Washington County. Fond du Lac County is not located within the Region and is accordingly not addressed in this report update.

- **Comment:** Table 21 of the Plan Amendment (page 113) states that the USH 41 Swamp has been changed to include 25 additional acres, but the notes explain there was a loss on the east boundary. Should it say “-25 acres” or should the notes say “Adjust boundary?”

**Response:** The Commission will revise the notes to read “Boundary adjusted.”

- **Comment:** Table 22 of the Plan Amendment (page 121) lists a Critical Species Habitat (CSH) site called “Silver Lake Wetlands” in Section 27. The original Planning Report Number 42 also lists a CSH site called “Silver Lake” in Section 34. Are these the same sites?

**Response:** “Silver Lake” and “Silver Lake Wetlands” refer to two separate Critical Species Habitat areas. In the interest of clarification, the site in Section 27 will be changed to “Silver Lake Woods,” and the site in Section 34 will be changed to “Silver Lake Swamp.”

- **Comment:** Table 23 of the Plan Amendment (page 134) listed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as both the original and revised recommended owner of the Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area. Planning Report Number 42 (Table 109; page 386) lists the WisDNR as the proposed acquisition agency. Should the revised ownership be corrected, or should the site not be listed in Table 23 at all?

**Response:** The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue as owner of the site. Table 23 will be revised accordingly.

**Comments Received From The City of Muskego**

- **Comment:** Big Muskego Lake was listed in Planning Report No. 42 as being of NA-3 quality. Because of the marsh’s extensive use by wildlife, including breeding populations of several critical bird species, it was suggested that the status of the site be re-evaluated.

**Response:** Following discussions with ecological and wildlife experts from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Commission staff determined that the Big Muskego Lake should be re-classified as NA-2.

- **Comment:** It was suggested that Peters Woods in the City of Muskego be included in the report.

**Response:** Since there is present an active great blue heron rookery, and the heron is a State-designated special concern species, the site will be included as a Critical Species Habitat area.

- **Comment:** Reference was made to an extensive vegetation survey in the City of Muskego completed by Applied Ecological Services, and the recommendation was made that the Commission review the listed sites to determine whether any should be included in the Plan Amendment.

**Response:** The Commission staff reviewed the vegetation survey. Several sites were already included as new sites in the Plan Amendment. One new area, to be identified as Schroeder Woods, supports red
trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), a State-designated special concern species, and thus will be included as a Critical Species Habitat area. However, the majority of the sites listed, while perhaps of local interest, did not meet the standards for inclusion in a regional plan.

**Verbal Comments Received During Open House Meetings Pertaining to Aspects of the Plan Amendment**

- **Comment:** Landowner requested that the status of the Critical Species Habitat area located in the Town of Eagle listed in Planning Report Number 42 as “Holtz Oak Opening” be reconsidered as a natural area.

  **Response:** Communication with knowledgeable staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources agreed that the status should be raised to NA-3, with the recommendation that it be raised to NA-2 after appropriate management to restore more of an oak savanna community. The site will be listed as NA-3 in the Plan Amendment.

- **Comment:** A previously undocumented population of the State-designated threatened kittentails (*Besseya bullii*) on private lands near Hunters Lake in the Town of Ottawa was brought to the attention of the Commission staff.

  **Response:** At the invitation of the landowner, the Commission staff investigated the site. A good-sized population of kittentails was found, and the site will be included in the Plan Amendment as the Pogodzinski Kittentails Site, a Critical Species Habitat area.

- **Comment:** Mr. Glenn A. Christiansen of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission verbally indicated to the Commission staff that he had identified two State-designated threatened plant species—wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) and tuberous Indian plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*)—within the prairie remnant at the southwest corner of IH 94 and CTH C in the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

  **Response:** This site had initially been considered by the Commission staff for inclusion as a natural area of NA-3 status, but subsequent disturbance by the WisDOT during upgrading of the intersection had apparently diminished the quality of the site. These two sightings will enable the site to be included as a Critical Species Habitat area in the Plan Amendment as the “CTH C Low Prairie Remnant.”

**Additional Verbal Comments Made at the Informational Meetings, But Requiring No Specific Response.**

**Riveredge Nature Center, Ozaukee County (April 21, 2009)**

1. From Anthony and Lillian Ritger:

   —remarked that they learned much from the hearing; specifically, they are interested in preserving a Critical Species Habitat area they own in Washington County (“St. Anthony Maple Woods”)

2. From Benjamin Arnold:

   —“preserve as much land as you can”

**Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee County (April 22, 2009)**

3. From Barbara G. St. George:

   —she is opposed to selling any more of the Milwaukee County Grounds for development, and for demonstration logging
4. From Mike Ferentz:
   — thanks for including Seminary Woods and some adjacent lands for protection

5. From Jacky and Glenn Smucker:
   — thanks for including the Trestle Creek Woods (near Seminary Woods) as a Critical Species
     Habitat area; more open WE Energies land should be preserved in the vicinity

6. From William Krawczyk:
   — thanks for the updated Plan, especially for including the Trestle Creek CSH area; more WE
     Energies land should be preserved

7. From Wayne B. Peter:
   — “buy all of the land”

Kenosha County Center (April 28, 2009)

No comments received

Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, Forest Headquarters, Waukesha County (April 30, 2009)

8. From Nancy Gloe, Friends of the Mukwonago River:
   — gave full support for the revised Natural Areas Plan

9. From Ellen Gennrich, Waukesha County Land Conservancy:
   — gave full support for the Plan and its update, which is used extensively in their land protection
     efforts

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING DISCUSSIONS

Questions of clarification were entertained during and following the meeting presentations, while comments were
encouraged via written comment sheet, dictation to a court reporter, or any written means afterward, until the
established deadline. The substantial subjects of group discussion at the public informational meetings were often
not offered as nor accompanied by formal comments. However, both the tenor and content of these discussions
were given careful consideration toward the preparation of a final recommended plan.

Topics addressed in the group setting associated with the respective public informational meeting presentations
follow:

Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, April 21, 2009

- Distinction between levels of natural area significance, and how are they determined.
- The Advanced Identification of Disposal Areas (ADID) in wetlands program.
- SEWRPC website location where map products shown in the evening’s PowerPoint presentation can be
  found.
- Procedures by which Section 404 guidelines of the Clean Water Act may be applied.
• What groups oppose and/or reasons which may exist for resisting the ADID wetland designation.

• The possibility of amending the Natural Areas Plan on an ongoing basis so that gaps of 10 or more years may be avoided in applying new information and/or priorities.

• Whether there was a written process to streamline efforts aimed at identifying or refining significant natural areas.

• Whether there was a copy of the 1997 natural areas plan available, and how it could be accessed for review.

• Whether there was a relationship between the Regional Natural Areas Plan and SEWRPC involvement with Lake Michigan waters.

• Given that Ozaukee County was first in the process for this series of public informational meetings, the means by which any additional natural area sites of significance may be included in the plan if local representatives wish to propose such sites.

• The field identification process for wetland boundaries; the importance of securing the landowner’s invitation to proceed with the wetland delineation.

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners, April 22, 2009

• Regarding the estimated cost distribution for land acquisition under the plan, whether there were instances of higher and lower actual dollar contributions than the 6 percent indicated for local government.

• The legal status of the Regional Natural Areas Plan, whether local governments ratify it, and any flexibility of recommendations for public or private status of preserved lands.

• Status of the plan in making local governments eligible for Wisconsin’s Stewardship Fund and/or other funding sources regarding the acquisition of key areas.

• The relationship of field verification to determine how close map lines are to actual boundaries regarding the determination of ADID wetlands.

• Progression of the Regional Natural Areas Plan to a published document; and means of verification that maps actually reflect what is on the ground.

• Provisions of Chapter NR117 of the State Administrative Code with respect to shoreland wetlands, and protection of wetlands less than five acres in size.

• The shoreland zone extending inland 300 feet from navigable streams and 1,000 feet from lakes with respect to shoreland wetland zoning, and possible other protections for a 300 foot streamside buffer zone.

• Milwaukee County parkland work with respect to wetland protection in communities, like Franklin, which may regulate more stringently than required by the State Administrative Code.

Kenosha County Center, Bristol, April 28, 2009

• Whether the Lake Michigan shoreline fits the definition of a natural area regardless of development status.

• The possible inclusion for acquisition of an environmental corridor in the Village of Pleasant Prairie that had been identified in a 1995 Master Plan for preservation, but which encountered opposition at the time.
• The areal extent necessary for a grassland to be included in the plan for protection.

• Reasons why 298 species were listed as uncommon in the Region in the 1997 Regional Natural Areas Plan, whereas 401 species are listed as uncommon now.

• Regarding ADID wetlands, whether there is a size limit on field-delineated wetlands to be regulated.

• The prospects of regulating widespread or smaller wetlands, given the present regulation of shoreland wetlands five acres or greater in size in Walworth County.

• Potential conflicts between active and passive uses of natural areas.

• The issue of bike trails through designated natural areas.

Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters, Eagle, April 30, 2009

• When a wetland is not identified within an environmental corridor and perhaps should have been, whether that would constitute an ADID wetland.

• Clarification regarding 82 percent of estimated plan implementation costs being associated with recommendations that have been made in prior State, regional, county, and local plans.

• Whether ADID protects wetland natural areas, and whether there are other programs to protect non-wetland woodlands.

• When a field delineation of an environmental corridor shows the wetland boundary farther out (more extensive) than on a map, whether the prospect of such a finding can be part of policy comments taken now regarding ADID review (since the distance between 50 feet and 75 feet, for example, under stormwater guidelines is significant).

• The timing of plan completion and adoption so that it is available for use.

• Possibilities for land trusts to use the plan to leverage or make a case for land preservation grants.

• How to access detailed maps regarding ADID wetlands.

• The extent to which a county or local municipality may have jurisdiction over management of an ADID wetland, such as for burning.

• Possible timing for the next version of the Regional Natural Areas Plan, given that the new plan under review came about because of a request.

• Ways in which the Commission may work with the Paradise Valley project.

• Since critical species habitat areas did not seem to have received much protection since the previous version of the plan, the ways by which better protection can be achieved.

• Opportunities for entities to find out that they own and/or manage a natural area of special concern, reflecting on a report that a nature center was listed without representatives being aware.

• The relationships between 2010 comprehensive planning and getting information out so that preliminary natural areas recommendations can be factored-in, and whether any conflicts exist between a local plan and the Regional Natural Areas Plan.
MEDIA COVERAGE

Newspaper editorials and articles related to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan and its preparation are displayed in Exhibit D. These were generated in response to the Commission announcement, Newsletter, and news release, and the public informational meetings.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin is charged with guiding the preparation of the regional natural areas protection plan update. The membership of the Advisory Committee includes representatives of cooperating governmental agencies as well as representatives from both public and private agencies concerned with, and knowledgeable about, natural areas within Southeastern Wisconsin. Committee membership is displayed in Exhibit A-1, page A-16.

The record of the Committee’s deliberations and actions is documented in meeting minutes. Together, these minutes comprise an important record of the direction given to the planning effort by the Committee. The Regional Planning Commission is composed of elected public officials and knowledgeable citizen leaders from throughout the Region, and has the final responsibility for the adoption of the natural areas protection plan amendment.
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Good evening. My task this evening is to provide an overview of the draft update to the regional natural areas protection and management plan which the Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin is proposing for the remaining natural areas and critical species habitats located in Southeastern Wisconsin.

First, I will provide a brief background and overview of the initial natural areas and critical species habitat plan, which is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*. That initial plan was prepared and adopted by the Commission in 1997. It was subsequently adopted by all seven County Boards and endorsed by the state Natural Areas Council. The initial plan identified the most important natural areas, critical species habitats, aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites known to remain in the Region. It recommended a means for the protection and management of these types of sites, and it helped increase the dissemination of information concerning these resources.

Before I go any further, there are a few key terms which should be defined:

Natural Areas (NA) are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant/animal communities believed representative of the pre-European settlement landscape. The plan classified these natural areas as:

- Natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1)
- Natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2)
- Natural areas of local significance (NA-3)

Critical species habitats (CSH) are defined as tracts of land or water which support endangered, threatened, or rare (special concern) plant/animal species.

Geological sites include tracts of land that include glacial features, fossil beds, and rock outcrop and exposed bedrock sites of scientific and educational value.

Finally, archaeological sites include tracts of land, stream beds, or lake bottoms that include objects or other evidence of archaeological interest 100 years or more old.

The subject plan update now before us is a response to a March 31, 2005, letter submitted by Gathering Waters Conservancy. This plan update reflects the physical changes that have occurred in the Region, as well as new findings, since preparation of the initial plan.

