

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

LAND CONSERVATION & FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

4:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Chair)	Present	
Charles Bomar	Chippewa County	District 12 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
James Flater	Chippewa County	District 1	Present	
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Jason Bergeron	Chippewa County	District 7	Present	
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Present	
James Pingel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

The Chair noted that all supervisors were present.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were R. Scholz (Co. Administrator), D. Hutchison (DNR), M. Hansen, K. Klingberg, J. Larson, L. Schweikert, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCFM).

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
SECONDER:	James Flater, District 1
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Peterson, Pingel

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee - Regular Meeting - Aug 17, 2022 4:30 PM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - October 19, 2022

5. REPORTS

- Overview of Type B Tax Deed and Other Scattered Lands Owned by Chippewa County - M. Hansen
M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by a handout which showed the location, acreage, and status of Type B Tax Deed and scattered lands owned by Chippewa County (LCFM -

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Distributed 9/8/22 - copy on file & attached). The report provided information on access to these parcels by the public by either road, water, or no access.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The management of the parcels.
2. The possibility of entering select parcels into the County Forest and/or selling.
2. Update on Proposed Chippewa County Carbon Credit Process - M. Hansen
M. Hansen provided an oral report. The report was supported by the following materials:
 1. Document titled: Carbon Buffer Pool, (LCFM - Distributed 9/8/22 - copy on file & attached). The document explains what the carbon buffer pool is and how it works within the carbon credit project.
 2. Letter to Town of Auburn from M. Hansen (LCFM), (1/28/22), regarding their town severance payment for County Forest revenue collected in 2021, (LCFM - Distributed 9/8/22 - copy on file & attached).
 3. Report titled: 2022 Spring Road Ditch Cleanup - Final Report, (LCFM - Distributed 9/8/22 - copy on file & attached). The report provides information specific to the 2022 Road Ditch Cleanup as well as data and trends for the past eight (8) years that the project has been implemented.

There was general discussion.

3. Community Well Advisory Ad Hoc Committee - L. Schweikert
L. Schweikert provided an oral report on the process of creating a Community Well Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. Professionals recommended to invite would include educators, geologists, hydrologists, groundwater specialists, well drillers, and citizen representatives.

It was suggested that town officials in the selected community well areas be invited to participate on the Committee.

There was general discussion.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Chippewa County Cover Crop Cost Share Policy - L. Schweikert
L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by a draft policy titled: Cover Crop Cost Sharing Policy, (LCFM 9/7/22 - Distributed 9/8/22 - copy on file & attached). The policy provides the purpose, scope, responsibility and authority of the LCFM Department in implementing the cover crop program. The policy also provides the ranking criteria to be used when evaluating applications and future compliance in the program.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on changes in the policy wording as follows:

Ranking

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4. Eligibility
 - d. 100 acres maximum per contract
 - 1) If an operator has leases for multiple landowners, the operator is ~~held to eligible for cost sharing up to~~ the 100-acres maximum, not per landowner they lease from
 - 2) In the case of a corporation or entity, the ~~corporation or entity and the individual members that make up such group is collectively are~~ ~~held to eligible for cost sharing up to~~ the 100-acre maximum, ~~not the individual landowners~~

Motion to approve the policy with the suggestion to add changes under Ranking, 4. d. (1) and (2): Bergeron/Bomar.

Roll call vote: Supervisor Peterson - Yes, Supervisor Bischel - Yes, Supervisor Flater - Yes, Supervisor Bergeron - Yes, Supervisor Bomar - Yes, Representative Pingel - Abstain, Chair Schmitt - Yes. Motion carried 6-0 with 1 member abstaining.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
SECONDER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Peterson
ABSTAIN:	Pingel

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The Chair indicated M. Hansen will be bringing back the Type B Tax Deed information to the Committee in the future and if the Committee has any suggestions on future agenda items, to let him know.

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn: Flater/Bomar. Motion carried at 5:45 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Flater, District 1
SECONDER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Peterson, Pingel

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

LAND CONSERVATION & FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2022

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

4:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Chair)	Present	
Charles Bomar	Chippewa County	District 12 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
James Flater	Chippewa County	District 1	Present	
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Jason Bergeron	Chippewa County	District 7	Present	
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Absent	
James Pingel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

The Chair noted that all supervisors were present except Supervisor Peterson, who had called earlier to say he could not make the meeting.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were R. Scholz (Co. Administrator), D. Hutchison and J. Vander Loop (DNR), J. Gregory, M. Hansen, K. Klingberg, L. Schweikert, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCFM).

Members of the public present were P. Popple and B. Zimmerman.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

D. Hutchison (DNR) introduced J. Vander Loop, the DNR Forestry Technician working out of the Jim Falls Ranger Station.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Discussion was held to change the 9/21/22 regular meeting date to 9/14/22 at 4:30 p.m.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the amended next meeting date of 9/14/22: Bomar/Bischel. Motion carried by voice vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
SECONDER:	David Bischel, District 4
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Pingel
ABSENT:	Peterson

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee - Regular Meeting - Jul 20, 2022 4:30 PM

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 17, 2022 4:30 PM (Consent Agenda)

Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee

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Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

August 17, 2022
4:30 PM

Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee - Special Meeting - Jul 26, 2022 8:00 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - Amended to September 14, 2022

5. REPORTS

1. Status of Lake Wissota Stewardship Project - J. Gregory

J. Gregory presented an oral report. The report was supported by the following materials:

1. Graphs and text summarizing the water quality data of Lake Wissota and Little Lake Wissota, at various locations around the lakes, from approximately 2000 to the present (LCFM - Distributed 8/11/22 - copy on file & attached).
2. Map titled: LWSP Volunteer Monitoring Sites, (LCFM 8/17/22 - copy on file & attached). The map shows the location of sites where LWSP volunteers monitor water clarity and turbidity.

There was general discussion regarding the collection of water samples, water quality data, and water clarity.

2. Producer-Led Watershed Update - L. Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. She reported that a meeting was held on 7/28/22 to gauge interest in starting a farmer-led watershed council.

The meeting was attended by several area farmers and they indicated that others were interested in participating in the group. B. Panzer offered to be the lead for the group and is planning on setting up another meeting in the future.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Cover Crop Cost Sharing Policy - L. Schweikert

L. Schweikert presented an oral report. The report was supported by the following materials:

1. Document titled: Chippewa County Cover Crop Cost Sharing Guidance, (LCFM 8/16/22 - Distributed 8/16/22 - copy on file & attached). The document provides guidance for the cover crop cost sharing project and a proposed timeline.
2. Form titled: Chippewa County Resource Management Grant Program, Cost-Share Application, (LCFM 8/16/22 - Distributed 8/16/22 - copy on file & attached). The form is an application for the cover crop cost sharing project.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. Guidance criteria.
2. Implementation of the cover crop project and data to be collected.

There was general Committee agreement regarding the proposed cover crop cost sharing guidance. The policy for this project will be presented to the Committee at the September LCFM meeting.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 17, 2022 4:30 PM (Consent Agenda)

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2. Authorize Deer Fly Chase Mountain Bike Race Permit in County Forest - M. Hansen
M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by the following material:

1. Agreement titled: Chippewa County Forest Special Event Permit and Agreement, (LCFM - Distributed 8/11/22 - copy on file & attached). The agreement grants the Friends of Hickory Ridge exclusive use of the Dog Island Warming House and certain segments of the Chippewa County Forest property trail network to conduct a mountain bike race.
2. Map titled: Attachment A - Tentative Route, likely to change before final race authorization, (Distributed 8/11/22 - copy on file & attached). The map shows the tentative route of the race.

Motion to approve (the Deer Fly Chase Mountain Bike Race Permit): Flater/Bomar. Motion carried by voice vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Flater, District 1
SECONDER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Pingel
ABSENT:	Peterson

3. Phoenix Orion Leary Memorial Bench - Hickory Ridge Mountain Bike Trail - M. Hansen
M. Hansen presented an oral report. The report was supported by a map showing the Hickory Ridge Trails in the Chippewa County Forest and the proposed location of a memorial bench for P. Leary.

