



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES

August 17, 2009

A P P R O V E D <small>DIRECTOR</small> _____, 20____ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION _____ (ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

TO: Natural Resources Commission

INFORMATION: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

Transaction: State Forest Trail Easement Acquisition
Musketawa Trail – Ottawa and Kent Counties
Land Transaction Case #20090129

Purchase Price: \$206,472.00, for 17,206 feet of permanent trail rights

Description: Ottawa County, Wright Township, T08N, R13W, Section 36, and Tallmadge Township, T07N, R13W, Section 1: A 20-foot-wide parcel of land being the North 20 feet of the existing 100-foot-wide railroad right-of-way of the Coopersville & Marne Railroad Company beginning at Mile Post 165.5, commonly known as Penn Junction, as situated in the S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 36, T8N, R13W, Ottawa County, and running Southeasterly across Section 36 to the South Section Line, Wright Township, T08N, R13W, and across Section 1 to the East Section Line, Tallmadge Township, T07N, R13W, Ottawa County, Michigan, and;
Kent County, City of Walker, T07N, R12W, Sections 6, 5, and 4: A 20-foot parcel of land being the North 20 feet of the existing railroad right-of-way of the Coopersville & Marne Railroad Company continuing Southeasterly across Sections 6, 5, and 4, City of Walker, T07N, R12W, Kent County, terminating at the I-96 right-of-way, Section 4, City of Walker, T07N, R12W, Kent County, a distance of 17,206.00 feet, more or less, for the entire easement.

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) August 31, 2009 Calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 8, 2009.

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Comments:

With this transaction the Department will acquire a permanent 20-foot wide recreational trail easement within the right-of-way of an active rail line of the Coopersville & Marne Railway Company. This easement acquisition will provide a critical link toward connecting the State-owned Musketawa Trail and the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park.

In cooperation with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation, Kent County Parks, and the Kent County Road Commission, the acquisition of this easement will bring the Musketawa Trail one step closer to connecting to the growing network of trails and parks along the Grand River in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area.

The Department is recommending this acquisition with the knowledge that we may purchase less easement than the 17,206-feet proposed. This is because the county government partners are simultaneously pursuing acquisition of a segment of trail corridor within the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way, thereby reducing what the DNR will need to purchase. Once the MDOT segment is clarified, the length of the easement the DNR needs to acquire within the active railroad corridor will be known. The purpose of this proposal is to be proactive and enable the Department to be in position to close on the transaction and meet the partner's funding deadlines.

Based on past practice, acquisition cases involving potential acquisition of Michigan Trailways are presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for approval.

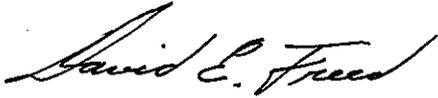
Recommendations:

(1) That the easement be approved for purchase with payment to be made from funds appropriated from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Trailways Initiative, as contained in Act 153, Public Acts of 2006, or the State Trailways Acquisition Initiative as contained in Act 59 of 2007, as available at time of closing.

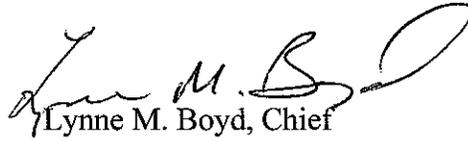
(2) That the easement described above be acquired for use as a Michigan Trailway and designated as such when the legislated requirements are met, pursuant to Part 721 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.

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(3) That the easement described above be dedicated for public use as part of the Musketawa Trail to be administered by the Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division.



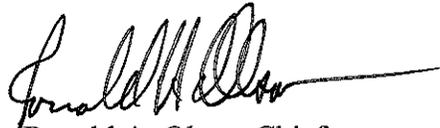
David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities



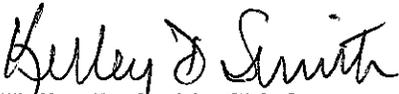
Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management



Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation



Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries



Armindia S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

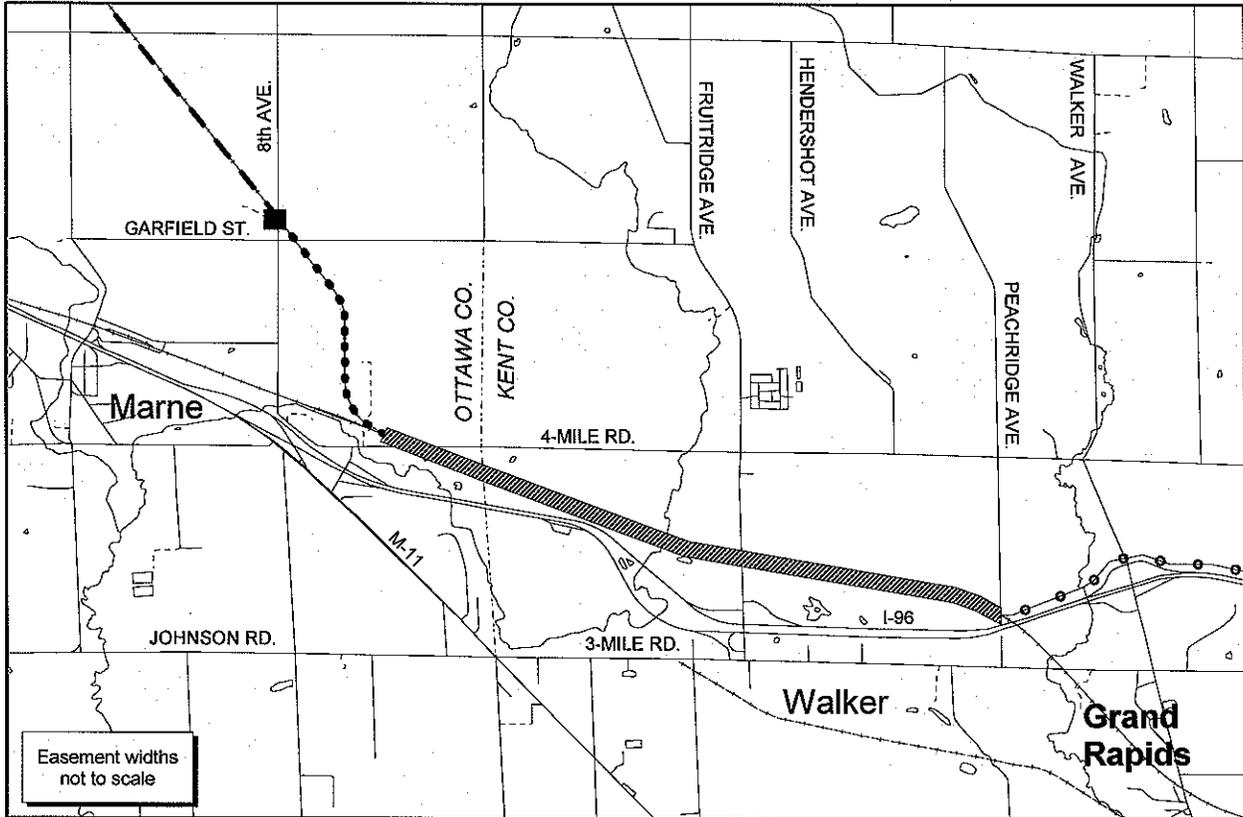
I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the NRC has authority.



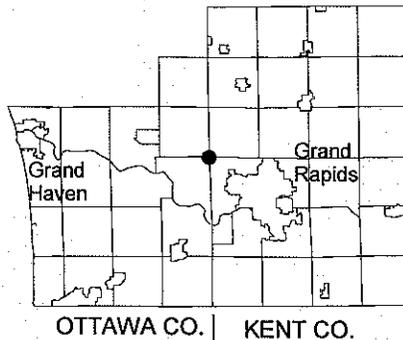
Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

STATE FOREST TRAIL EASEMENT ACQUISITION
Musketawa Trail - Ottawa and Kent Counties
Land Transaction Case #20090129



-  Easement to be acquired by DNR; tracks currently active (17,206.00 linear feet)
-  Musketawa Trail (developed)
-  Musketawa Trail (undeveloped)
-  Kent County proposed trail route
-  Existing trailhead



DNR-FMFM
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