The initial Planning Report No. 42 recommended the public or private protection and management of 427 (96 percent) of 447 identified natural areas, which totaled about 88 square miles. That recommendation included all

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1This presentation was given by Dr. Donald M. Reed of the SEWRPC staff at each of the four public informational meetings held on the draft plan update. A Copy of the PowerPoint accompanying the presentation begins on page 17.
40 NA-1 sites, all 122 NA-2 sites, and 265 (93 percent) of the NA-3 sites. At the time of adoption, about 40 square miles (46 percent) were already under protective ownership. In addition, the plan recommended the public or private protection of 111 (78 percent) of the 142 critical species habitat sites located outside of the natural areas. At the time of adoption, 15.1 square miles (72 percent) of those critical species habitat sites were already under protective ownership. That initial plan also recommended the acquisition and restoration of:

- Three grassland reserves (21.3 square miles) for grassland nesting birds, of which 10.5 square miles (49 percent) were already protected and being managed.
- Five forest interior sites (0.9 square miles) to accommodate forest interior nesting birds.
- The plan also recognized that the significant aquatic habitat sites are held in the public trust, and therefore, are already protected by the State of Wisconsin.

Further, the plan recommended the protection of 71 (83 percent) of the significant geological sites (67.1 square miles) of which about 24 square miles (36 percent) were already under protective ownership at the time of plan adoption. Finally, it recommended the protection of 14 archaeological sites that were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time of adoption, five sites (36 percent) were wholly or partially protected.

What has been done since the adoption of the initial plan?

To date, 21 recommended natural area sites (1,261 acres) have, in their entirety or in part, been acquired for protection and management, a total of 42 square miles. However, only one critical species habitat site has been partially protected. There have been essentially no change to the grassland, forest interior, geological area, or archaeological sites, although about 76 additional acres of proposed grassland habitat at Lulu Lake is pending before the Natural Resource Board at this time.

The initial plan was an essential step toward protecting the Region’s natural resource base and promoting biodiversity.

However, that plan has not been fully implemented. We continue to experience a loss and degradation of these habitats regionwide. There is a lack of proper management, such as controlled burning of prairie sites, and invasive species management, which continues even on protected sites. However, it is also important to know that, new areas have been discovered and others restored.

Plan implementation must continue to be guided and monitored. We need to ensure that protection and management funds are available in a timely way; we need to ensure that management plans are prepared and implemented in a timely manner; and we need to help guide the restoration of previously degraded lands. Also, the plan must be updated to include new sites and eliminate lost sites; the plan must be adjusted to recognize changes in endangered, threatened, and rare species, their habitats, and related regulations and policies; and the plan must be adjusted to recognize changes in land acquisition goals and ownerships of the various protection agencies and organizations. Finally, the plan has been and continues to be an essential element of the land use plan. So, it should provide a mechanism to verify the extent to which the protection actually leads to preservation and sound management of the Region’s natural resource base.

An overview of the newly identified natural areas, critical species habitats, and geological sites follows:

Since the adoption of that initial plan, 44 additional natural area sites totaling 2,033 acres have been identified, including six NA-2 sites (202 acres) and 38 NA-3 sites (1,831 acres). A total of 133 critical species habitat sites (4,692) acres have been identified. And, one additional geological site (47 acres) has been identified, which is located just to the northwest of the City of West Bend.

As part of the plan analysis, the relationship to the Commission’s revised 2005 delineated primary environmental corridors was conducted. It was found that 27 (61 percent) of the new natural area sites are located in the primary
environmental corridor [1,496 acres (74 percent)]; and 60 (45 percent) of the new critical species habitat sites are located in the primary environmental corridor [3,808 acres (81 percent)]. An additional six sites are partially within the corridor. A total of nine natural areas and critical species habitat sites were upgraded in classification. A total of 241 natural area sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Similarly, a total of 104 critical species habitats showed a net change in their areal extent.

With respect to the changes in status of endangered, threatened, and special concern species within the Region, under the initial plan, a total of 36 vertebrates and 45 plants were identified as endangered or threatened; and 61 vertebrates and 69 plants were identified as being of special concern. Currently, however, 38 vertebrates and 56 plants are identified as endangered or threatened; 59 vertebrates and 97 plants are identified as being of special concern.

The Commission also identified regionally uncommon plant species. Under the initial plan, 298 plant species were identified as being uncommon. Under the plan update, 401 plant species are so classified. Currently, these regionally uncommon plant species may have extensive and stable statewide population. However, there is a high concern for the long term stability of these plant species on a regional level due to their low populations in southeastern Wisconsin; the few locations that support these species within the region; and the significant habitat threats that are occurring in this rapidly urbanizing section of the State.

With respect to laws and policies, protections for natural areas and critical species habitats remain limited. Federal and State protections are primarily related to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of endangered and threatened species and migratory birds. However, regulations have been promulgated that do require consideration of endangered and threatened species, their habitats, and certain high quality habitats for permits and approvals. For example, the State of Wisconsin has created programs that affect protection of natural areas and critical species habitats that are located in wetlands; and if located in sanitary sewer service areas designated under the Federal Clean Water Act, primary environmental corridors, and ADID wetlands are considered in the issuance of permits, approvals, and water quality certifications.

The advanced identification of disposal areas (ADID) in wetlands program is a Federal program under Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act. It is a planning process that is used to identify wetlands and other waters that are generally suitable or unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. It is an advisory procedure which has been in effect in southeastern Wisconsin since 1985. The ADID process is designed to add predictability to the wetland permitting process, and better account for the impact of losses from multiple projects occurring within a geographic area. All Federal Section 404 permitted projects are required to follow those section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

All ADID wetlands in southeastern Wisconsin have been determined to be generally unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. No suitable sites were identified. Accordingly, proposed projects located in ADID waters are unlikely to meet the 404(b)(1) guideline requirements. Current ADID wetlands in southeastern Wisconsin include all surface waters and wetlands located within the 1980 primary environmental corridors. The original designation of such ADID waters is based upon the non-point source pollution findings of the areawide water quality management plan for southeastern Wisconsin. The original ADID wetland and surface waters were noticed in a joint public notice issued by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers in 1985. The 1980 primary environmental corridors are shown in Map 1 (see top of page 30).

What are the proposed recommended changes to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan?

Under the plan update, it is recommended that 472 (96 percent) of the natural area sites (98.3 square miles) be placed in protective public or private ownership. This recommendation includes all of the 44 newly identified natural area sites (less than 3.2 square miles) (see Map 2 top of page 31). It is recommended that 190 (74 percent of critical species habitat sites (19.2 square miles) be placed in protective ownership. That includes all 133 of the newly identified critical species habitat sites (less than 6.0 square miles) (see Map 2). The plan update recommends that over 29.1 square miles of suitable grassland nesting bird habitat be established, which includes an additional less than 7.8 square miles at Lulu Lake (see Map 3 bottom of page 31). Presently, there are no changes proposed to the forest interior bird habitat recommendation (see Map 3).
Under the plan update, a total of 72 (83 percent) geological sites (35.6 square miles) would be placed in protective public or private ownership (see Map 4 on bottom of page 32). That includes the proposed addition of the West Bend Kames (47 acres). Presently, there are no changes to the archaeological site recommendations. Under the plan update, all acquisitions continue to be on a willing seller, willing buyer basis.

With respect to ADID wetlands, the plan update recommends that all surface waters and wetlands located in the 2005 primary environmental corridors be designated as ADID waters. In addition, it is further recommended that those plan identified natural area wetlands located outside the primary environmental corridors (1,802 acres) also be designated as ADID waters. Under this set of recommendations, only about 12 percent of region total area is proposed as ADID waters. The ADID maps are attached by County as Maps 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 (see bottom of page 33 through page 36). An analysis of the areal extent by County is shown in Table 1 (see top of page 37).

Under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, proposed projects located in ADID waters are unlikely to be permitted in designated natural areas, critical species habitats, and aquatic habitats identified in the plan. Map 12 (bottom of page 37) is an example of the mapping prepared under the plan. However, it should be emphasized that all ADID wetland boundaries are subject to field verification.

Finally, the plan update recommends that a separate survey designed to update the aquatic natural area habitat element of the plan be conducted under the direction of a technical advisory committee. That advisory committee should consist of experts in aquatic resources.

What are the acquisition costs associated with the plan?

The estimated total land acquisition cost in 2008 dollars of the proposed recommended plan is $589.7 million, distributed over a 20 year period. That is an estimated average annual cost of $14.75 per capita for 20 years. The plan recommends that the plan costs be distributed as follows:

- 45 percent State government,
- 32 percent private conservation organizations,
- 16 percent county government, and
- 6 percent local government.

Finally, it should be noted that 82 percent of the total land acquisition cost is already included in previously adopted plans.
Natural Areas and Critical Species
Habitat Plan Amendment For Southeastern Wisconsin

Donald M. Reed, Ph.D., SEWRPC Chief Biologist

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<tr>
<th>Reconstituted Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin</th>
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<td>Dr. Joy J. Wolf.................................................................Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Parkside</td>
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

• UPDATE TO SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 42, A REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

• INITIAL PLAN PREPARED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1997.

• ADOPTED BY ALL SEVEN COUNTY BOARDS

• ENDORSED BY THE STATE NATURAL AREAS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON’T)

• THE INITIAL PLAN:
  1. IDENTIFIED THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AQUATIC AREAS, GEOLOGICAL AREAS, AND ARCHAELOGICAL SITES KNOWN TO REMAIN IN THE REGION
  2. RECOMMENDED A MEANS FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT
  3. INCREASE THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON’T)

• DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

• NATURAL AREAS [NA] - TRACTS OF LAND OR WATER SO LITTLE MODIFIED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY, OR WHICH HAVE SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF SUCH ACTIVITY, THAT THEY CONTAIN INTACT NATIVE PLANT/ANIMAL COMMUNITIES BELIEVED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRE-EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT LANDSCAPE.

- NA-1: STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.
- NA-2: COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.
- NA-3: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE.

• CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS [CSH]: TRACTS OF LAND OR WATER WHICH SUPPORT ENDANGERED, THREATENED, OR RARE [SPECIAL CONCERN] PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES.

• GEOLOGICAL SITES: TRACTS OF LAND THAT INCLUDE GLACIAL FEATURES, FOSSIL BEDS, AND ROCK OUTCROP AND EXPOSED BEDROCK SITES OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL VALUE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: TRACTS OF LAND, STREAM BEDS, OR LAKE BOTTOMS THAT INCLUDE OBJECTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST 100 YEARS OR MORE OLD.
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON’T)

- UPDATE IS A RESPONSE TO A MARCH 31, 2005, LETTER SUBMITTED BY GATHERING WATERS CONSERVANCY

- PLAN REFLECTS THE PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE REGION, AS WELL AS NEW FINDINGS, SINCE PREPARATION OF THE INITIAL PLAN.

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN

- PROPOSED THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF 427 (96%) OF 447 IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS.

- A TOTAL OF ABOUT 88 SQ. MILES.

- INCLUDED ALL 40 NA-1 SITES, ALL 122 NA-2 SITES, AND 265 (93%) NA-3 SITES.

- AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION, ABOUT 40 SQ. MILES (46%) ALREADY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP.
INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON’T)

- Proposed the public or private protection of 111 (78%) of the 142 critical species habitat sites located outside of the natural areas.

- At the time of adoption, 15.1 sq. miles (72%) already under protective ownership.

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON’T)

- Plan also recommended the acquisition and restoration of:
  - 3 grassland reserves: 21.3 sq. miles for grassland nesting birds
  - 5 forest interior sites: 0.9 sq. miles for forest interior nesting birds.
  - Aquatic habitat sites already protected by the state of Wisconsin (public trust).
INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON’T)

• Protection of 71 (83%) geological sites (67.1 sq. miles)

• About 24 sq. miles (36%) already under protective ownership at the time of plan adoption.

• Protection of 14 archaeological sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

  5 sites wholly or partially protected.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

• Since the adoption of the initial plan:

• 21 recommended natural area sites (1261 acres) have, in their entirety or in part, been acquired for protection and management.

• Only 1 critical species habitat site has been partially protected.

• No change to the grassland, forest interior, geological area, or archaeological sites.
PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT

• INITIAL PLAN – ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD PROTECTING THE REGION’S NATURAL RESOURCE BASE AND PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY.

• PLAN NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

• CONTINUED LOSS AND DEGRADATION OF THESE HABITATS REGION WIDE.

LACK OF PROPER MANAGEMENT CONTINUES EVEN ON PROTECTED SITES

NEW AREAS DISCOVERED, OTHERS RESTORED.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT (CON’T)

• PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MUST CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED AND MONITORED.

• NEED TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN A TIMELY WAY.

• NEED TO ENSURE THAT MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

NEED TO HELP GUIDE THE RESTORATION OF PREVIOUSLY DEGRADED LANDS
PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT (CON’T)

• PLAN MUST BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE NEW SITES AND ELIMINATE LOST SITES.

