



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

November 9, 2015

**TO:** Keith Creagh, Director

**INFORMATION:** Natural Resources Commission

**Transaction:** Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land  
Minden City State Game Area – Sanilac County  
Land Transaction Case #20060168

**Sale:** 3 acres more or less

**Sale Price:** \$9,000.00

**Sale Description:** Sanilac County, Argyle Township, T13N, R13E, Section 12:  
As more particularly described in the case file.

**PA 240 of 2012:** This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in a decrease of 3 acres of counted DNR-Managed lands.

**Applicant(s):** Hillside Cemetery Corporation, Snover, Michigan

**Authority:** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

**Notice:** This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) December 1, 2015, calendar, and is eligible for approval on December 8, 2015. The transaction is also posted in a local newspaper as required by statute.

**Acquired:** Acquired in 1942 with Pittman Robertson funds.

**Minerals:** To be retained.

**Comments:** The one-acre Hillside Cemetery was established in 1881 in order to bury victims of the Great Thumb Fire, a wildfire that claimed 282 lives, burned over a million acres in less than a day and was the first relief operation of the American Red Cross. Hillside Cemetery is currently the only nondenominational cemetery within Argyle Township and adjacent townships.

In 1942, the Department purchased the property that surrounds Hillside Cemetery with federal Pittman-Robertson funds (PR). Since that time, the cemetery has run out of space and has had to turn down requests for burial plots. In order to remedy this situation, the Department and Hillside Cemetery have negotiated for the cemetery to purchase the 3-acre parcel of land from the Department so that it may be used for cemetery purposes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved of this sale contingent upon:

- The deed for the proposed sale parcel include restrictions that specify that the land is to be used solely for cemetery purposes, that no buildings are to be constructed which would make the surrounding lands unavailable for hunting due to safety zones (as described in MCL 34240111(6)), and that the Department have the right of first refusal before the property is conveyed to another party.
- The Department will replace the 3-acre PR sale parcel by encumbering the 11-acre Rust parcel, which was recently purchased with Land Exchange Facilitation Fund, Game and Fish Subfund (LEFF G&F) monies, as PR land so that it will be managed subject to PR requirements for fish and wildlife purposes. The re-designation of this parcel will be memorialized in the Land Ownership Tracking System (LOTS). The LOTS is the Department's database of land records that identifies multiple parcel attributes, including acquisition funding source. Department managers routinely use LOTS to determine any management requirements associated with a funding source.

The proposed sale was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Land Exchange Review Committee on April 21, 2011. Proceeds will be deposited into the LEFF Game and Fish Subfund.

Engagement: Sanilac County and Argyle Township have been approached for their input and comments.

- Recommendation(s):
1. That the land be sold to the applicant for \$9,000.00 and subject to restrictions specifying that the land is to be used solely for cemetery purposes, that no buildings are to be constructed which would make the surrounding lands unavailable for hunting due to safety zones (as described in MCL 34240111(6)), and that the Department reserves the right of first refusal before the property is conveyed to another party.
  2. That the proceeds from the sale be deposited into the LEFF Game and Fish Subfund.
  3. That the 11-acre Rust parcel (Sanilac County, Wheatland Township, T13N, R14E, Section 3: the East 11 acres of the N 1/2 of the SE 1/4) be re-designated and managed as a PR parcel.
  4. That the state retain mineral rights and aboriginal antiquities.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



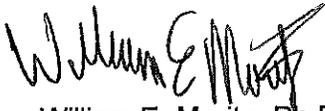
William O'Neill, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