Motion to accept the memorial bench request: Flater/Bergeron. Motion carried by voice vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Flater, District 1
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Pingel
ABSENT:	Peterson

4. The LCFM Committee will go into closed session pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for the purposes of "deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" (Consider real estate transaction for parcel in T32N, R5W, Section 28) - M. Hansen
Motion that the LCFM Committee will go into closed session pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for the purposes of "deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" (Consider real estate transaction for parcel in T32N, R5W, Section 28), with the LCFM Committee, L. Schweikert, M. Hansen, R. Scholz, and J. Schemenauer in closed session attendance: Bergeron/Bomar. Roll call vote: J. Pingel - Aye, C. Bomar - Aye, J. Bergeron - Aye, J. Flater - Aye, D. Bischel - Aye, and K. Schmitt - Aye. Motion carried.

The Committee went into closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 17, 2022 4:30 PM (Consent Agenda)

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Motion to go into open session: Bergeron/Flater. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Committee went into open session at 5:51 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
SECONDER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Pingel
ABSENT:	Peterson

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

M. Hansen indicated that he will be reporting to the Committee in the future regarding an update to the Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn: Flater/Bomar. Motion carried by voice vote at 5:54 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Flater, District 1
SECONDER:	Charles Bomar, District 12 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Schmitt, Bomar, Flater, Bischel, Bergeron, Pingel
ABSENT:	Peterson

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 17, 2022 4:30 PM (Consent Agenda)



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION OVERVIEW OF TYPE B TAX DEED AND OTHER SCATTERED LANDS OWNED BY CHIPPEWA COUNTY

5.1

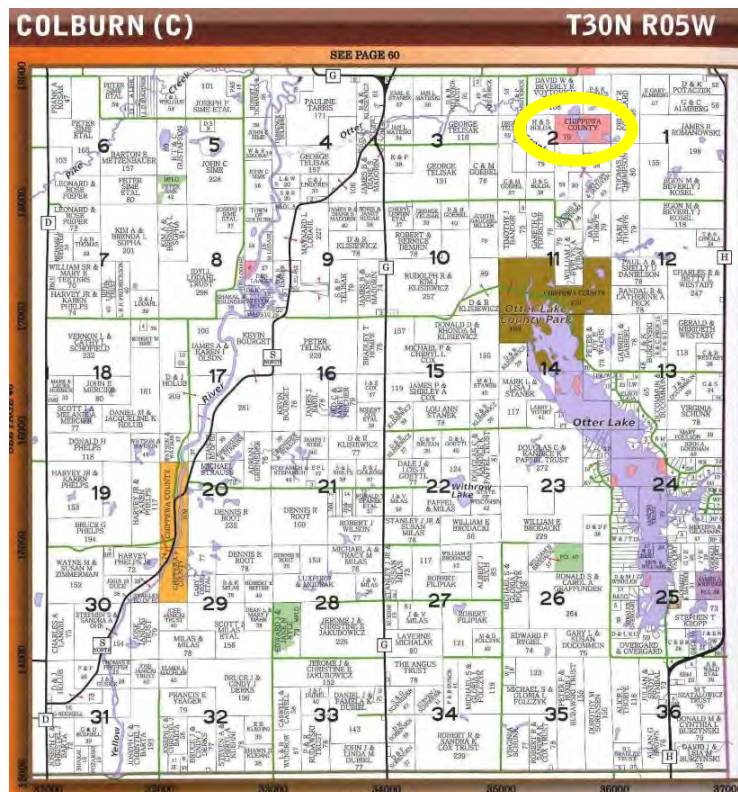
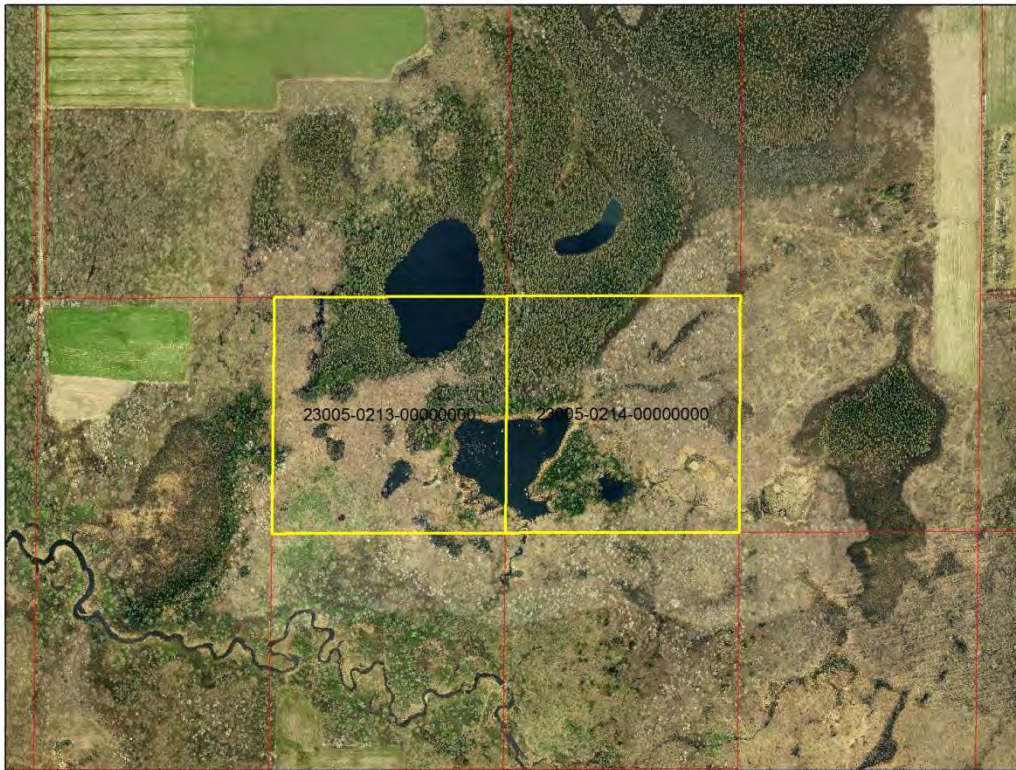
Chippewa County regularly assumes ownership of properties through enforcement of delinquent taxes. These acquisitions are governed by Section 2-353 of County Code. Type A Tax Deed Parcels are those determined not be retained in County ownership for future use and resold pursuant to State Statutes.

Type B Tax Deed parcels are those retained in County ownership for a specific future use. The director of Land Conservation or Parks and Facilities may request that lands which come into County Ownership be retained for County Forest, public recreation, conservation, environmental protection or County Parks.