• PLAN MUST BE ADJUSTED TO RECOGNIZE CHANGES IN ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES, THEIR HABITATS, AND RELATED REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.

• PLAN MUST BE ADJUSTED TO RECOGNIZE CHANGES IN LAND ACQUISITION GOALS AND OWNERSHIPS OF THE VARIOUS PROTECTION AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

• PLAN HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE LAND USE PLAN.

• SHOULD PROVIDE A MECHANISM TO VERIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROTECTION ACTUALLY LEADS TO PRESERVATION AND SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THE REGION’S NATURAL RESOURCE BASE.
NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AND GEOLOGICAL SITES

- 44 ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREA SITES TOTALING 2033 ACRES:
  1. SIX NA-2 SITES (202 ACRES)
  2. 38 NA-3 SITES (1831 ACRES)

- 133 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (4692 ACRES)

ONE GEOLOGICAL SITE (47 ACRES).

RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMISSION DELINEATED PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS (2005):

- 27 (61%) OF THE NEW NATURAL AREA SITES ARE LOCATED IN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR [1496 ACRES (74%)].

- 60 (45%) OF THE NEW CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES ARE LOCATED IN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR [3808 ACRES (81%)].
  [NOTE: AN ADDITIONAL 6 SITES ARE PARTIALLY WITHIN THE CORRIDOR]
CHANGES TO THE INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

- A TOTAL OF NINE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES WERE UPGRADED IN CLASSIFICATION.
- A TOTAL OF 241 NATURAL AREA SITES SHOWED A NET CHANGE IN THEIR AREAL EXTENT.
- A TOTAL OF 104 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS SHOWED A NET CHANGE IN THEIR AREAL EXTENT.

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES WITHIN THE REGION

- INITIAL PLAN:
  1. 36 VERTEBRATES AND 45 PLANTS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED;
  2. 61 VERTEBRATES AND 69 PLANTS SPECIAL CONCERN

- CURRENTLY LISTED:
  1. 38 VERTEBRATES AND 56 PLANTS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED;
  2. 59 VERTEBRATES AND 97 PLANTS SPECIAL CONCERN.
CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES WITHIN THE REGION

- REGIONALLY UNCOMMON PLANTS:
  1. INITIAL PLAN: 298 SPECIES.
  2. UPDATE: 401 SPECIES.

- CURRENTLY, MAY HAVE EXTENSIVE AND STABLE STATEWIDE POPULATIONS.

- HIGH CONCERN ON A REGIONAL LEVEL DUE TO:
  1. LOW POPULATIONS IN REGION;
  2. FEW LOCATIONS IN REGION;
  3. SIGNIFICANT HABITAT THREATS.

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

- PROTECTIONS FOR NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS ARE LIMITED.

- FEDERAL AND STATE PROTECTIONS MOSTLY RELATED TO THE TAKING, POSSESSION, TRANSPORT, AND SALE OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS.

- REGULATIONS PROMULGATED REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES, THEIR HABITATS, AND CERTAIN HIGH QUALITY HABITATS FOR PERMITS AND APPROVALS.
CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON’T)

• STATE OF WISCONSIN: CREATED PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS:

1. LOCATED IN WETLANDS; AND

2. IF LOCATED IN SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREAS DESIGNATED UNDER THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT [PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS, ADID WETLANDS]

ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

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CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON’T)

• ADVANCED IDENTIFICATION OF DISPOSAL AREAS [ADID] IN WETLANDS.

• FEDERAL PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

• PLANNING PROCESS; IDENTIFY WETLANDS AND OTHER WATERS THAT ARE GENERALLY SUITABLE OR UNSUITABLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF DREDGE AND FILL MATERIALS.

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CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- AN ADVISORY PROCEDURE;
  1. PREDICTABILITY TO THE WETLAND PERMITTING PROCESS, AND
  2. BETTER ACCOUNT: IMPACT OF LOSSES FROM MULTIPLE PROJECTS WITHIN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

- ALL PERMITTED PROJECTS MUST FOLLOW THE SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES.

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- ADID WETLANDS IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DETERMINED TO BE GENERALLY UNSUITABLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF DREDGE AND FILL MATERIALS

- CURRENT ADID WETLANDS – ALL SURFACE WATERS AND WETLANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE 1980 PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS.

- BASED UPON THE NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION FINDINGS OF THE AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN.

1985 PUBLIC NOTICE: U.S. EPA AND CORPS.
CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CONT')

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
SURFACE WATER

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 472 (96%) NATURAL AREA SITES (98.3 SQ. MILES) PLACED IN PROTECTIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.
- INCLUDES ALL 44 NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS (<3.2 SQ. MILES).
- 190 (74%) CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (19.2 SQ. MILES) PLACED IN PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP.
- INCLUDES 133 NEWLY IDENTIFIED CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (<6.0 SQ. MILES)).

>29.1 SQ. MILES OF SUITABLE GRASSLAND NESTING BIRD HABITAT ESTABLISHED. INCLUDES ADDITIONAL >7.8 SQ. MILES.
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE ADOPTED NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AND SITES PROPOSED TO BE ADDED UNDER THE PLAN AMENDMENT

LOCATION OF FINAL RECOMMENDED SITES TO REESTABLISHED LARGE TRACTS OF GRASSLANDS AND FOREST INTERIORS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION
NO CHANGES TO THE FOREST INTERIOR BIRD HABITAT RECOMMENDATION.

72 (83%) GEOLOGICAL SITES (35.6 SQ. MILES) BE PLACED IN PROTECTIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

INCLUDES THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF THE WEST BEND KAMES (47 ACRES).

NO CHANGES TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECOMMENDATIONS.
PROPOSED 2005 ADID WETLANDS:

1. ALL SURFACE WATERS AND WETLANDS LOCATED IN THE 2005 PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS.

2. PROPOSED NATURAL AREA WETLANDS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS [1802 ACRES].

12% OF REGION PROPOSED AS ADID WATERS.
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN OZAUKEE COUNTY
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADD WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN RACINE COUNTY

Source: DNR/WPR

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADD WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WALWORTH COUNTY

Source: DNR/WPR
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WAUKESHA COUNTY
### RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Wetland Area (Acres)</th>
<th>Primary Environmental Corridor</th>
<th>Natural Areas</th>
<th>Percent of Total Wetlands</th>
<th>ADID Lakes and Ponds (Acres)</th>
<th>Total ADID Surface Water System (Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenosha</td>
<td>21,526</td>
<td>14,099</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3,528</td>
<td>17,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>8,289</td>
<td>4,275</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>5,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ozaukee</td>
<td>21,296</td>
<td>12,880</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>14,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racine</td>
<td>22,027</td>
<td>11,370</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3,958</td>
<td>15,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walworth</td>
<td>39,230</td>
<td>20,971</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>9,918</td>
<td>39,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>50,147</td>
<td>38,065</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>2,326</td>
<td>40,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukesha</td>
<td>68,166</td>
<td>56,430</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8,593</td>
<td>65,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>230,681</td>
<td>166,090</td>
<td>1,802</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>30,207</td>
<td>198,099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of Total PEC as ADID: 63 Percent
Percent of Region designated as ADID: 12 Percent

Source: SEWRPC.
3. UNDER THE SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES:

- PROJECTS PROPOSED IN ADID WATERS:
  - UNLIKELY TO BE PERMITTED IN DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AND AQUATIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN.

4. ADID WETLAND BOUNDARIES SUBJECT TO FIELD VERIFICATION.

- SEPARATE SURVEY DESIGNED TO UPDATE THE AQUATIC NATURAL AREA HABITATS
  - CONDUCTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
  - TO CONSIST OF EXPERTS IN AQUATIC RESOURCES.
## PLAN COSTS

- **ESTIMATED TOTAL LAND ACQUISITION COST:**
  - $589.7 MILLION OVER A 20 YEAR PERIOD.
- $14.75 PER CAPITA FOR 20 YEARS.
- **45% STATE GOVERNMENT**
- **32% PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS**
- **16% COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
  - **6% LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
- **82% ALREADY PART OF ADOPTED PLANS.**
EXHIBITS
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Exhibit A

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATED PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS
This newsletter provides an overview of the updated preliminary Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. Specifically, this newsletter presents:

- Status of implementation of the original regional plan recommendations.
- A description of the natural areas and critical species habitats that have been identified since completion of the original plan.
- Changes to the original natural areas and critical species habitat sites.
- Changes in status of endangered, threatened, and special concern species in the region.
- Changes to natural area and critical species related laws and policies.
- Preliminary recommended changes to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.

BACKGROUND

The updated plan documents a proposed amendment to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan for southeastern Wisconsin. The updated plan was prepared in direct response to a March 31, 2005, letter submitted to the Commission by Gathering Waters Conservancy, a statewide land conservancy organization that serves many local land trusts and related groups in the Region, requesting the Commission to update the plan. This update reflects physical changes in the Region, as well as new findings, which have occurred since the preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin in September 1997. The initial study identified the most important remaining natural areas, critical species habitat areas, aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, and the recommended means for their protection and management. The study was also intended to increase the dissemination of information regarding such sites to State, county and local units and agencies of government and to private interests, in order that the preservation of these sites may be properly considered, as proposals for development within the Region are advanced.

STUDY PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

A series of public informational meetings have been scheduled to be held throughout the Region in April. The purpose of these meetings is to brief residents of the Region on the preliminary recommended update to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan and to provide an opportunity for comment. The table below provides information on the dates and locations of the upcoming meetings. Persons may choose to attend any of the meetings they find most convenient. Staff will be available in an “open house” format from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information about updates to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan. A brief presentation of the plan will be made by the study staff at 6:00 p.m. Written comments may be submitted throughout the meetings, including via dictation to a court reporter.

Persons with special needs are asked to contact the Commission offices a minimum of 72 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Contact information may be found on the back page of this newsletter. The comment period on the preliminary recommended plan update extends through May 15, 2009, with comments accepted via U.S. mail, fax, and e-mail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| April 21, 2009 | Riveredge Nature Center  
4458 W. Hawthorne Drive  
Newburg, Wisconsin |
| April 22, 2009 | Boerner Botanical Gardens  
Visitor Center Multi-Media Room  
9400 Boerner Drive  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin |
| April 28, 2009 | Kenosha County Center  
19600 75th Street  
Bristol, Wisconsin |
| April 30, 2009 | Kettle Moraine State Forest  
Headquarters-Southern Unit  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
S 91 W 39091 Highway 59  
Eagle, Wisconsin |

Following these meetings, a record of public comments will be assembled and provided to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin and to the Commission for consideration in preparing a recommended plan.
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The original plan proposed the public or private protection of 427 (96 percent) of 447 identified natural areas. This total included all 40 of the natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1 sites), all 122 of the natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2 sites), and 265 of the 285 natural areas of local significance (NA-3 sites). The total area of natural area sites proposed to be protected under the original plan was 56,346 acres. At that time, 25,865 acres were already under protective ownership (about 46 percent), leaving a total of 30,481 acres to be acquired.

Twenty-one natural area sites recommended in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42 for protective ownership have, in their entirety or in part, been acquired for protection since preparation of the original plan. Specifically, 1,261 acres of natural areas have been placed under protective ownership by public and private agencies. This total includes four NA-1 sites, totaling 93 acres (3.2 percent) of the NA-1 area proposed to be acquired; seven NA-2 sites, totaling 552 acres (4.3 percent) of the NA-2 area proposed to be acquired; and 12 NA-3 sites, totaling 616 acres (3.6 percent) of the NA-3 area proposed to be acquired. Eight of these sites are located in Waukesha County, six in Ozaukee County, four in Washington County, and one each in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties. Of the 1,261 acres, 74 acres (6 percent) located within five different natural area sites in the Carol Beach area of Kenosha County were acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The total area acquired also includes areas acquired by two land trust organizations—the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and the Waukesha Land Conservancy. Specifically, these two land trusts’ acquisitions accounted for all or parts of 15 natural area sites. A total of eight natural area sites had their protective acquisition completed, according to the recommendations of the original plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Sites</td>
<td>Archaeological sites are defined as those tracts of land, streambeds, or lake bottoms that include objects or other evidence of archaeological interest 100 years or more of age including, but not limited to, pottery, tools, structures, human skeletal remains, aboriginal mounds and earthworks, and ancient burial grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Species Habitats</td>
<td>Critical species habitats are broadly defined as tracts of land or water which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species. Many of the designated natural areas provide habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species. For purposes of the natural area plan, and the plan amendment, then, critical species habitats were more narrowly defined as those sites which are located wholly or partly outside designated natural areas and which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geological Sites</td>
<td>Geological sites are defined as tracts of land that include such glacial features as eskers and kames, fossil beds, and rock outcrop and exposed bedrock sites of scientific and educational value. Geological sites identified as significant under the plan and the plan amendment, are classified as being of statewide or greater significance, or “GA-1” sites; of countywide or regional significance, or “GA-2” sites; or of local significance, or “GA-3” sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
<td>Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape. Natural areas identified under the plan, and the plan amendment, are classified as being of statewide or greater significance, or “NA-1” areas; of countywide or regional significance, or “NA-2” areas; or of local significance, or “NA-3” areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare Species</td>
<td>Rare species are defined as those species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin which occur infrequently either as individuals or in specific communities on the landscape. These are also referred to by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as “special concern” species. They represent species about which a problem regarding their abundance or distribution in the State is suspected but not yet proven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Designated Endangered Species</td>
<td>State-designated endangered species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin whose continued existence in the State is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, to be in jeopardy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Designated Threatened Species</td>
<td>State-designated threatened species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, likely to become endangered in the State within the foreseeable future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The original plan recommended that 110 Critical Species Habitat sites, encompassing a total of 21.1 square miles, be protected through public or private protective ownership. A single Critical Species Habitat site—the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way located in Racine County—has been partially protected since preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42. This habitat is known to support one endangered plant species, bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), and two special concern plant species, hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) and heart-leaved skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*).

