



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

May 13, 2013

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: State Trail Easement Acquisition
Coopersville & Marne Railroad Corridor – Ottawa County
Land Transaction Case #20110036

Purchase: 2.0 miles of permanent trail rights (\$99,834.00)

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: None
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will not result in an increase in counted acres.
Excluded Acres: 26.91 acres excluded – trail easement rights

Description: Ottawa County, Polkton Township, T8N, R14W, Sections 22, 21, and 17, being that part of vacated Grand Trunk Railroad beginning at Station 9173+12, as situated in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 22 and running Northwesterly across Sections 22, 21, and 17 and terminating at the east line of State Road as situated in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 17, a distance of 10,546 feet, more or less.

Seller: Coopersville & Marne Railway Company, Coopersville, Michigan

Authority: Part 5, Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) June 4, 2013 calendar, and is eligible for approval on June 11, 2013.

Comments: With this transaction the Department will acquire a permanent recreational trail easement over a segment of the vacated Grand Trunk Railroad corridor owned by the Coopersville & Marne Railway Company. This easement acquisition will fill a critical gap in the North Bank Trail in northwestern Ottawa County.

Stretching 10,546 feet (2.0 miles) between 68th Avenue and 80th Avenue west of Coopersville, this easement acquisition is a direct extension of an adjoining easement approved at the August 16, 2010, Natural Resources Commission meeting. While that easement provided the opportunity for the Musketawa Trail to connect to the growing network of trails and parks along the Grand River in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, this easement completes the connection.

Like the previous phase, this easement is a big step forward in regional trail connectivity by filling a gap in the route of the North Bank Trail.

Unlike the previous phase, the department will not share the corridor with an active railroad and can build the trail centered on the former rail bed. If at some time in the future the railroad wants to reactivate the corridor for rail service, the railroad will relocate the trail at its own expense in a like condition within the right-of-way.

The North Bank Trail is a proposed non-motorized pathway that is being developed largely along the former Grand Trunk Railroad corridor that the Coopersville & Marne Railway operates over from Coopersville eastward. The trail will connect the Greater Grand Rapids area to the Grand Haven lakeshore community. Development of the first phase of the North Bank Trail was funded in part by local grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to Spring Lake and Crockery Townships.

Recommendation:

- (1) That the easement be approved for purchase with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Trails Initiative, as contained in Act 278 of 2008, and Act 16 of 2011.
- (2) That the property be dedicated for public use and administered by the Parks and Recreation Division.
- (3) That the lands described above be acquired for use as a Michigan Trailway and designated as such when the legislated requirements are met.

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

Date Approved