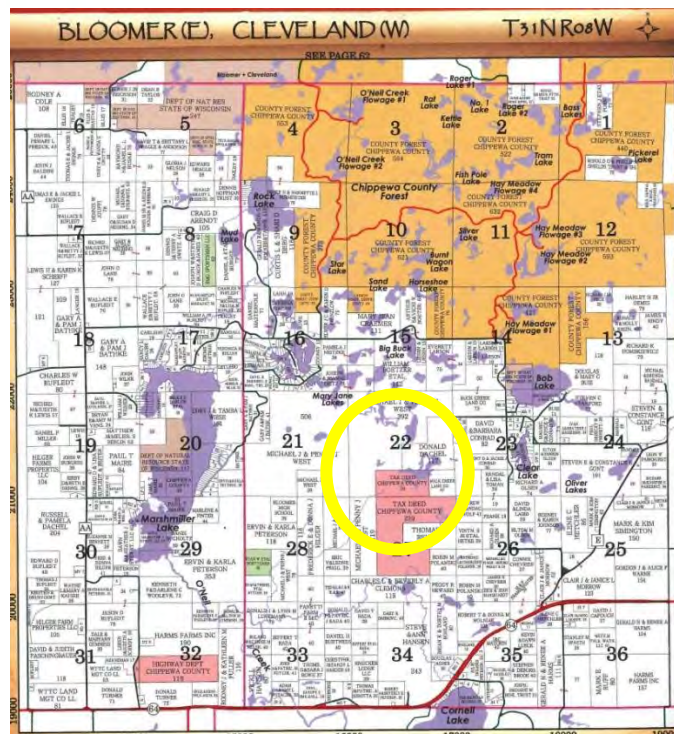
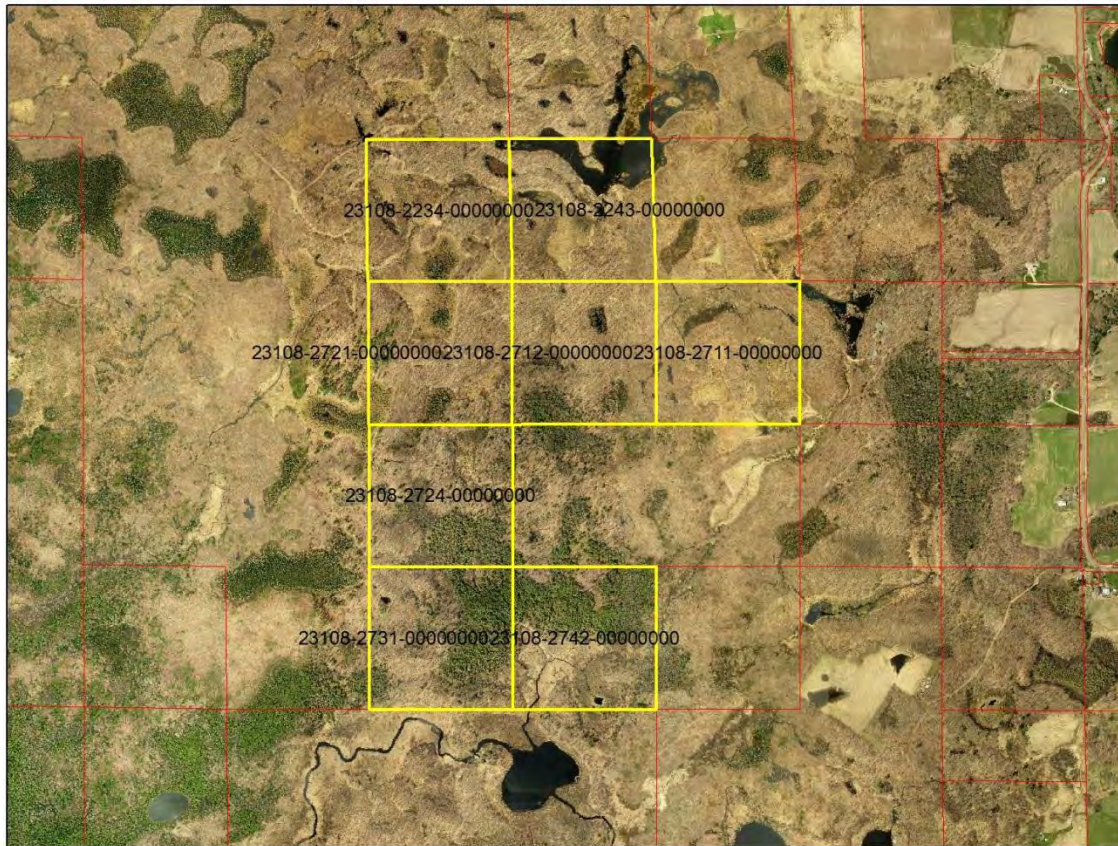
This report will give a general overview of actions taken over the last decade and management challenges associated with Type B parcels and other scattered County lands. The County Forest Administrator will also give a brief review of the pertinent policies and processes.

Forest without Public Access

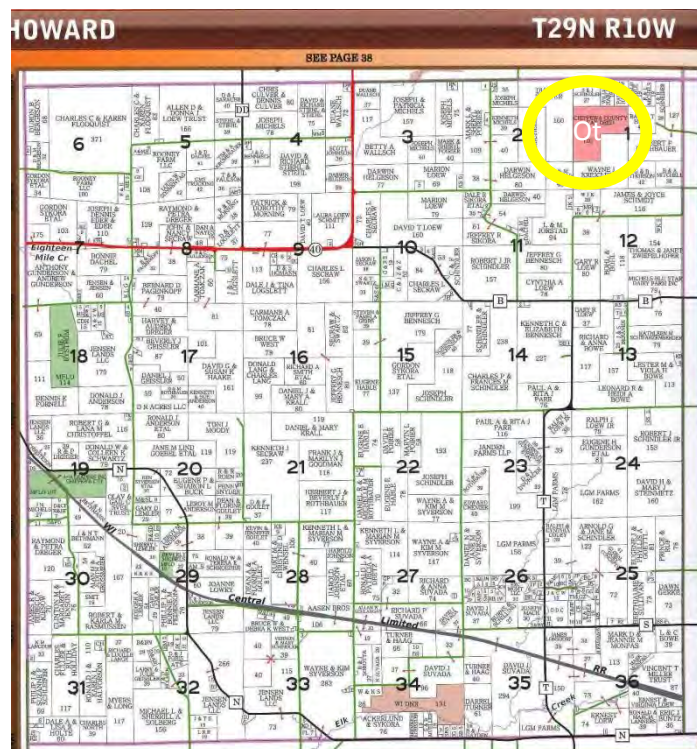
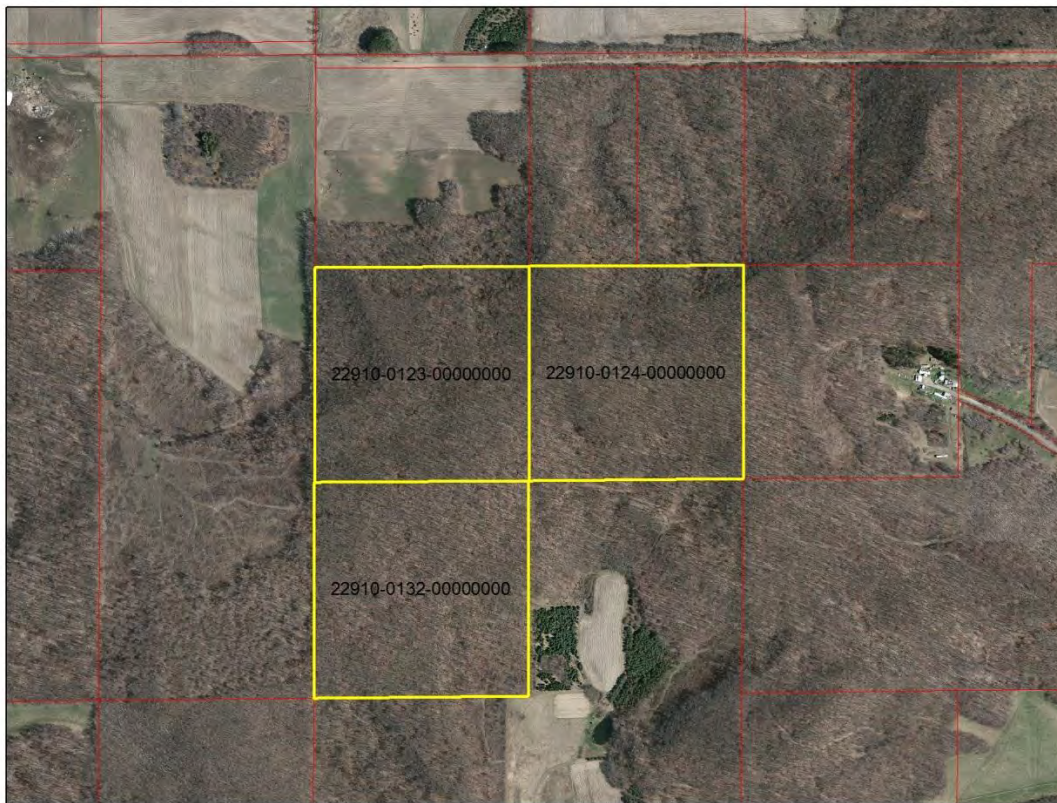
Town of Colburn – 80 acres Forest without Public Access