The original plan recommended that three grassland reserve sites, totaling about 21.3 square miles, be established to provide critical habitat for grassland nesting bird species. There have been no known grassland habitat acquisitions since the adoption of the plan.

There have been no known documented changes in the status of the forest interior habitats, significant aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites listed in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42.

**NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED SINCE COMPLETION OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN**

A total of 44 additional natural area sites, including six NA-2 sites and 38 NA-3 sites, and 133 additional critical species habitat area sites, have been identified in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region since the preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42.

One new geological area of local significance (GA-3) has also been identified.

These sites have all been added to the regional inventory and are documented in the updated plan (see Map 1). Table 1 lists the 44 additional natural area sites. Detailed descriptions and plant associations of each site have been coordinated and shared with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources.

**CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES**

To remain vital, the Natural Areas Plan must be periodically reviewed and revised to incorporate changes in the regional landscape. In this regard, this update of natural areas uses more complete and current information, while still employing the basic principles and concepts of the previously adopted plan, to enable a better comparison to other similar sites in the Region. Because it should not be assumed that the boundaries of natural areas should necessarily remain static, these changes often result in refinements in the delineation of the areal extent of sites. Certainly, losses of portions of natural areas are to be expected. However, expansion of boundaries may also take place through such factors as proper management techniques of surrounding marginal habitat; examination of the most recent, highest quality color aerial photography that makes natural boundaries more apparent; and additional field inspections.

Results of this review effort follow:

- A total of nine natural areas and critical species habitat sites were upgraded in classification through a thorough re-evaluation of their status (see Table 2). This includes four critical species habitat areas upgraded to NA-3 status, three NA-3 quality sites upgraded to NA-2 status, and two NA-2 quality sites upgraded to NA-1 status.
- A total of 22 NA-1 quality sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Of this total, nineteen showed net increases, while three decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—141 acres—occurred in the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area, where recent management, including prescribed burning and brush removal, has effectively restored what had been adjacent marginal habitat.
- A total of 63 NA-2 quality areas showed a net change in their areal extent. Forty-seven of these showed net increases, while 16 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—606 acres—occurred in the Eagle Oak Opening and Dry Prairies with the addition of adjacent Kettle Moraine State Forest woodland.
- A total of 156 NA-3 quality sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Ninety-seven of these showed net increases, while 59 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—1,965 acres—occurred in the Muskego Lake Marsh where managed water level fluctuations have increased the area of shallow marsh and decreased the areal extent of open water.
Map 1

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE ADOPTED NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AND SITES PROPOSED TO BE ADDED UNDER THE PLAN AMENDMENT

LEGEND

SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE ADOPTED PLAN
- NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE (NA-1)
- NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-2)
- NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)
- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE

SITES PROPOSED TO BE ADDED UNDER THE RECOMMENDED PLAN AMENDMENT
- NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-2)
- NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)
- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

Source: SEWRPC.
**Table 1**

**ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREAS IDENTIFIED SINCE PREPARATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 42**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Proposed Classification Code</th>
<th>Size (acres)</th>
<th>Existing and Proposed Ownerships</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Avenue Prairie</td>
<td>Kenosha County T1N R23E Sections 29, 30 Village of Pleasant Prairie</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>High quality Lake Michigan wet-mesic prairie complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Lake Woods and Wetlands</td>
<td>Kenosha County T1N R20E Sections 21, 22 Town of Salem</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Town of Salem and private</td>
<td>Species-rich ravine woods associated with good quality wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Lake Wetlands</td>
<td>Kenosha County T1N R20E Section 8 Town of Salem</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Good quality wetlands at north end of Silver Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams Prairie</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 32 City of Franklin</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Species-rich, high quality wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60th Street Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 27 City of Franklin</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Small, but species-rich upland woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Trail Marsh</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 3 City of Franklin</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Good quality shallow marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenwood School Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 14 City of Milwaukee</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Glenwood School</td>
<td>Good quality woodland in highly developed part of county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville Low Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T8N R21E Section 6 City of Milwaukee</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District</td>
<td>Good quality low woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grootemaat Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 35 Village of Greendale</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>City of Greenfield</td>
<td>Dry-mesic woods with ephemeral ponds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGovern Park Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T8N R21E Section 35 City of Milwaukee</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Remnant woodland within urban park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell’s Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 11 City of Milwaukee</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Mixed quality woods bordering Kinnickinnick River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Creek Parkway Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R22E Sections 11, 12 City of Oak Creek</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Dry-mesic woods along Oak Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root River Bike Trail Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 15 City of Franklin</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Wet-mesic and dry-mesic woods along Root River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root River Low and Upland Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 3 City of Franklin</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>Mostly wet-mesic and floodplain woods along Root River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Road Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T5N R22E Section 29 City of Oak Creek</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Dry-mesic woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Branch Root River Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 7 City of West Allis</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>City of West Allis</td>
<td>Small remnant of native forest in highly developed area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Proposed Classification Code</td>
<td>Size (acres)</td>
<td>Existing and Proposed Ownerships</td>
<td>Site Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbott Woods and Ravine</td>
<td>Ozaukee County T10N R22E Sections 21, 28 Town of Grafton</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Private, protected through conservation easement with Ozaukee Washington Land Trust</td>
<td>Mesic woods and white cedar-covered ravines along Lake Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Park Woods</td>
<td>Racine County T3N R23E Section 8 City of Racine</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Racine County and private</td>
<td>Complex of upland and lowland woods along Root River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoods Creek Woods</td>
<td>Racine County T3N R22E Section 3 Village of Mt. Pleasant</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Private and Village of Mt. Pleasant</td>
<td>Upland and lowland woods along Hoods Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluff Creek Prairie</td>
<td>Walworth County T4N R15E Section 23 Town of Whitewater</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Good quality wet-mesic prairie, including a number of rare species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTH C Lowland</td>
<td>Walworth County T1N R15E Section 4 Town of Sharon</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Wetland complex in an agricultural landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Troy Bog</td>
<td>Walworth County T4N R18E Sections 7, 18 Town of East Troy</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Good quality leatherleaf bog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Creek Wetlands</td>
<td>Walworth County T2N R17E Section 7 City of Elkhorn</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Walworth County Land Trust</td>
<td>Wetland complex, including prairie fen, along Jackson Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Hill Cemetery Woods</td>
<td>Walworth County T2N R17E Section 25 City of Lake Geneva and Town of Geneva</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Good quality upland dry-mesic woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle Lake Fen</td>
<td>Walworth County T3N R15E Section 14 Town of Richmond</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Prairie fen on southwest side of Turtle Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voskuil Dry Prairie</td>
<td>Walworth County T2N R15E Section 1 Town of Darien</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Town of Darien and private</td>
<td>Good quality dry prairie on long exposed ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Bell Lake Bog</td>
<td>Washington County T9N R19E Section 25 Town of Richfield</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Good quality floating bog mat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohlsville River Upland Woods and Wetlands</td>
<td>Washington County T11N R19E Section 7 Town of Barton</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Complex of upland and lowland woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Oconomowoc River Woods and Wetlands</td>
<td>Washington County T9N R18E Section 33 Town of Erin</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>Town of Erin or Washington County and private</td>
<td>Dry-mesic woods and wetland complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike Lake Wetlands—South</td>
<td>Washington County T10N R18E Sections 23, 26 Town of Hartford</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Wetland complex, including sedge meadow and shrub-carr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regner Park Woods</td>
<td>Washington County T11N R19E Section 11 City of West Bend</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>City of West Bend</td>
<td>Small, but good quality dry-mesic woods within urban park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A total of 104 Critical Species Habitat sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Sixty-three of these showed net increases, while 41 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—588 acres—occurred in the Vernon Marsh with the inclusion of additional surrounding wetlands.
Table 2
NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT AREAS LISTED IN SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 42 THAT HAVE BEEN UPGRADED IN CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Former Classification</th>
<th>Revised Classification</th>
<th>Reasons for Upgrading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Root River Bike Trail Woods</td>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>City of Franklin</td>
<td>Critical Species Habitat</td>
<td>NA-3 Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huiras Lake Woods and Bog</td>
<td>Ozaukee County</td>
<td>Town of Fredonia</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>NA-1 Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife Service Area</td>
<td>Ozaukee County</td>
<td>Town of Grafton</td>
<td>Critical Species Habitat</td>
<td>NA-3 Improved wildlife habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Knoll Swamp</td>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>Town of Jackson</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>NA-2 Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Swamp State Natural Area</td>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>Town of Jackson</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>NA-1 Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike Lake Woods</td>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>Town of Hartford</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>NA-2 Additional field surveys by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC staff biologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawyer Road Sedge Meadow</td>
<td>Waukesha County</td>
<td>Town of Summit</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
<td>NA-2 Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stute Springs (formerly “Mounded Fen”)</td>
<td>Waukesha County</td>
<td>Town of Eagle</td>
<td>Critical Species Habitat</td>
<td>NA-3 Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old World Wisconsin Marsh</td>
<td>Waukesha County</td>
<td>Town of Eagle</td>
<td>Critical Species Habitat</td>
<td>NA-3 Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SEWRPC.

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES IN THE REGION

Vertebrate animal (mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and fish) and vascular plant species found in Southeastern Wisconsin that were officially listed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, on the “Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working List,” were identified in SEWRPC Planning Report Number 42. Specifically, that list named 20 plant and 19 vertebrate animal species known to occur in the Region as endangered; 25 plant and 17 animal species of the Region as threatened; and 69 plant and 61 animal species of the Region as special concern.

Since preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, the Bureau of Endangered Resources has updated its list periodically, adding or removing species and changing the status of other species as more knowledge is obtained about native species, as species become more or less rare, and as the degree of endangerment increases or decreases. Currently, 18 vertebrate animal species of the Region are listed as endangered; 20 are listed as threatened; and 59 are listed as special concern. Table 3 lists the revisions that have been made in the status of the Region’s critical vertebrate animal species.
Critical plant species determined to be, at least historically, part of the regional flora now include 23 endangered plant species, 33 threatened plant species, and 97 special concern plant species. These changes in totals are due to a combination of factors, including changes in species classification by the Bureau of Endangered Resources, newly discovered regional species, and the most recent revisions in the taxonomic nomenclature classifying species.

Recent and reliable records, however, only include 112 (73 percent) of these original plant species as having a good probability of remaining in the Region today. Accordingly, it is estimated that 41, or 27 percent, of these critical plant species have been extirpated from the Region. Of the 112 listed plant species for which there are current records, 16, or 14 percent, are classified as endangered (see Table 4); 22, or 20 percent, are classified as threatened (see Table 5); and 74, or 66 percent, are classified as special concern (see Table 6).

