



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

April 11, 2011

TO: Rodney A. Stokes, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: DNR/MDOT Transportation Corridor Easement Acquisition
Gwinn Management Unit – Marquette County
Marquette West Connector Extension
Land Transaction Case #20040112

Purchase: 0.31 linear miles - \$1,970.00

Description: Marquette County, Negaunee Township, T48N, R26W, Sections 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35; as more completely described in “Exhibit A” in the project file.

Seller: Mineral Range Inc., Hancock, Michigan

Authority: Part 5, Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended
PA 295 of 1976, State Transportation Preservation Act, as amended
Part III, MDOT/DNR Memorandum of Agreement, June 26, 2009

Notice: This item will appear on the Department’s May 2, 2011 Calendar, and is eligible for approval on May 9, 2011.

Comments: In 2009, the DNR and MDOT entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to work collaboratively to acquire rail corridors as they become available. Per the MOA, when a transportation corridor with the potential of becoming a trail is identified, the DNR and MDOT mutually agree on the method of acquisition and the role of each agency for making the acquisition.

The DNR currently owns a 6.27 mile long corridor named the Marquette West Connector. The eastern 3.55 miles is railbanked under federal statute to preserve the corridor for future rail reactivation while providing for interim trail use. The Mineral Range Inc. holds an easement to operate a railroad over the western 2.72 miles.

The DNR is partnering with MDOT, under authority provided by PA 295 of 1976, the State Transportation Preservation Act, to acquire the easement rights to a 0.31 mile long segment offered by the Mineral Range Inc. The acquisition of the offered rights will protect the Department's ownership interest and ensure the preservation of the Marquette West Connector for future transportation use, while allowing trail use in the interim.

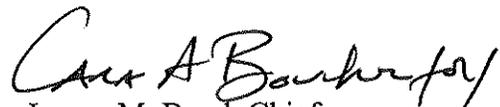
In combination with this easement acquisition, the DNR and Mineral Range Inc. have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement that sets forth the roles and responsibilities to safely provide both trail and rail use within the remaining 2.41 miles of corridor. By doing so, a permanent route is ensured for the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT). The IOHT is envisioned as a 48-mile, multi-use, year round trail that connects, preserves, and interprets the significant sites, structures, and stories of the iron mining heritage of Marquette County.

When combined with the land offered the State in an exchange with Northview Properties LLC (see Land Transaction Case #20100155), this transaction will allow the development of an additional 11.0 miles of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

- Recommendations:
1. That the purchase of the offered remaining rights to the railroad corridor, a distance of 0.31 miles, more or less, be approved with payment to be made from funds appropriated from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Trailways Acquisition Initiative as contained in Act 59 of 2007.
 2. That the Director request that MDOT acquire the remaining rights in the Mineral Range Inc. Railroad Corridor.
 3. That the Department include this MDOT transportation corridor as part of the trail system managed by the Department.
 4. That the property be dedicated for public use and administered by the Forest Management Division.
 5. That the lands described above be acquired for use as a Michigan Trailway and designated as such when the legislated requirements are met, pursuant to Part 721 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.

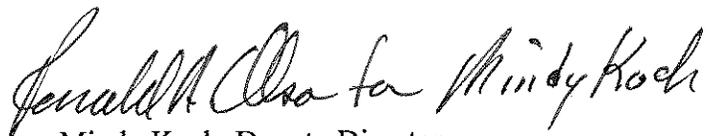
April 11, 2011


Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division


Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D, Chief
Fisheries Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division


Mindy Koch, Deputy Director
Resource Management

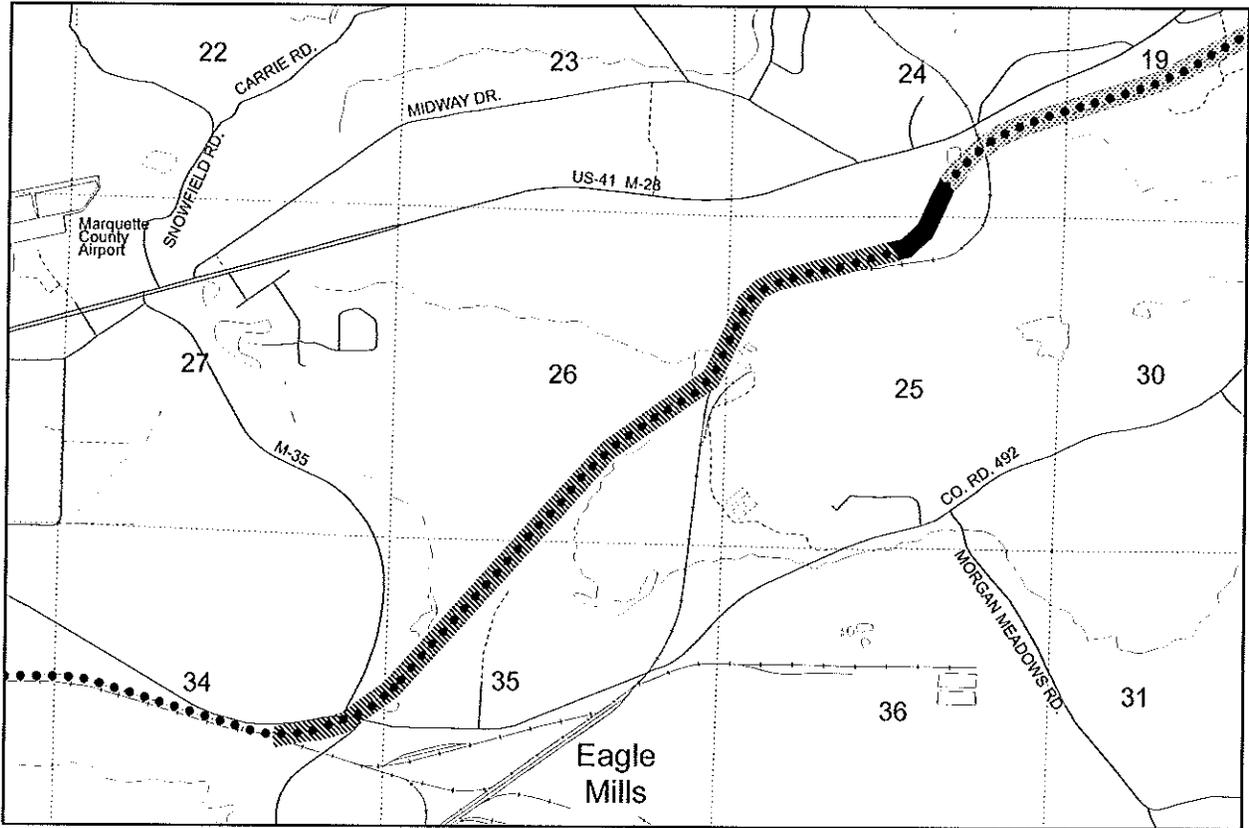
I approve the staff recommendations.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director

Date Approved

DNR/MDOT TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR EASEMENT ACQUISITION

Gwinn Management Unit - Marquette County
Marquette West Connector Extension
Land Transaction Case #20040112



Sections 24-26, 34-35, T48N, R26W, Negaunee Township

- Existing Marquette West Connector (DNR owned - railbanked)
- Easement to be acquired by DNR/MDOT; tracks to be pulled (0.31 linear mile - \$1,970.00)
- Memorandum of Agreement between DNR/Mineral Range; rail-with-trail (2.41 linear miles)
- Iron Ore Heritage Trail Route

Note: Railroad corridor widths not to scale