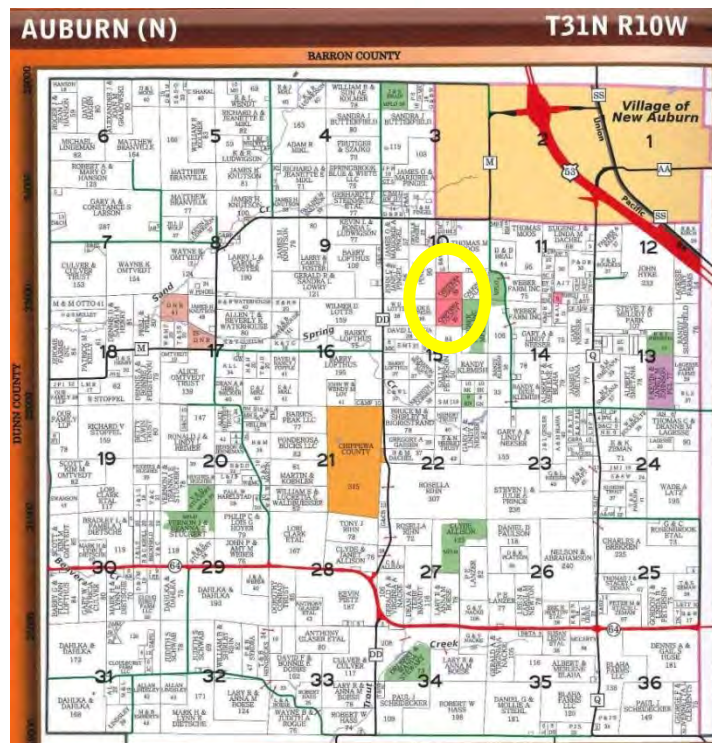
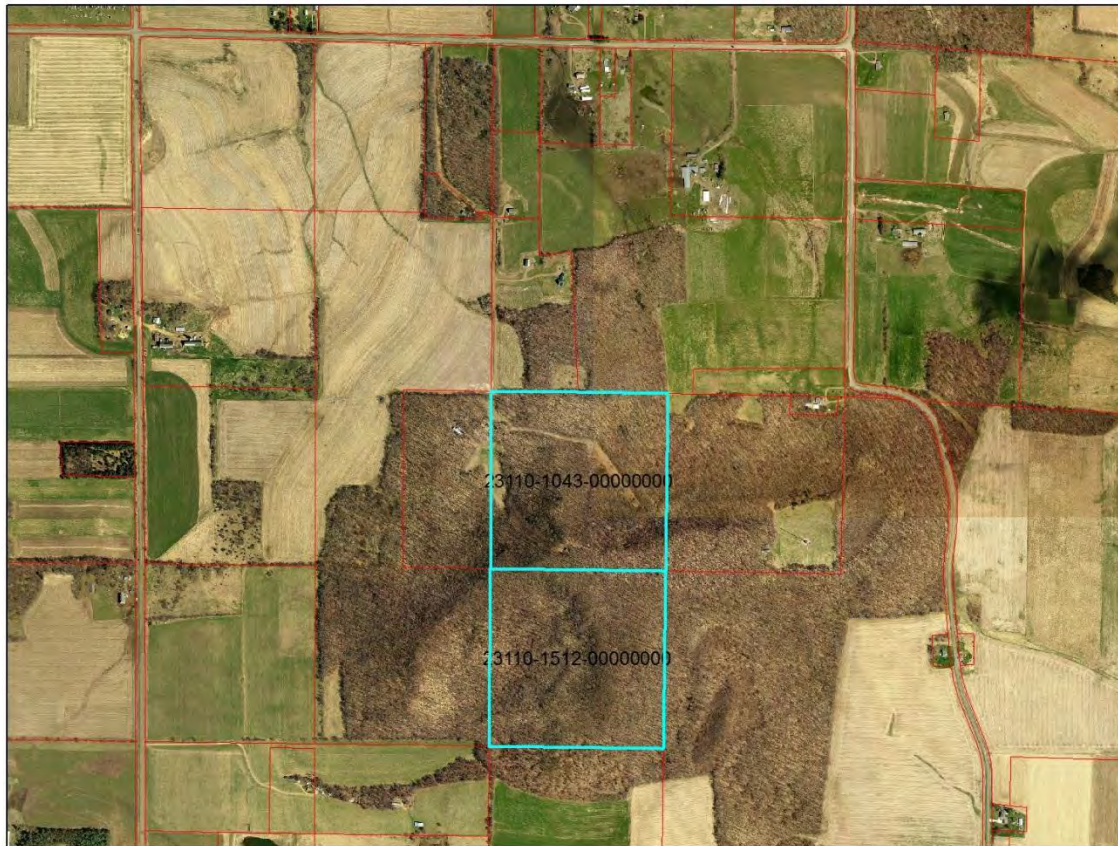
Town of Cleveland- 320 acres Forest without Public Access



Town of Howard – 120 acres Forest without Public Access

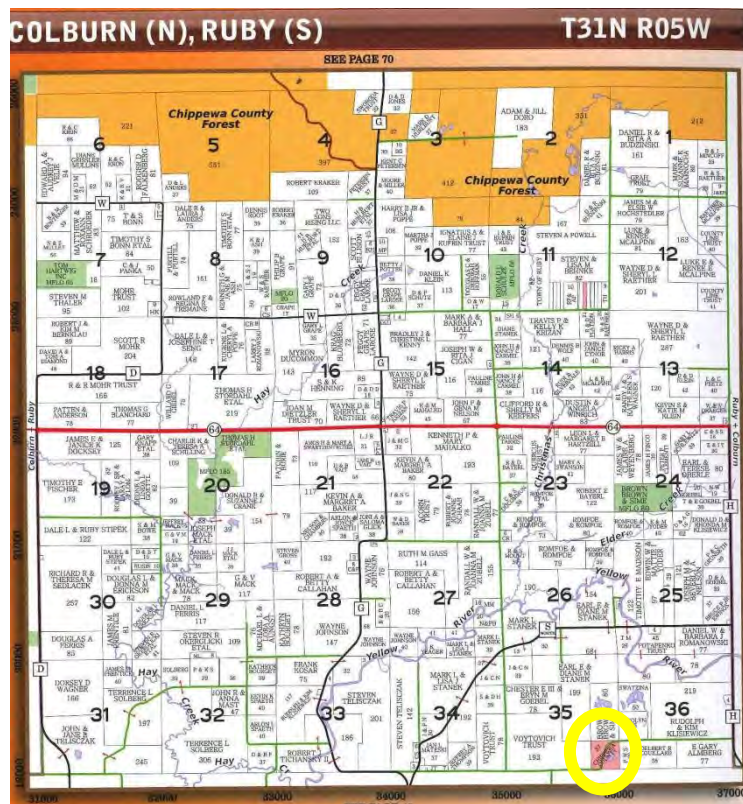
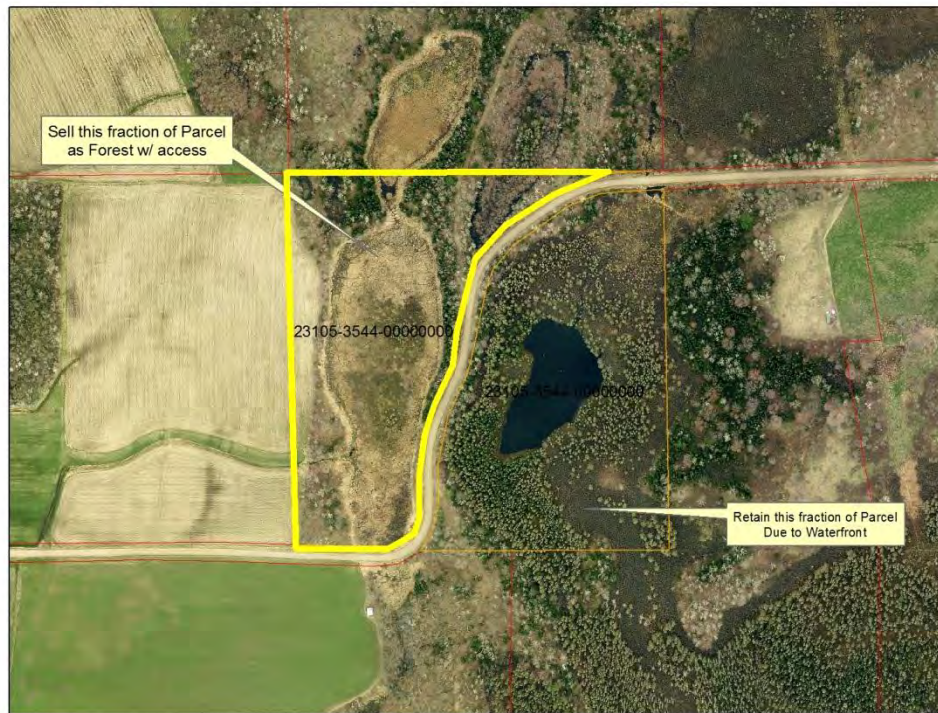