In addition to the Region's endangered, threatened, and special concern plant species, a number of species may have relatively extensive and apparently stable statewide populations, but may still be of high concern on a regional level. New information concerning uncommon plant species abundances and distribution in the Region has led to a reconsideration of their status. A total of 298 plant species considered to be regionally uncommon were listed in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42. Additional field surveys revealed that some species originally listed as uncommon were more abundant and/or widespread than suspected, while others, not listed, were less common than first thought. Accordingly, the list of regionally uncommon plant species was adjusted to reflect these new data. These plant species have been determined to exist at such low densities at so few locations in the Region, or whose habitat is threatened, as to be vulnerable to local extirpation. All populations are therefore noteworthy. It should be noted that although these regionally uncommon plant species are not considered critical species for purposes of this report, they occur in such low numbers or in such restricted locations in the Region that it is recommended that their status be monitored and their locations tracked.
Table 4

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 2007
(latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Listed in PR-42</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agalinis skinneriana</td>
<td>Pale foxglove</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Very rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armoracia lacustris</td>
<td>Lake cress</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias purpurascens</td>
<td>Purple milkweed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camassia scilloides</td>
<td>Wild-hyacinth</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex crus-corvi</td>
<td>Crow-spur sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very few locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex lupuliformis</td>
<td>Hoplike sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Identification difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collinsia canadensis</td>
<td>Canada horse-balm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conioselinum chinense</td>
<td>Hemlock-parsley</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleocharis quadrangulata</td>
<td>Square-stem spike-rush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriogonum bulbosa</td>
<td>Harbinger-of-spring</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fimbristylis puberula</td>
<td>Chestnut sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lespedeza leptostachya</td>
<td>Prairie lespedeza</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhlenbergia richardsonis</td>
<td>Mat muhly</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox glaberrima</td>
<td>Smooth phlox</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantago cordata</td>
<td>Heart-leaved plantain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Two known native populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanthera leucophaea</td>
<td>Prairie white-fringed orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All individuals should be protected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polygala incarnata</td>
<td>Pink milkwort</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenanthes aspera</td>
<td>Rough rattlesnake-root</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pterospora andromeda</td>
<td>Giant pinedrops</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranunculus cymbalaria</td>
<td>Alkali buttercup</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruellia humilis</td>
<td>Wild petunia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>One known population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago caesia</td>
<td>Bluestem goldenrod</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>May be locally common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trisetum melicoides</td>
<td>False melic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Revised from Special Concern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

Protections provided natural areas and critical species habitats under Federal policies and regulations are limited. The major remedies available under Federal law generally relate to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of federally designated endangered and threatened animal and plant species and migratory game and nongame birds. No Federal regulations have been promulgated per se to protect natural areas and critical species habitats identified by Federal agencies or by States. However, regulations have been promulgated which require consideration of endangered and threatened animal and plant species, and certain high quality habitats, in the issuance of Federal permits and other approvals. Further, programs which grant funds, usually to State agencies, have been enacted. These funds may be used to acquire and manage natural areas and critical species habitats in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Protection of natural areas and critical species habitats under State policies and regulations is also limited. The major remedies available under State law, as with Federal law, generally relate to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of Federally designated and State-designated endangered and threatened plant species, and game and nongame animal species. However, even endangered or threatened plant species do not receive the same level of protective consideration that extends to native animal species, the latter being considered property of the State. Further, no State regulations have been promulgated to directly protect natural areas and critical species habitats, unless they are located within designated State natural areas owned or managed, or both, by the State. Designated State natural areas on privately held lands and non-State owned public lands are managed only under a mutual-agreement (Articles of Dedication) policy. Similarly, the State has promulgated rules for the establishment of conservation easements that may be applied to privately held lands. When combined with sound conservation management plans, such easements may be an effective method to ensure the long term protection of natural areas, critical species habitats, and significant geological and archaeological sites.
# Table 5

THREATENED PLANT SPECIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 2007  
(latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Listed in PR-42</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agalinis gattingeri</td>
<td>Round-stem foxglove</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agastache nepetoides</td>
<td>Yellow giant hyssop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerorchis rotundifolia</td>
<td>Round-leaved orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias lanuginosa</td>
<td>Wooly milkweed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias ovalifolia</td>
<td>Dwarf milkweed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed in Planning Report No. 42 as Uncommon; changed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias sullivantii</td>
<td>Sullivant's milkweed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Grows in mesic prairies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster furcatus</td>
<td>Forked aster</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Besseya bullii</td>
<td>Kittentails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A species of oak savannas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cacalia plantaginea</td>
<td>Prairie Indian plantain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= C. tuberosa and Arnoglossum plantagineum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamovilfa longifolia var. magna</td>
<td>Sand reed grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Lake Michigan sand dunes and beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex formosa</td>
<td>Handsome sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Changed from Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex garberi</td>
<td>Elk sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirsium hillii</td>
<td>Hill’s thistle</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypripedium arietinum</td>
<td>Ram’s-head lady’s-slipper</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Extremely rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypripedium candidum</td>
<td>Small white lady’s-slipper</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A species of wet-mesic prairies and fens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drosera linearis</td>
<td>Linear-leaf sundew</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>One population in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echinacea pallida</td>
<td>Pale purple coneflower</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleocharis rostellata</td>
<td>Beaked spike-rush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>In calcareous fens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elyrigia dysstachya subsp. psammophila</td>
<td>Thickspike wheatgrass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= Elymus lanceolatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus quadrangulata</td>
<td>Blue ash</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very few sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentiana alba</td>
<td>Cream gentian</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypericum sphaerocarpum</td>
<td>Round-seeded St. John’s-wort</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Very rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris lacustris</td>
<td>Dwarf lake iris</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orobanche fasciculata</td>
<td>Clustered broom-rape</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parthenium integrifolium</td>
<td>Wild quine</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mesic prairies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanthera flavescens</td>
<td>Tubercled orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa paludigena</td>
<td>Patterson’s bluegrass</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polytaenia nutallii</td>
<td>Prairie-parsley</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribes oxyacanthoides</td>
<td>Canadian gooseberry</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scirpus cespitosus</td>
<td>Tussock buirush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Changed from Endangered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofieldia glutinosa</td>
<td>False asphodel</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trillium nivele</td>
<td>Snow trillium</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A very early blooming species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valeriana uliginosa</td>
<td>Marsh valerian</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An equal sign indicates that the species is known by other names.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

The State of Wisconsin has created some programs, however, which both directly and indirectly affect the protection of natural areas and critical species habitats if they are located in wetlands or are located in sanitary sewer service areas designated under the Clean Water Act. The presence of State-designated or Federally designated rare, threatened, or endangered species and their critical habitats, as well as the presence of high-quality natural areas within the State's wetlands and in primary environmental corridors, does have an effect on the issuance of necessary permits, water quality certifications, and approvals for activities not consistent with the protection of these species and areas. In addition, the State of Wisconsin has enacted programs under which funds may be made available to the Department of Natural Resources, county and local units of government, and to nonprofit conservation organizations to locate, evaluate, acquire, protect, and manage important natural areas and critical species habitats in Southeastern Wisconsin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Listed in PR-42</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adlumia fungosa</td>
<td>Climbing fumitory</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Recent addition to historic regional flora; possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrimonia parviflora</td>
<td>Swamp agrimony</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aplectrum hyemale</td>
<td>Adam-and-Eve</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabis shortii</td>
<td>Short’s rock-cress</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arethusa bulbosa</td>
<td>Swamp-pink</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemisia dracunculus</td>
<td>Dragon sage-wort</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemisia frigida</td>
<td>Fringed sage-wort</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athyrium pycocarpon</td>
<td>Glade fern</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>= Diplazium pycnocarpon; possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cacalia muhlenbergii</td>
<td>Great Indian plantain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= Arnoglossum reniforme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cakile edentula</td>
<td>Sea rocket</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Along Lake Michigan beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamagrostis stricta</td>
<td>Slim-stem reed grass</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardamine pratensis</td>
<td>Cuckoo flower</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex crawei</td>
<td>Crape sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex graciescens</td>
<td>Slender wood sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex gynocrates</td>
<td>Northern bog sedge</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex livida</td>
<td>Livid sedge</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex palesscens</td>
<td>Pale sedge</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex richardsonii</td>
<td>Richardson’s sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex suberecta</td>
<td>Prairie straw sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex swanii</td>
<td>Swan’s sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very few populations in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex sylvinephila</td>
<td>Many-headed sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very few populations in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex tenuiflora</td>
<td>Sparse-flowered sedge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex torreyi</td>
<td>Torrey’s sedge</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Very few populations in Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceratophyllum echinatum</td>
<td>Spiny hornwort</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirsiurn fiddlini</td>
<td>Fiddlini’s thistle</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</td>
<td>Late coralroot orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>An inconspicuous orchid species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis lancelotata</td>
<td>Sand coreopsis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly naturalized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypripedium parviflorum</td>
<td>Small yellow lady’s-slipper</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypripedium pubescens</td>
<td>Large yellow lady’s-slipper</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypripedium reginae</td>
<td>Showy lady’s-slipper</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deschampsia caespitosa</td>
<td>Tufted hair grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryopteris clinotiana</td>
<td>Clinton’s wood fern</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleocharis compressa</td>
<td>Flat-stemmed spike-rush</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleocharis olivacea</td>
<td>Bright green spike-rush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleocharis pauciflora</td>
<td>Few-flowered spike-rush</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>= E. quinqueflora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilobium strictum</td>
<td>Downy willow-herb</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equisetum palustre</td>
<td>Marsh horsetail</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equisetum varieatum</td>
<td>Variegated horsetail</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eupatorium sessilfolium</td>
<td>Woodland boneset</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphorbia polygonofolia</td>
<td>Seaside spurge</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca paradoxa</td>
<td>Cluster fescue</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentianopsis procera</td>
<td>Lesser fringed gentian</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= Gentiana procera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</td>
<td>Wild licorice</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnocladus dioica</td>
<td>Kentucky coffee tree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastelia suaveolens</td>
<td>Sweet Indian plantain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= Cacalia suaveolens; listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hibiscus palustris</td>
<td>Rose mallow</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>= H. moschutus; nativity questionable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houstonia caerulea</td>
<td>Bluets</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= Hedycris caerulea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrastis canadensis</td>
<td>Goldenseal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</td>
<td>Great waterleaf</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffersonia diphylla</td>
<td>Twinleaf</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juglans cinerea</td>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Listed in PR-42</td>
<td>Notes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juncus marginatus</td>
<td>Grass-leaved rush</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Recent addition to regional flora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liatris spicata</td>
<td>Marsh blazing-star</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithospermum latifolium</td>
<td>American gromwell</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaxis brachypoda</td>
<td>White adders-mouth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= <em>M. monophyllos</em> var. <em>brachypoda</em>; possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medeola virginiana</td>
<td>Indian cucumber-root</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myriophyllum farwellii</td>
<td>Farwell's water-milfoil</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaissa sylvatica</td>
<td>Black gum</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenothera serrulata</td>
<td>Yellow evening-primrose</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= <em>Calyptrhopus seerulatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophioglossum pusillum</td>
<td>Northern adder's-tongue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opuntia humifusa</td>
<td>Eastern prickly-pear cactus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orobanche uniflora</td>
<td>Cancer-root</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panax quinquefolius</td>
<td>Wild ginseng</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panicum wilcoxianum</td>
<td>Wilcox's panic grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon hirsutus</td>
<td>Hairy beard-tongue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon palidius</td>
<td>Pale beard-tongue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phegopterus hexagonoptera</td>
<td>Broad beechn fern</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox bifida</td>
<td>Sand phlox</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanthera dilatata</td>
<td>White bog orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanthera hookeri</td>
<td>Hooker's orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanthera orbiculata</td>
<td>Large round-leaved orchid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus occidentalis</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Few native occurrences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polygala cruciata</td>
<td>Cross milkwort</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polystichum acrostichoides</td>
<td>Christmas fern</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptelea trifoliata</td>
<td>Hoptree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus muehlenbergii</td>
<td>Chinkapin oak</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satureja arkansana</td>
<td>Limestone calamint</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= <em>Calamintha arkansana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scirpus heterochaetus</td>
<td>Slender bulrush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>= <em>Schoenoplectus heterochaetus</em>; listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scirpus hudsonianus</td>
<td>Alpine cotton-grass</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>= <em>Trichophorum alpinum</em>; <em>Eriophorum alpinum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scleria trigomera</td>
<td>Tall nut-rush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scleria verticillata</td>
<td>Low nut-rush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scutellaria ovata</td>
<td>Heart-leaved skullcap</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senecio plattensis</td>
<td>Prairie ragwort</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</td>
<td>Stout blue-eyed-grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago ohiodensis</td>
<td>Ohio goldenrod</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talinum rugospermum</td>
<td>Flame-flower</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Probably extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxus canadensis</td>
<td>Canada yew</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalictrum revolutum</td>
<td>Marsh meadow-rue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thaspium trifolium</td>
<td>Purple meadow-parsnip</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly extirpated from Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifolium aquilinatum</td>
<td>Eared false foxglove</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recently re-discovered in State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglochin matimica</td>
<td>Bog arrow-grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglochin palustris</td>
<td>Marsh arrow-grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trillium recurvatum</td>
<td>Red trillium</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Locally common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmularia purpurea</td>
<td>Spotted bladdernert</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena simplex</td>
<td>Narrow-leaved vervain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum prunifolium</td>
<td>Blackhaw</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>In dry-mesic woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola rostrata</td>
<td>Long-spurred violet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An equal sign indicates that the species is known by other names.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following is a summary of the recommended changes to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan under the plan amendment:

- **Changes to the Natural Area site recommendations:** The original plan recommended that 427 Natural Area sites, totaling approximately 88 square miles, be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that 472 of the 494 identified Natural Area sites, or 96 percent, totaling 98.3 square miles, would now be placed in protective public or private ownership. That total includes all 44 of the newly identified natural area sites. A summary of the recommended protective ownership of the newly identified Natural Area Sites that are not currently under protective ownership is shown in Table 7.