James L. Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



William E. Moritz, Ph.D.  
Natural Resources Deputy



Mark H. Hoffman  
Chief Administrative Officer

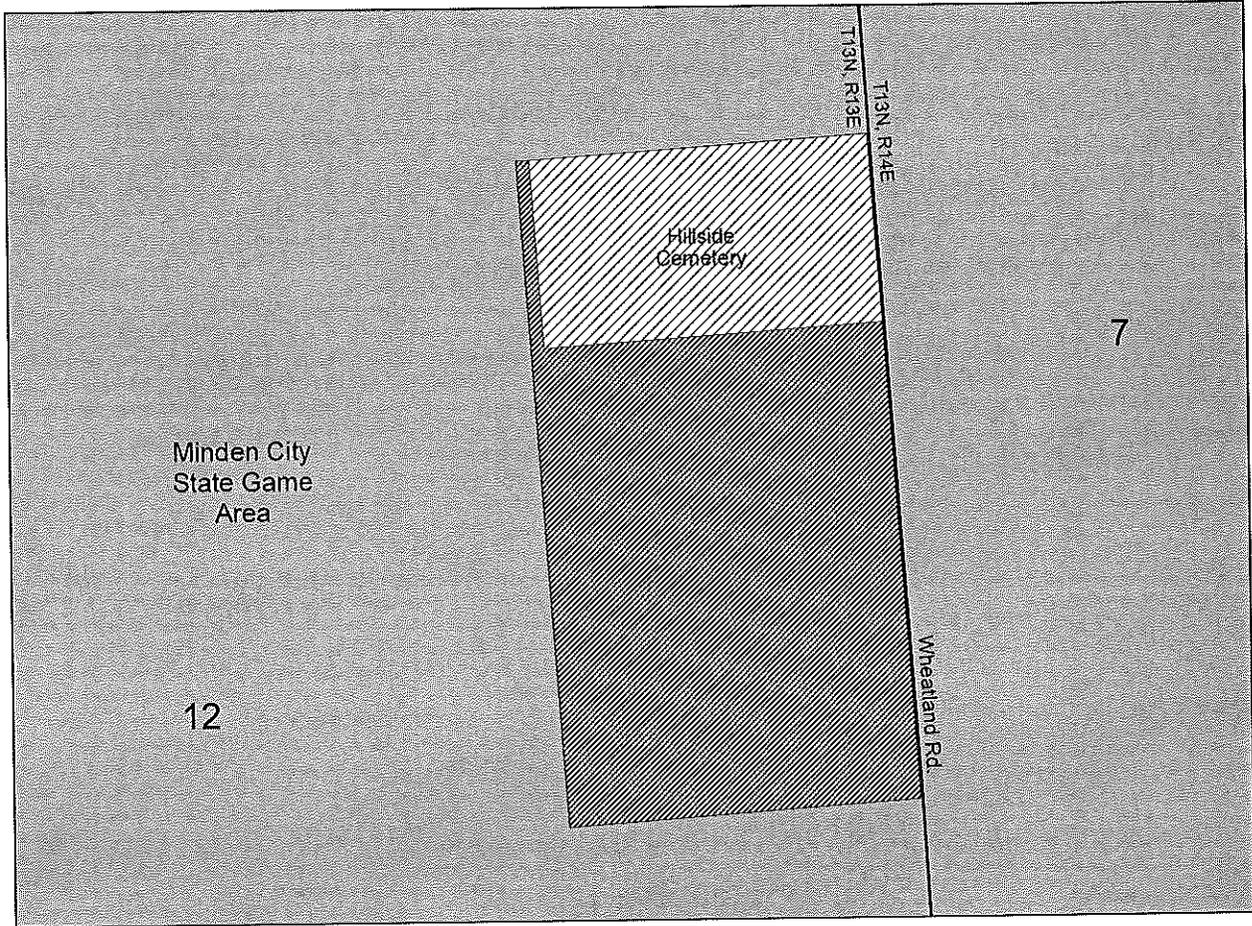
I approve the staff recommendations.

Keith Creagh  
Director

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Date Approved

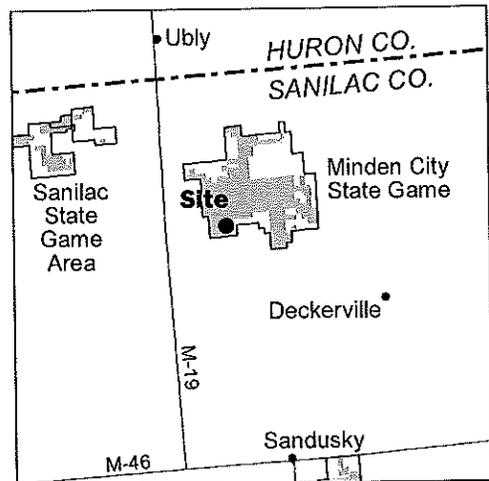
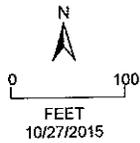
# SALE OF SURPLUS DNR-MANAGED LAND

Minden City State Game Area – Sanilac County  
Land Transaction Case #20060168



Section 12, T13N, R13E, Argyle Township, Sanilac County

- Land to be sold by DNR (3.0 acres)
- Applicant's land
- State land



— DNR Project Boundary