Town of Auburn – 80 acres Forest without Public Access (previously leased for Ski Hill)

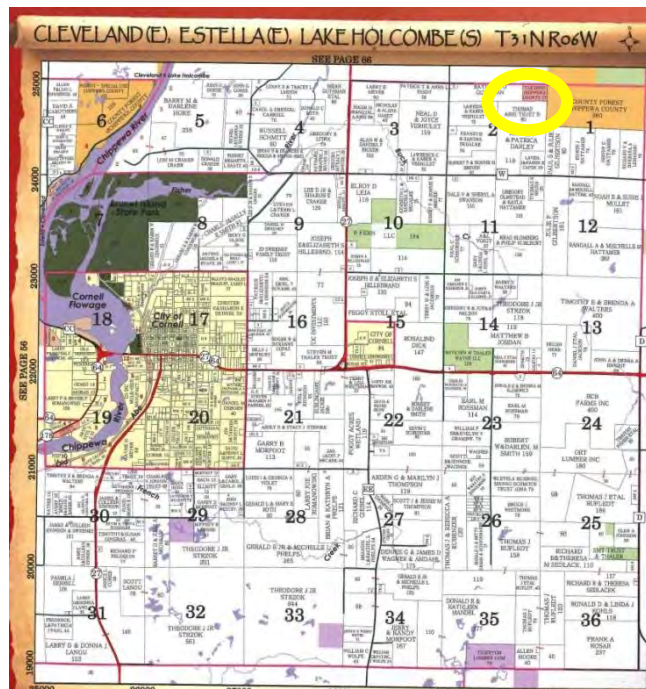
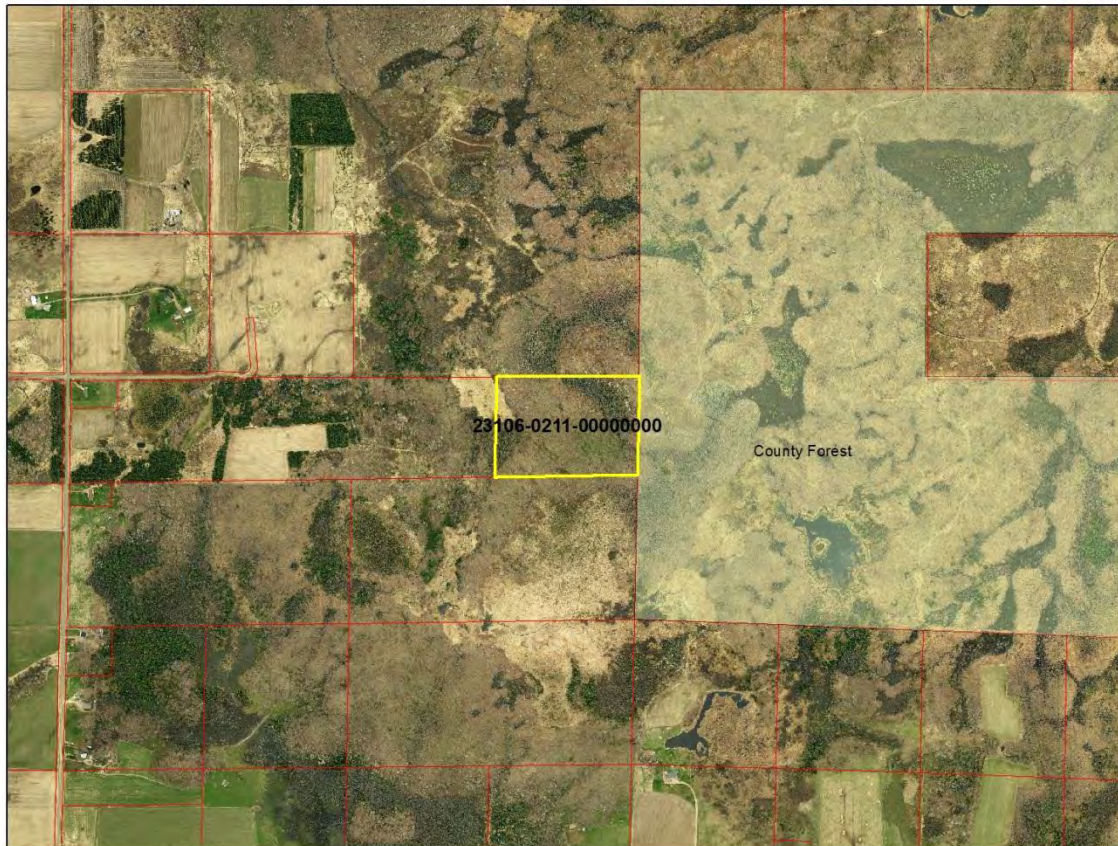


Forest with Public Access

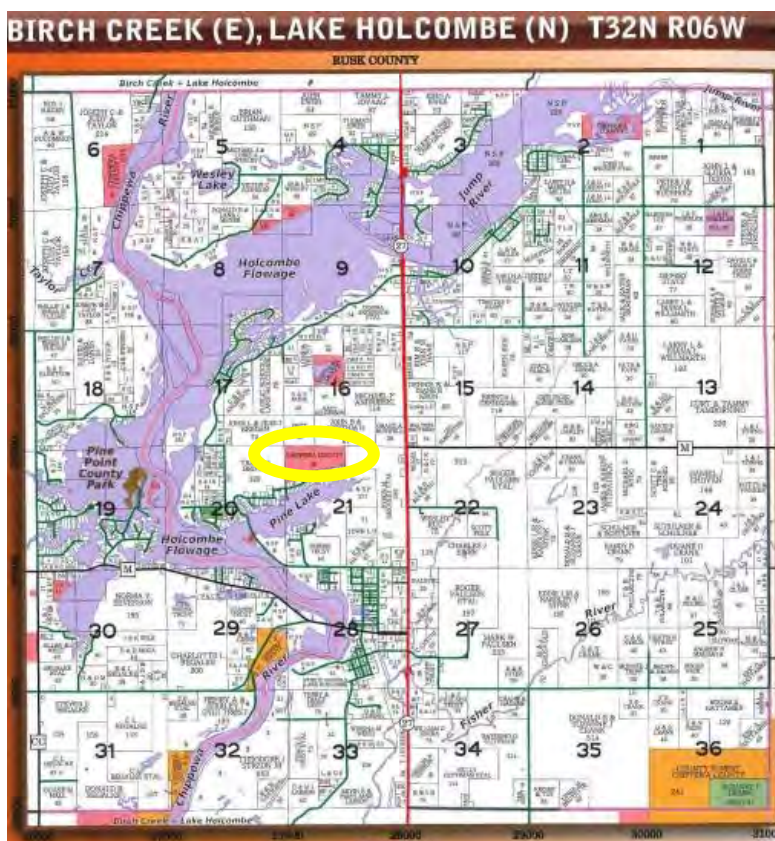
Town of Colburn - ~19 acres Forest with Public Access



Town of Estella – 20 acres Forest with Public Access (Adjacent County Forest) (Recommend Enrollment in County Forest)



Town of Lake Holcombe - ~75 acres Forest with Public Access



Waterfront with Public Access By Road

66.1006 Department of natural resources approval of discontinuance. No resolution, ordinance, order, or similar action of a town board or county board, or of a committee of a town board or county board, discontinuing any highway, street, alley, or right-of-way that provides public access to any navigable lake or stream shall be effective until such resolution, ordinance, order, or similar action is approved by the department of natural resources.