- **Changes to the critical species habitat recommendations:** The original plan recommended that 110 Critical Species Habitat sites, totaling approximately 21 square miles, be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that 190 of the 256 identified Critical Species Habitat Area sites, or 74 percent, totaling 19.2 square miles, would now be placed in protective public or private ownership. That includes 133 of the newly identified critical species habitat sites, that is, those located within Commission-delineated primary environmental corridors, whose total area is 3,808 acres. A summary of the recommended protective ownership of the newly identified Critical Species Habitat Area Sites that are not currently under protective ownership is shown in Table 7.

---

### Table 7

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP OF NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY PROTECTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Acquisition Agency</th>
<th>Site Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>NA-2</td>
<td>NA-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Unit of Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Management District</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE Energies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Conservancy Organization</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be properly managed without protective ownership</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This total does not include the 54 of the 133 newly identified Critical Species Habitat sites that are currently completely or partially under protective ownership.

Source: SEWRPC.
• Changes to grassland bird nesting habitat recommendation: The original plan recommended that a total of 21.3 square miles of grassland be established and managed to provide suitable nesting habitat for grassland nesting birds. The proposed plan update recommends that an additional 7.8 square miles be added to the area of grassland bird nesting habitat at the Lulu Lake site (see Map 2).

• Changes to woodland (forest interior bird habitat) recommendation: No changes are recommended to the original woodland forest interior bird habitat area.

• Changes to the geological area recommendations: The original plan recommended that 71 of the 86 identified geological sites, totaling 35.6 square miles, be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that the single newly identified geological area—the West Bend Kames—be protected under a scenic easement held by an appropriate private conservation organization, such as the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (see Map 3).

• Changes to the Archaeological site recommendations: There are no changes recommended to the original archaeological site recommendations.

• Recommended 2005 ADID wetland updates: Under the Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working in coordination with other Federal agencies and the States, may identify certain wetlands and other waters that are generally unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. Under these guidelines the Federal agencies have developed the Advanced Identification of Disposal Areas (ADID) in wetlands program (40 CFR 230.80). This program is an advisory procedure intended to add predictability to the Section 404 wetland permitting process and better account for the impacts of wetland losses from multiple projects within a geographic area. In 1985, ADID wetlands were identified and designated by the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Commission for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The Southeastern Wisconsin ADID waters “include lakes, streams, and wetlands” located within the Commission delineated primary environmental corridors as they were shown on the Commission’s 1980 Regional Plan maps.

Proposals to discharge any dredge or fill materials into wetlands and other waters of the United States require adherence to the Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines of the Act. Under these Guidelines, the discharge of any dredge or fill materials into designated natural areas, critical species habitat areas, and aquatic habitats identified in the plan would be subject to the conditions, set forth in Section 40 CFR Part 230.10(b). Accordingly, projects proposed in ADID waters would not be likely to receive a section 404 permit under these guidelines.

The updated plan, utilizing the 2005 Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as a base, recommends that the Region’s ADID wetlands be updated to include those wetlands and other surface waters located in the 2005 primary environmental
PLAN COSTS

The total cost of land acquisition recommended under the plan is estimated at $589.7 million. These costs would be distributed as follows: State government--$267.7 million, or 45 percent; county governments--$96.5 million, or 16 percent; local governments--$35.6 million, or 6 percent; and private conservancy organizations--$189.9 million, or 32 percent. Of the $589.7 million in plan implementation costs, about $482.1 million, or 82 percent, would be associated with recommendations that have been made in prior State, regional, county, and local plans, and do not, therefore, represent proposed new expenditures. If the recommended plan were to be implemented over a 20-year period, the average annual cost, expressed in constant 2008 dollars, would approximate $29.5 million, or $14.75 per capita.

Aquatic Habitat Survey: Finally, the plan recommends that a separate survey designed to update the aquatic natural area habitats be conducted under the direction of a technical advisory committee consisting of experts in the area of aquatic resources.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AREAS IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Dr. Susan E. Lewis..........................................................Professor of Biology, Carroll College; Director, Greene Field Station; Member, State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council
Chairman

Dr. Donald M. Reed..........................................................Chief Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Secretary

Fay U. Amerson ..........................................................Urban Conservation Specialist, Walworth County

Dr. Philip J. Arnholt.......................................................Professor of Science, Biology Department, Concordia University

Susan Black .................................................................Parks Director, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Dr. Owen Boyle.............................................................Regional Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr. ...................................................Member, Board of Directors, Land Trust of Walworth County

Shawn Graff .................................................................Executive Director, The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

Duane Grimm .................................................................Waukesha County Park System Manager

Andrew A. Holschbach ..................................................Land Conservation Director, Ozaukee County

Signe L. Holtz .................................................................Director, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

B. Martinus Johnson .......................................................Wildlife Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Marlin P. Johnson ........................................................................Associate Professor Emeritus, Field Station Manager, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Waukesha Center; Vice President, Waukesha County Land Conservancy

Mary J. Lichter .......................................................................Parks Director, Kenosha County Parks

James P. Morrissey ............................................................Land/Facilities Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Paul E. Mueller .................................................................Administrator, Washington County Land Use and Parks Department

Dr. Patricia Nagai .............................................................Horticulture Educator, UW Extension Service, Racine County

Kevin L. Shafer .................................................................Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Dr. Stephen L. Solheim .....................................................Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin Whitewater

Scott Thompson ...............................................................Director of Freshwater Conservation, Wisconsin Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Marc White .................................................................Director of Research, Stewardship, and Adult Education, Riveredge Nature Center

Dr. Joy J. Wolf .................................................................Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS WITHIN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION BY COUNTY: 2005

KENOSHA COUNTY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

OZAUKEE COUNTY

ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS
Map 4 (continued)

RACINE COUNTY

ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS

WALWORTH COUNTY

ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS
ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS

Map 4 (continued)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Further information on the regional natural areas and critical species habitat study, including all study materials—Advisory Committee meeting minutes, plan chapters, presentations, and study reports—are all available from the Commission.

Phone: (262) 547-6721
Fax: (262) 547-1103
Mail: W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607
E-mail: sewrpc@sewrpc.org

This newsletter was mailed directly to a list of individuals and organizations that have expressed interest in receiving such information. If you did not receive this newsletter directly, and would like to receive future issues, please contact the Commission using the contact information above.

Background..............................................................................................................................................................................p. 1
Study Public Informational Meetings ........................................................................................................................................p. 1
Implementation of the Original Plan Recommendations ........................................................................................................p. 2
Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites that have been Identified Since Completion of the Original Plan ........p. 3
Changes to the Original Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites ................................................................................p. 3
Changes in Status of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Plant and Animal Species in the Region.................p. 8
Changes to Natural Area-, Critical Species-, and Critical Species Habitat-Related Laws and Policies ................................p. 10
Recommended Changes to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan ............p. 14
Plan Costs ..................................................................................................................................................................................p. 16
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

HAVE INPUT – ATTEND A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is encouraging public review and comment on a preliminary update of the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

The Natural Areas Plan updates a 1997 document which identified the most important remaining natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in Southeastern Wisconsin. Such areas are essential for environmental diversity, preservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals, outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and quality of life in the Region. They serve as a benchmark to help measure the impacts of changing land uses.

Public informational meetings, each at 5:00-7:00 p.m., will be held in latter April. The purpose of these meetings is to brief residents of the Region on the preliminary recommended update to the plan and to provide an opportunity for comment. Staff will be available in an “open house” format from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information. A brief presentation of the plan will be made by staff at 6:00 p.m. Written comments may be submitted anytime during the meetings, including by speaking to a court reporter.

The meeting schedule is shown below; and more information, including a newsletter with maps, is on the Commission’s website: www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Building/Room</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2009</td>
<td>Riveredge Nature Center</td>
<td>4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, Newburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2009</td>
<td>Boerner Botanical Gardens, Visitor Center Multi-Media Room</td>
<td>9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 2009</td>
<td>Kenosha County Center</td>
<td>19600 75th Street, Bristol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2009</td>
<td>Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters -Southern Unit, Wisconsin DNR</td>
<td>S91 W39091 Highway 59, Eagle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following the meetings, a record of public comments will be assembled. This will be provided to a Technical Advisory Committee and to the Commission for consideration in preparing a final recommended plan.

Persons with special needs are asked to contact the Commission offices a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the meeting date so that appropriate arrangements can be made. This may involve site access, mobility, materials review or interpretation, questions or comments, or other needs.

The comment period extends through May 15, 2009, with opportunities to submit comments during or after the public meetings. To forward written comments on the Natural Areas Plan update, to view a paper copy or see other SEWRPC materials online, or to ask questions, please contact:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Phone: 262-547-6721 Fax: 262-547-1103
www.sewrpc.org
email: lleitner@sewrpc.org
Exhibit A-3

NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS WERE PURCHASED
FOR THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS: April 21 – 30, 2009

CSI Community Shoppers (Walworth County)
Daily News (West Bend)
El Conquistador (Greater Milwaukee area)
Freeman (Waukesha)
Insider News (Greater Racine area)
Journal Times (Racine)
Kenosha News
Lake Country Sunday Post (western Waukesha County)
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Milwaukee Times
News Graphic (Ozaukee County)
Oconomowoc Enterprise

NOTE: The set of four meetings was also promoted by means of a news release sent to the above newspapers. Ads in El Conquistador were published in both Spanish and English.
Regional Natural Areas Plan Update

-- at a glance --

This is a regional planning effort of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) working under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Committee. The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha, which contain 146 cities, villages, and towns.

The planning report

The Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region updates a 1997 document identifying the most important natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region. Recommendations are made on protecting the best remaining examples of such features on the landscape.

Importance of key natural areas

Very little of the Region's original vegetation or relatively pristine habitat remains intact. Natural areas which have escaped clearing, plowing, development, and other alterations thus become very important to protect. This is true of environmental corridors and wetlands, and is particularly true for significant natural areas, critical species habitat areas, and related sites. Such areas are essential for environmental diversity, preservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals, outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and quality of life in the Region. These features serve as a benchmark to help us measure the impacts of changing land uses.

Today's status

Twenty-one natural area sites recommended for protective ownership in SEWRPC's 1997 Natural Areas Plan have since been acquired, at least in part. This translates to 1,261 acres of natural areas which have been placed under protective ownership by public and private agencies, including land trust organizations.

A total of 44 additional natural areas, 133 additional critical species habitat areas, and one new geological site have been identified since the original plan was prepared. In some cases, these additions reflect the improved management or natural recovery of land parcels so that their natural area value has increased. In other cases, additional sites were identified because of new records of plants or animals which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

What lies ahead

The 1997 Natural Areas Plan recommended the protection of over 56,000 acres of significant natural areas, about 26,000 acres of which were already under protective ownership (about 46 percent). That leaves over half of the most rare, and most fragile, landscape sites in southeastern Wisconsin still in need of protection, even after the recent acquisition of 1,261 acres. These acreage numbers for protection are actually quite modest when compared to our Region of nearly 2,700 square miles (1.72 million acres).

When completed and adopted, the Plan will be an important source of information to State, county and local units of government, and to private interests, so that the preservation of key natural resource gems may be properly considered as proposals for development within the Region are advanced. More information is available at www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/.

Natural Areas Plan/Glance

#144023 v1

GKK/gk, 4/13/09
News Release

April 13, 2009
Release No. 09-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEWRPC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public informational meetings have been announced on an important plan update regarding natural areas in southeastern Wisconsin. Scheduled over the last 10 days of April, and spanning Earth Day, the meetings will help explain and take comments on recommendations to protect the most important natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region.

Leading the planning effort is the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

The following 5:00-7:00 p.m. meetings are scheduled for April 2009:

- April 21 at Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, a mile north of STH 33 on CTH Y northeast of Newburg;
- April 22 at Boerner Botanical Gardens in the Visitor Center Multi-Media Room, 9400 Boerner Drive in Whitnall Park, Hales Corners;
- April 28 at the Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, at the intersection of USH 45 and STH 50, Bristol;
April 30 at the Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters – Southern Unit, S91 W39091 Highway 59, west of the Village of Eagle.

Staff will be available in an “open house” format from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information. A brief presentation of the Natural Areas Plan will be made by staff at 6:00 p.m. Persons with special needs are asked to contact the SEWRPC offices at 262-547-6721 a minimum of 72 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Comments may be submitted anytime during the meetings, including by speaking to a court reporter. The comment period extends through May 15, 2009, with written comments also welcome by mail, fax, email, or on the Commission’s website: SEWRPC, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, WI 53187-1607; fax 262-547-1103; lleitner@sewrpc.org; or www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/.