NR 1.92 Abandonment of access.

(1) NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON AN ACCESS.

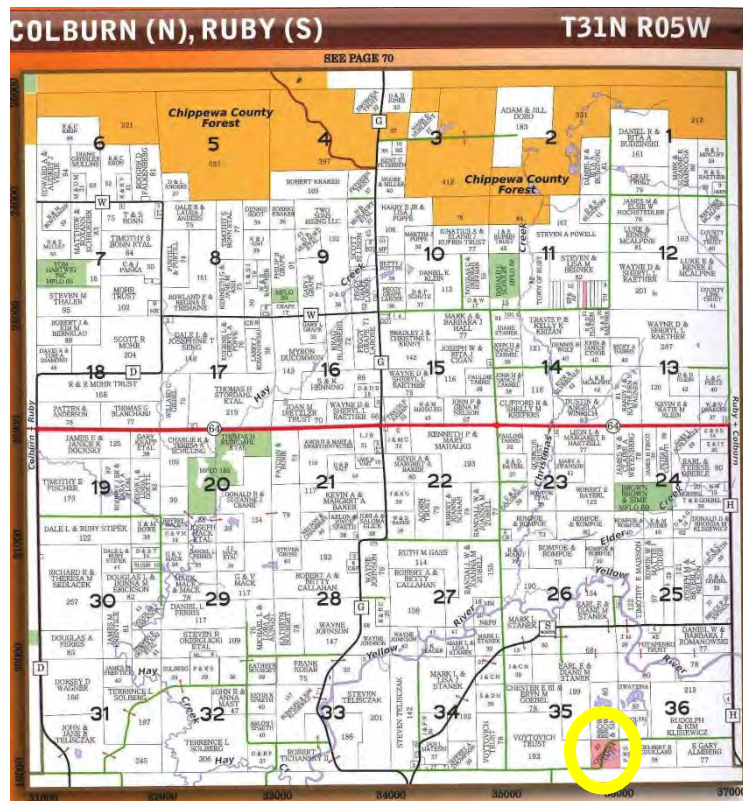
- (a) Any municipality subject to s. [66.1006](#), Stats., which proposes to abandon or discontinue any highway, street, alley or right-of-way, which provides public access to a navigable waterway, shall provide a copy of the resolution or ordinance and notify the department at least 10 working days prior to acting on a resolution or ordinance to abandon or discontinue. Within 10 working days of enacting an ordinance or resolution subject to approval under s. [66.1006](#), Stats., the municipality shall submit a copy of the ordinance or resolution to the department. Upon receipt of the ordinance or resolution, the department shall publish a notice of the proposed abandonment pursuant to the procedures in s. [31.06](#), Stats. If no hearing is requested, the department shall proceed under sub. (2) to grant or deny the petition.
- (b) If a hearing is requested, the department shall hold the hearing as a class 1 contested case in the county in which the public access is proposed to be abandoned. The department shall make its decision based on the standards in sub. (2).

(2) FINDINGS FOR GRANTING. The department may grant the petition to abandon or discontinue the public access only if:

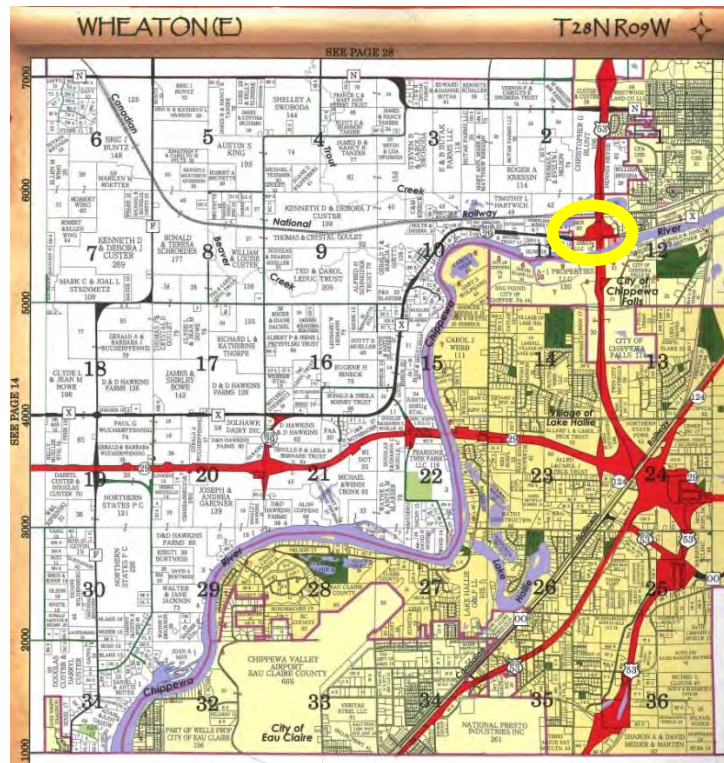
- (a) Any access sites or part thereof proposed to be abandoned or discontinued is replaced prior to granting the petition; or
- (b) The department finds that the access proposed to be abandoned does not contribute to the quality or quantity of public access on the body of water.
- (3) APPROVAL CONDITIONS.** The department may order conditions of approval including, but not limited to, a showing of financial capability of the petitioner to provide and maintain an equivalent or superior replacement public access site, and other conditions related to assurance of protection of the interest of the public in the body of water.
- (4) ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.** Access sites may also be abandoned where environmental degradation is occurring at the site as a result of existing use, and abandonment of the access will reduce or eliminate the degradation without reducing public interests in access to that body of water.

History: Cr. [Register, April, 1975, No. 232](#), eff. 5-1-75; renum. from NR 1.32, [Register, October, 1977, No. 262](#), eff. 11-1-77; r. and recr. [Register, March, 1994, No. 459](#), eff. 4-1-94; corrections in (1) (a) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register April 2005 No. 592](#).

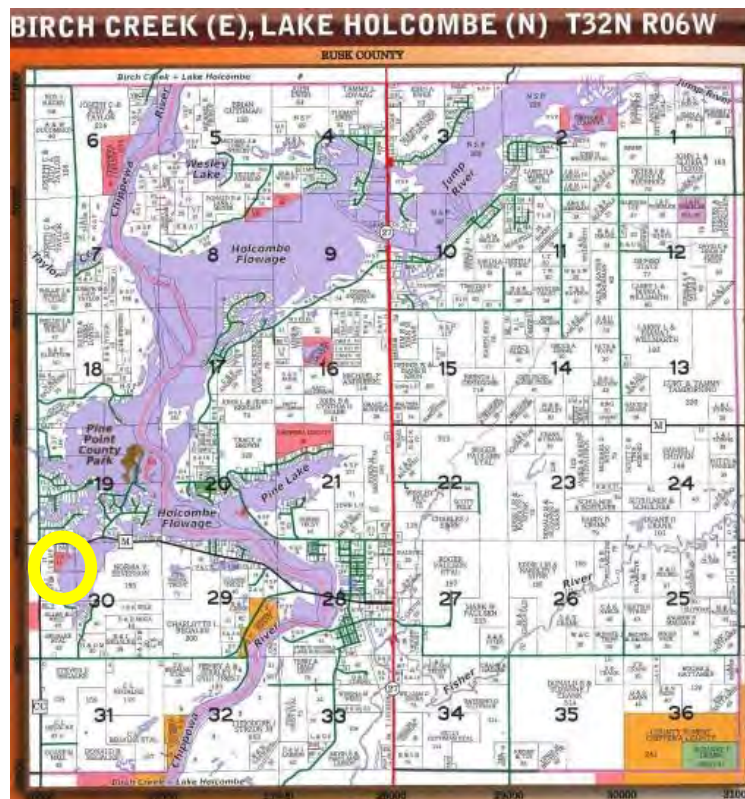
Town of Colburn - ~19 acres Forest with Public Access



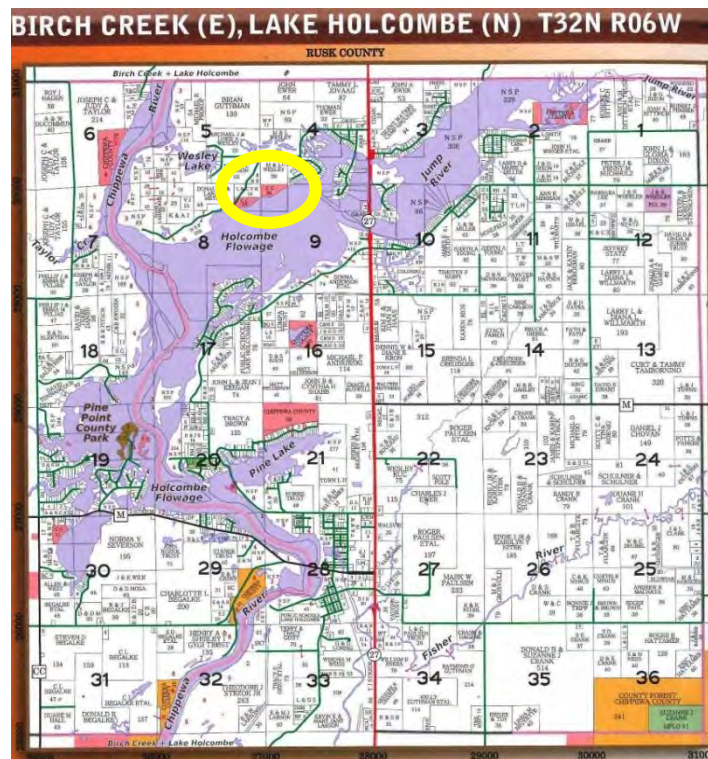
City of Chippewa Falls –Waterfront on Chippewa River with Public Road Access



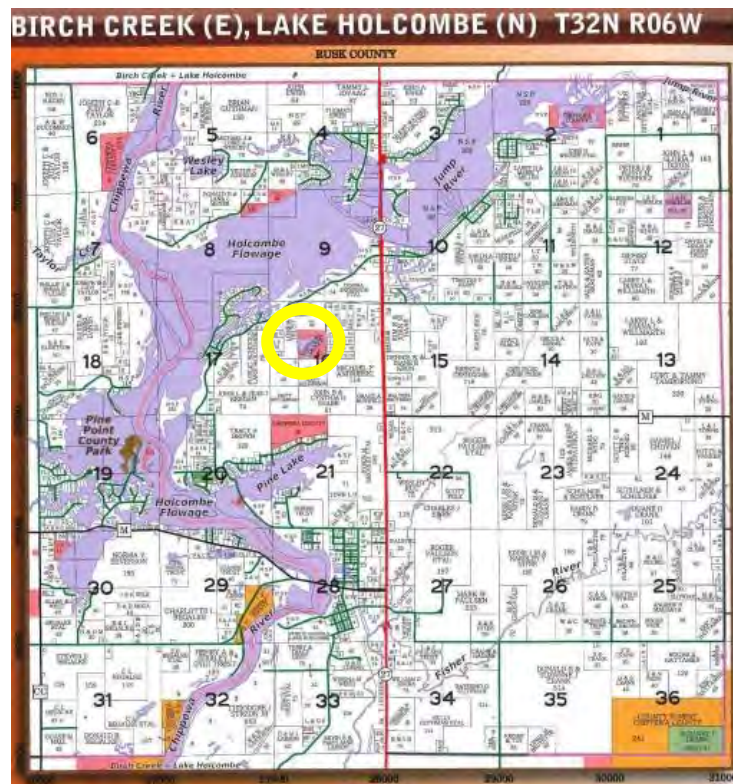
Town of Birch Creek - ~20 acres Waterfront on Cranberry Lake with Public Road Access



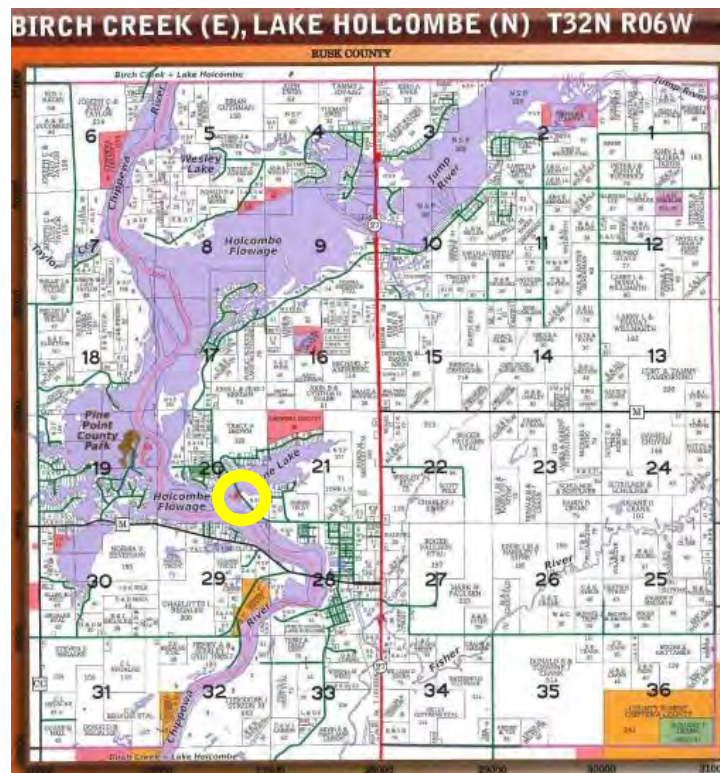
Town of Lake Holcombe – Waterfront on Lake Holcombe with Public Road and Boat Access



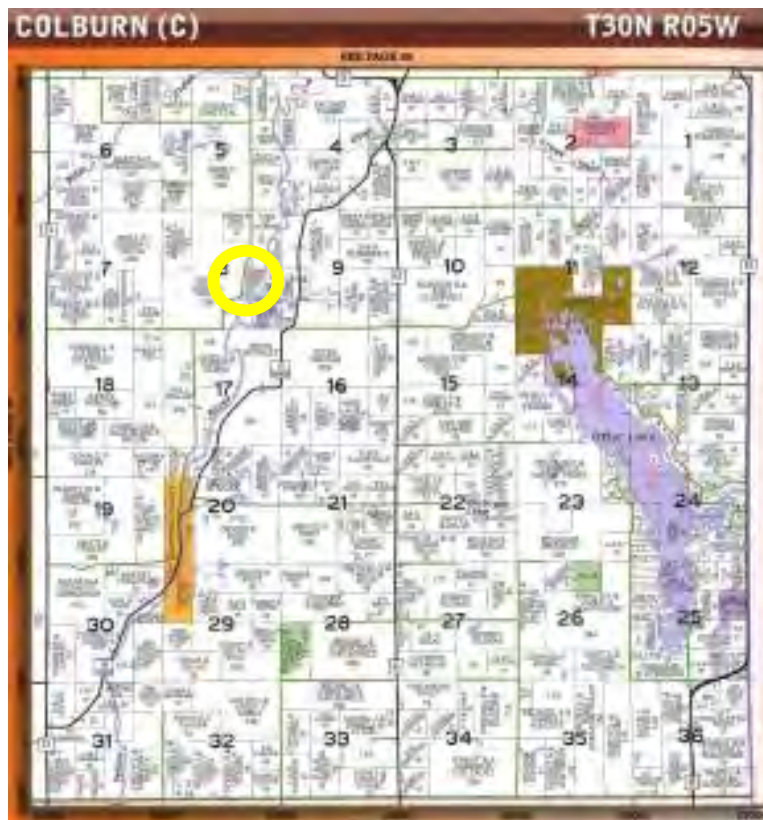
Town of Lake Holcombe - 40 acres Waterfront containing Roedecker Lake with Public Road Access



Town of Lake Holcombe - ~ 3 acres Waterfront on Lake Holcombe with Public Access by Road or Boat