The plan update recommends the protection of 44 additional natural areas, 133 additional critical species habitat areas, and one new geological area, which have been identified in the Region since the first Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin was prepared in 1997. In some cases, these additions reflect the improved management or natural recovery of land parcels so that their natural area value has increased. In other cases, additional sites were identified because of new records of plants or animals which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Such additions to the plan will be discussed during the public meetings, and are identified in a detailed newsletter available from the Commission.

Following the comment deadline of May 15, 2009, a record of public comments will be assembled. This will be provided to a Technical Advisory Committee and to the Regional Planning Commission for consideration in preparing a final recommended plan.
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Exhibit B

RECORD OF PUBLIC MEETINGS CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
(This page intentionally left blank)
PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public comments taken before
DAVIE COX, Notary Public in and
for the State of Wisconsin, at
Riveredge Nature Center, 4438 West
Hawthorne Drive, Newburg, Wisconsin,
on April 21st, 2009, commencing at
5:00 p.m. and concluding at
7:13 p.m.

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735 North Water Street, Suite W105
Milwaukee, WI 53202
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(608) 456-4521

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Ms. Jennifer Rothstein...............3

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BENJAMIN ARNOLD: Preserve as much land
as you can.

JENNIFER ROTHEIM: I guess my main
concern is that since there can be a long period of
time, many, many years between the updates of the
plans and since Dr. Reed had spoken to the issue of
the fact that the science can change over that
time. I am very interested in there being some sort
of a specific written process by which we, the
counties, could possibly amend the natural areas
plan on an ongoing basis between these major
updates, and you know, again, have that written
process. To be able to deal with a couple of
different things, to be able to add sites that we
would find that would meet whatever this written
process is, methodology would be for approving, if
you will, that these are sites that should be
added, whether it be an expert in the area, the
DNR, the federal government, whatever, for us to be
able to do that on a county level and have that go
into the plan, and also along with that, to be able
to add new sites, and also if SEMRPC could get to
us documentation of lost or degraded sites that had
been listed in the original plan from 1997 that are
no longer available. Put in there somehow, in this
written process, to tell, if you tell the county, you
know, what criteria they need to use, what field
studies they need to use or whatever it is, data
resources, or whatever they need to make it as
specific as possible so that, you know, we have a
plan that we can work off and fulfill the needs of
what they're looking for to allow this to occur.
BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  

I, DANIELLE K. COX, Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above public oaths were recorded by me on April 21, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 27th day of April, 2009.

Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

EXHIBIT B-2

TRANSCRIPTED COMMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORD, PUBLIC MEETINGS, HALE'S CORNERS, WISCONSIN, APRIL 22, 2009

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS
PLAN UPDATE.

Public Comment taken before KAREN RENEE,
Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center, Whitnall Park,
9480 Moerheld Drive, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, on
April 22, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m. and concluding
at 7:30 p.m.

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WAYNE B. PETER: Buy all of the land.
We need all the forest land and wet lands we can get.
I would like slightly bigger maps so I
know where to go.

(Proceedings concluded at 7:30 p.m.)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

I, KAREN RENEE, Notary Public in and for
the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above
Public Comment was recorded by me on April 22, 2009, and
reduced to writing under my personal direction.
I further certify that I am not a
relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of
the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney
or counsel, or financially interested directly or
indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 23rd day of April, 2009.

Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: March 11, 2012

735 North Water Street, Suite M-105
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 324-9202
(800) 465-9071
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Please Print)</th>
<th>Agency/Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Kellner</td>
<td>MILWAUKEE PARKS</td>
<td>2704 S. 61st St.</td>
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<td>Larry Johnson</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>Mike Filiatre</td>
<td>Friends of St. Francis St. Fund</td>
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<td>Mark Kremer</td>
<td>KWA Environmental Language Center</td>
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<td>Darlene Lockhart</td>
<td>CCFOPF</td>
<td>836 E. River St.</td>
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<td>Paul Ryan</td>
<td>Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Wayne Peters</td>
<td>430 S. 60th St.</td>
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<td>Mary Lee</td>
<td>Wisconsin Conservancy</td>
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<td>Fred Wieland</td>
<td>9228 Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Rick Anderson</td>
<td>2046 S. 97th St.</td>
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<td>Jennifer Brown</td>
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<td>Brenda Shankow</td>
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<td>John Bouchard</td>
<td>TINLW Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Busquet</td>
<td>Milwaukee Art Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Wolslama</td>
<td>719 Adams St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Witt</td>
<td>1956 N. 53rd St. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Cacotte</td>
<td>3137 S. 60th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Hafer</td>
<td>Milwaukee County Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Cafferty</td>
<td>LT of WC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Cafferty</td>
<td>1956 N. 53rd St. 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATE: April 22, 2009

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Door County Botanical Gardens
Visitor Center
9460 Dorrer Drive
Hilo Corners, WI
Public Comments taken before MARY RING, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at Waukesha County Office Building, 19000 75th Street, Bristol, Wisconsin, on April 28, 2009, commencing at 5:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:07 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

I, MARY RING, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above Public Hearing was recorded by me on April 28, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of the attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of any person or firm directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 4th day of May, 2009.

Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin


PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

DATE: April 28, 2009
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Waukesha County Center
200 N. Main Street
Bristol, WI

There were no citizen comments.
PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public comments taken before
RACHEL DWIGHT, a Notary Public in and
for the State of Wisconsin, at
Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters -
Southern Unit, South 91 N89991 Highway 59,
Eagle, Wisconsin, on April 30, 2009,
commencing at 6:10 p.m. and concluding
at 7:30 p.m.

RICHARD BARLOGA: I was at the Whitnall
Park meeting and in reading through the report I
noticed that the Groton Estates Preserve which is
listed here is -- in the report, it's listed as
being owned by the City of Greendale. And it's
actually owned by the Village of Greendale, so
that's a minor error. They mention Greendale in
the report as to where it's located, but it's
actually located -- it's owned by the Village of
Greendale.

Then there's a site called the Carity Prairie
and I'm just, like, suggesting they consider a name
change, Carity Prairie is fine, but what they're
descrying is as mostly an area of shooting stars
and shrubs. And the site is owned by the Milwaukee
Area Land Conservancy and we have found 140 species
of plants on the site. So although it is
Milwaukee County's largest remaining population of
shooting stars, it is described -- it also has
Milwaukee County's largest remaining population of
New Jersey tea. That's the scientific name for the
species. And here is a picture of the -- there are
sedge meadows on the site, so, for example, this
area is dominated by hurrex sedge (Phanero), so

I'm just suggesting that they review the title and
call it mainly shooting stars and shrubs. And it's
because it is a prairie sedge meadow and savannah
complex that that name would or some other name
would probably be more accurate.

It's also at the headwaters of Legend Creek, a
tributary to the river. So it could be Legend
Creek Headwaters. Well, you know, there are
watersheds, so if water is coming from the top of
the watershed sometimes the term headwaters is
fine.

So at this point we've invested about $30,000
in brush control, so, and it's in permanent
conservation ownership, so if anything its
quality's going to improve. So in this report here
it's described as mostly shrubs and shooting stars,
and I'm just trying to say that it's substantially
more than that. Here is a picture. This is the
sedge portion. This is a photograph of New Jersey
tea. It's the shrub of the prairie, so the
population there is probably 300 plants. It
doesn't sound like it's very big, but in the rest
of Milwaukee County there's probably ten plants.

There's a Milwaukee County-owned park called
Bender Park located along Lake Michigan, and
there's a woodland described in that report as being the north woods, but what I'm saying is that looking at Planning Report 43, the previous report and this one, I don't hear this --- I didn't notice a little that would describe a beach woodland in Bender Park that's located along the north side of Fitzsimmons Road. I use the word extended because Fitzsimmons Road is now blocked off that far east, so the site is that orange dot on the map. So this beach woodland does have a population of the blue stem goldenrod. It's a state endangered species. Its scientific name is Solidago caesia, so it's also listed in the report. So the report is generally protective of sites with critical species habitat and it may be a newly listed site, one of the 43, but in my reading of it, it didn't seem like it had been picked up. So I'm suggesting that because as one of the remaining populations of beach trees and blue stem goldenrod that it be included.

This site is a wooded wetland portion of the site that extends south of Fitzsimmons Road, this one here. The upland portion is about five acres and the woodland south of Fitzsimmons Road is another five or more acres. Both sites are located about 800 feet from Lake Michigan. That site. I'm going to describe a portion of the site north of Fitzsimmons Woods. It does have vernal pond. That means a spring pond, so this pond is filled in the winter and then in dry years will dry completely up. And the two species of concern in that vernal pond are sedge, Carex tuckermanii (phonetic). I have photos available and I've documented it repeatedly. It's regarded as being very rare in the region, and it may be that it has not been seen in the region, but I do have pictures here. And it also has one of the two hop sedge, so the report indicates that there's a sedge called Carex tuckermanii, and it very similar in appearance to what's called common hop sedge. One of those is also very prominent in the vernal pond of the woods, so I respect the woods because it has both a canopy, a significant shrub layer and not just a scattering of wildflowers, but a continuous ground layer of wildflowers as evidenced in this picture.

There's one other site. The sites in the north half of Milwaukee County are extremely rare. In other words, they've been displaced, destroyed. And there's a woodland that's owned by a Catholic
COMMENT REGISTRATION FOR COURT REPORTER

No. _____

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 30, 2009
Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters-South Unit
S91 W39091 Highway 59
Eagle, Wisconsin

Name ____________________________ Affiliation ____________________________
Mailing Address __________________

Comments may be dictated to a court reporter or written and left at the registration table or given to a SEWRPC staff member. Written comment forms are available at the registration table. Additional comments will be accepted through May 15, 2009, and may be sent to the SEWRPC offices: W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607. Comments may also be submitted via fax, (262) 547-1103, e-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org, or online at www.sewrpc.org/regional
natural area plan update.

Thank you.

#143947
WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 22, 2009
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Name ________________________________________________

Affiliation __________________________________________

Mailing Address ______________________________________

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Comment ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

#143945
Exhibit C

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION AS PART OF PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS
Name: Anthony Kilian Rider
Affiliation: Landowners
Mailing Address: 6394 EY Rd W, Allenton, WI 53002

Comment: I am writing to submit this comment for the meeting.

I am concerned that the current level of development and associated growth in the residential area will severely impact wildlife and natural areas. The development plans include various conservation efforts, but it is unclear how these efforts will be implemented in practice.

I support the proposed changes to the Natural Area Plan and believe that they will help protect the natural resources in the area.

Thank you.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
8290 WIM 12 (Woodruff Dr.)
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail: info@sewpc.org

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009.

---

Name: Mike Degen
Affiliation: Friends of St. Francis Greenway
Mailing Address: 6130 S. New York, St. Francis, WI 53225

Comment: I am writing to submit this comment for the meeting.

I have concerns about the proposed development in the area and believe that it will have a negative impact on the natural resources.

Thank you.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
8290 WIM 12 (Woodruff Dr.)
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail: info@sewpc.org

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009.
Thank you for hosting the informational meeting concerning natural areas. It was wonderful to see Trestle Creek recognized as a 'critical special habitat,' in St. Francis. All I feel this area is a compliment (along with the efforts of the neighbors) to the nearby Seminary Woods. Along with the adjacent Trails, Lake Michigan and the primary environmental corridor, these special wildlife habitats, in close proximity to downtown Milwaukee (within 5 miles), certainly enhance the quality of life for citizens. It may also help Milwaukee in being recognized as a world class city.

April 30, 2009

The Waushara County Land Conservancy is a non-profit land trust whose mission is to preserve environmentally significant land in Waushara County. Since 1992, the organization has protected 2,201 acres of such lands.

The DEWRPC Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin plays a significant role in the work done by the Waushara County Land Conservancy. The Natural Areas Plan is the instrument the Conservancy uses for prioritizing its protection efforts. As there will never be enough money to buy all of the lands that might come up for sale in the County, the Conservancy must decide which lands have the greatest environmental significance. The Conservancy's biologist and board of directors make that determination after studying the DEWRPC Natural Areas Plan.

As a policy, the Waushara County Land Conservancy supports the study and work done to prepare this new edition of the Natural Areas Plan. For the Plan to be an effective tool, it must be kept up to date. DEWRPC's well respected scientists have done so in this edition of the Natural Areas Plan. Sites that were lost to development have been restored, and new, significant sites have been added. This will greatly help the Waushara County Land Conservancy's biologist and board when analyzing which properties are most in need of protection.

The Waushara County Land Conservancy supports the updates to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Ellen Gensrich, President
Waushara County Land Conservancy
The Mukwonago River watershed is home to over 30 species of fish, including the mottled longear sunfish (Lepomis megalotis), several species of rare freshwater mussels, an incredible diversity of wetlands, and some of the highest water quality in Southeastern Wisconsin. The mission of the Friends of the Mukwonago River is to protect the Mukwonago River and its associated watershed from pollution, the loss of species, and the alteration of ecosystems. Our goal is to create an awareness of the important natural areas in the watershed and to promote sound land use throughout the watershed.

April 30, 2009

To: Southeast Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to express our organization’s full support of the revised “Natural Areas Plan.” Simply put, if we don’t know where the important natural areas are, we can’t work to protect them.

Thank you for your efforts in revising this plan.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me as indicated below.

Sincerely,

Nancy Glue, President
19357 Beechington Dr.
Brockton, WI 53105
(262) 782-8776

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From: Joseph McHugh
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2009 12:09 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Subject: Comment from Regional Natural Area Plan Update Website Form

Name: Joseph A. McHugh
Affiliation: Geneva Lake Conservancy
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 469 | 398 Mill Street
Fontana, Wisconsin 53125

Comment: The Genesee Lake Conservancy strongly suggests that the area locally referred to as the “North Shore Woods,” located along North Shore Drive in the Village of Fontana on Genesee Lake, be considered for inclusion in the current Plan Update. Attached please an exhibit showing the referenced area.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the number listed below.

Thanks and have a fantastic day.

Joseph A. McHugh
Executive Director
Geneva Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 469 | 398 Mill Street
Fontana, WI 53125
Phone: (262) 775-7500
Cell: (262) 233-1581
E-mail: joseph.mchugh@geneseeconservancy.org
Web: www.geneseeconservancy.org

Leave money for the Conservancy as you travel through the train on your local train ride. Do you know how much you’re spending on public transportation through the network for visual clarity and open space? For more information on the website www.geneseeconservancy.org

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From: Joseph McHugh
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 9:01 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Subject: Comment from Regional Natural Area Plan Update Website Form

Name: Mary Parker
Email: 
Organization: Friends of St. Francis Green Space
PO Box: Streets
City: St. Francis
State: WI
Zip: 53225
Phone:

Comment: I think that you should include in your plan the 24 acres of grasslands, wetlands, and prairie that we own. We own this property in the city of St. Francis which is about 10 acres west of the natural area. There is a critical habitat for many migratory birds, grassland birds, owls, hawks, and other wildlife. The preservation of this area could only enhance the property which it borders and the surrounding area.

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From: Lawrence A. Leitner
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 1:32 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Cc: 
Subject: Natural Area Update - St. Francis

Dear Mr. Leitner:

Thank you very much for holding the recent SEWRPC session of public information meetings to brief residents on updated designated natural areas and critical species habitat. We were especially encouraged by your designation of Tritle Creek Woods as Critical Species Habitat.

We have been working with a coalition of environmental groups to secure the protection and preservation of the pristine Tritle Creek Woods and adjacent wetlands near the city of St. Francis. This site is a critical habitat for many migratory birds and other wildlife. We are committed to protecting this area for future generations. Our coalition includes Friends of St. Francis Green Space and the Friends of Genesee Lake.

Sincerely,

Jackie and Steve Brucker
Friends of St. Francis Green Space
(414) 463-1514

Reception-proof vacation ideas. Find true things to do in the U.S.
(This page intentionally left blank)
Exhibit D

NEWS ARTICLES AND OPINION-EDITORIAL PIECES CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATED ISSUES
Original habitat returns

William J. Lizdas

Wisconsin DNR park ranger Brian Cieszynski sets a fire at the Scuppernong Prairie natural area in the Town of Eagle. The department planned to burn 480 acres to help restore the area to its prairie condition. Biologists say that many areas in southeastern Wisconsin are recovering their native species.

More natural land found in region

By Don Behm of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: April 19, 2009

Scientists studying the landscape of seven counties in southeastern Wisconsin say 44 more places in the region should be added to an existing inventory of 447 natural areas worthy of protection from
development.

Their new report also states that fully 163 of the places listed in the original inventory, and protected to some extent at that time, have grown in size.

This happened not by buying more acres to protect, but by management of the landscape, especially removing exotic shrubs and weeds by hand, said Don Reed, chief biologist with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Eliminating the competition gave native plants a chance to take back these places.

A steadily increasing number - more than two dozen and counting - of the natural areas listed in the 1997 inventory have gained full or partial protection by land trusts, counties or state agencies.

Those organizations responded to the original plan by purchasing land or conservation easements restricting development at those places, according to an update of the commission's natural areas and critical species habitat plan.

Among the 44 recently identified natural areas are parcels as small as 3-acre wetlands in Franklin and the Town of Summit, and as large as a 226-acre complex of upland woods and wetlands along the Little Oconomowoc River in the Town of Erin.

None had been designated among the best remaining natural areas in the region when the regional planning commission published the original inventory.

Better aerial photos taken in recent years revealed some of the sites, convincing commission biologists to take a closer look, Reed said. Routine work assignments brought biologists in contact with others.

Many simply received attentive care as volunteers, in most places, removed purple loosestrife, buckthorn or other unwanted, invading plants.

The 44 places recommended for preservation and to be included in the inventory encompass a total of 2,033 acres. The 1997 plan recommended protecting 56,346 acres in the seven counties.

Properties designated as natural areas have been little modified by development since European settlement, or have sufficiently recovered from earlier damage, and now are home to intact native plant and animal communities.

Recovery is the main reason that commission biologists recommended expanding 163 of the natural areas included in the 1997 plan.

**Fire as a tool**

Fire is one of the recovery tools used at the 3,500-acre Scuppernong River Habitat Area in southwestern Waukesha County - the largest low, or wet, prairie east of the Mississippi River in the U.S. It is northwest of Eagle, within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Regular burns and cutting of nuisance brush since 1999 have encouraged growth of native prairie grasses and flowers, said Ron Kurowski, a naturalist with the state Department of Natural Resources.

Today, bobolinks and meadowlarks and other grassland birds nest among big and little bluestem grasses and native flowers, such as prairie dock, cornflower, lupine and indigo, Kurowski said. "We
haven't planted anything," he said. "This is all native stuff coming back in here. The seeds were waiting for this opportunity."

One plant to rise out of the ashes of past fires is eared false foxglove, once thought to be extinct in Wisconsin, Kurowski said. Today, it is found at only two places, and both are in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

By last year, an additional 141 acres of natural area had regrown, for a total of 713 acres, according to commission biologists.

Kurowski said he isn't done working. He expects the entire 3,500-acre mosaic of meadow, savanna and marsh in this low prairie to someday achieve natural area status.

Last week, Kurowski and a team of 11 other DNR employees purposefully burned vegetation on about 480 acres of state-owned and private land along the Scuppernong River, west of county Highway N.

Buckthorn had been cut out of a woods close to the road, then aspen was removed for sale, leaving only fire-resistant bur oak.

As wind pushed flames across open land, smoke billowed up a few thousand feet high. Sandhill cranes, ducks and other birds could be seen flying to safety in advance of the fire.

SEWRPC does not detail acres of natural areas lost to development since 1997. But a growing number of the places have been protected, fully or in part, in the last 12 years, according to Reed.

A partnership of the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation and the DNR has protected almost all of the designated Slinger upland woods natural area, known locally as the Polk Kames. The partnership has amassed 414 acres of glacier-formed conical hills and ridges northeast of U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Polk for a future park and Ice Age Trail corridor.

The Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, a land trust, also has protected much of three other natural areas in the Town of West Bend, said Geoff Maclay, president of the foundation. Those are the Little Cedar Lake wetlands, Ziegler woods and Gilbert Lake tamarack swamp.

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust has protected 100% of the Fellenz hardwood swamp in the Town of Trenton, Grafton woods in the Town of Grafton, and the Donges Bay gorge - home of a nesting pair of bald eagles - in Mequon.

The 1997 plan is used extensively by all land trusts in the region to evaluate whether properties merit protection, said Shawn Graff, executive director of Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

The Waukesha Land Conservancy used the original plan as a guide in protecting 757 acres at seven natural areas since 1997, according to Marlin Johnson, vice president of the conservancy and a retired biology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha County.

The conservancy has protected much of the Falk fen, a groundwater-fed wetland, in the Town of Waukesha, and the Menomonee Falls tamarack swamp near the center of the village.

**Public hearings set**

The Southeastern Regional Planning Commission has scheduled four public meetings later this month.
to release information on revisions to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan. All meetings will be scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Commission staff will be available throughout each meeting. A brief summary of the revisions will be presented at 6 p.m.

**Tuesday** – Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, Town of Saukville.

**Wednesday, Earth Day** – Visitor Center, Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners.

**April 28** – Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th St., Bristol.

**April 30** – Headquarters, Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit, S91-W39091 state Highway 59, Eagle.

For information on the natural areas plan update, go to the commission Web site: [www.sewrpc.org](http://www.sewrpc.org).

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Biologists take stock of nature at Camp/Quad

Inventory of plant life will help restoration

By Don Behm of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: June 6, 2009

Town of Erin – Larry Leitner steps into a forest at Camp/Quad and immediately starts identifying the trees and other plants, quoting scientific names for an assistant taking notes for a first-ever biological census of the 325-acre property, then adding common names for the sake of other visitors.


Waxy petals of May apple hang below its umbrella-like leaves.

"We try to be complete as possible with these species lists," said Leitner, principal biologist with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Waukesha. "Red maple. Sugar maple."

In a two-hour tour of a 60-acre forest west of the Little Oconomowoc River, Leitner and other biologists found 99 species of plants.

The list will be used to prepare a management plan aimed at restoring much of the forest and wetland landscape here to a pre-settlement condition, said Susan Buchanan, executive director of Tall Pines Conservancy, a land trust with offices in Nashotah.

Quad/Graphics, the Sussex-based printing company, earlier this year donated a conservation easement on the entire camp to the conservancy. The company remains owner of the land.

The easement prohibits subdivision of the land; prohibits commercial or industrial uses, such as a printing plant; and does not allow construction of additional storage or residential buildings at the former Boy Scout camp. Billboards, mining, aircraft runways, marinas, snowmobile and ATV trails, golf courses and waste landfills also are prohibited.

Regional planning commission biologists on a late May visit to the property confirmed there were plenty of native species - 87 of the 99 listed - residing in the land to assist future restoration efforts, Leitner said. The camp is northeast of the intersection of state Highway 83 and county Highway Q.

"Sweet cicely."
Research assistant Jen Dietl informs a visitor, "That has a faint anise smell."


White trillium flowers are past their peak, and the petals are fading to light pink.

Leitner finds several native sedges on the forest floor, but garlic mustard, a nuisance invasive plant, is scattered throughout the 60-acre oak and maple forest.

A management plan would fail without control of garlic mustard, he said. The alien species eventually would form a carpet on the forest floor and shade out the natives, Leitner said.

Buchanan expects to enlist volunteers among conservancy members and students from Carroll University in Waukesha and local high schools to battle invasive plants - pulling garlic mustard out of the soil by its roots or cutting buckthorn, a shrub.

The volunteers will not be assisted by white-tailed deer. They do not eat the garlic mustard or another invasive mustard known as yellow rocket.

But leaves of wild leek in the forest have been chewed off by deer.

"A management plan should include reducing the size of the deer herd," Leitner said.

Dietl interprets a Latin name shouted by Leitner as enchanter's nightshade, a member of the evening primrose family that grows on the moist floors of woodlands.

"Jack-in-the-pulpit. Maidenhair fern."

White flowers of red baneberry are blooming. There are pink petals of wild geranium in all directions.

"Bur oak."

"The tree structure is nice," Leitner said. "This has been logged. Not clear-cut but selectively logged in the past.

"You don't see giants here, but there are nearly mature red oaks, probably from the 1850s. They are only half-way through their lifespan."

"Fawn. There's a fawn," Leitner announced. The small, spotted deer rests amid maple seedlings and garlic mustard at the base of a sugar maple. It watches the biologists as they walk slowly away.

Leitner quickly returns to his list.

"Squaw root. That is a parasite of oak roots," he said.

"Wide-leaved panic grass. That is a native woodland grass and that is nice to see here."

Don Reed, chief biologist at the commission, walked a separate segment of the forest.
Reed spots morel mushrooms adjacent to a slippery elm.

Patches of spring-beauty are still in bloom. Their white-pink petals have pink veins.

"Ideally, we will make three trips here in different seasons, to identify all the plants here and add any plant species that may not be up in the spring," Reed said.

The first visit confirms the forest deserves its earlier designation within a high-quality natural area that stretches from Murphy and McConville lakes downstream along the Little Oconomowoc River to the camp, Reed said.

"If deer, garlic mustard and buckthorn are controlled," Reed said, "this woods will be in this good of shape for years and years."

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