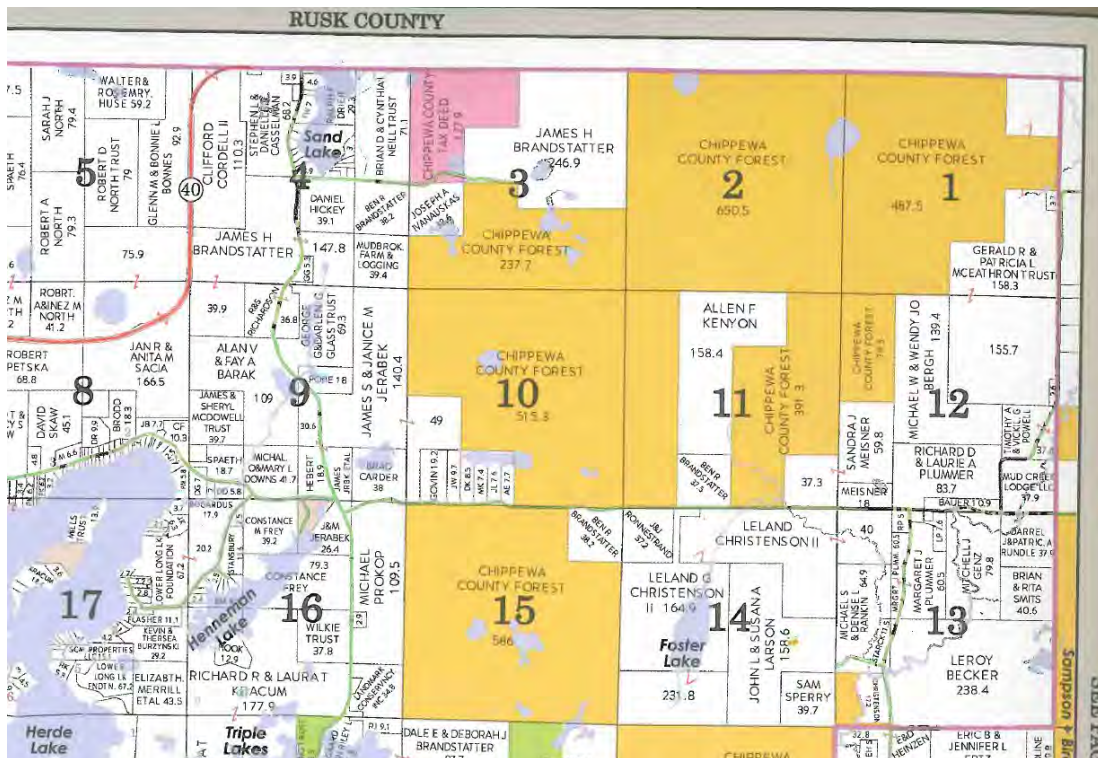
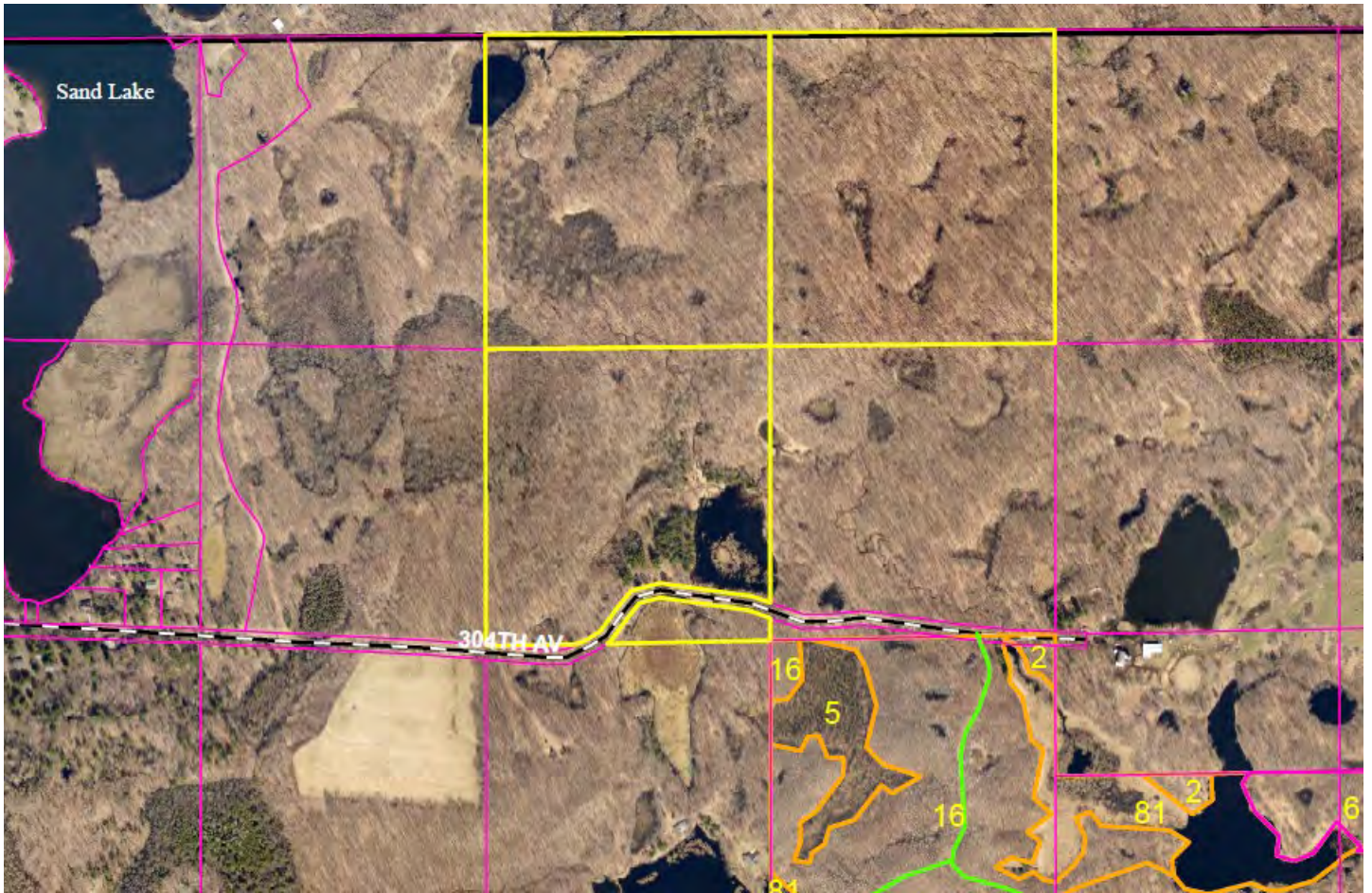


Town of Colburn - ~ 5 acres Waterfront on Yellow River Adjacent Town of Colburn Land with Public Boat Access



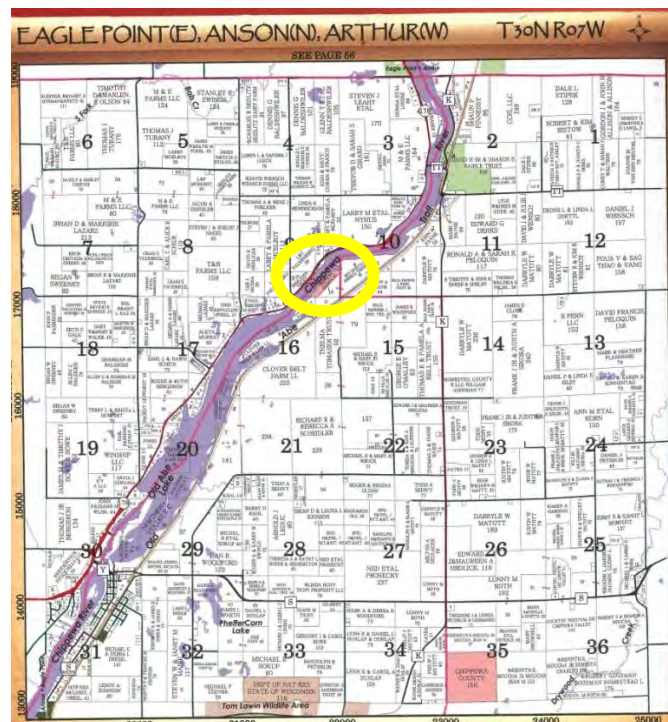
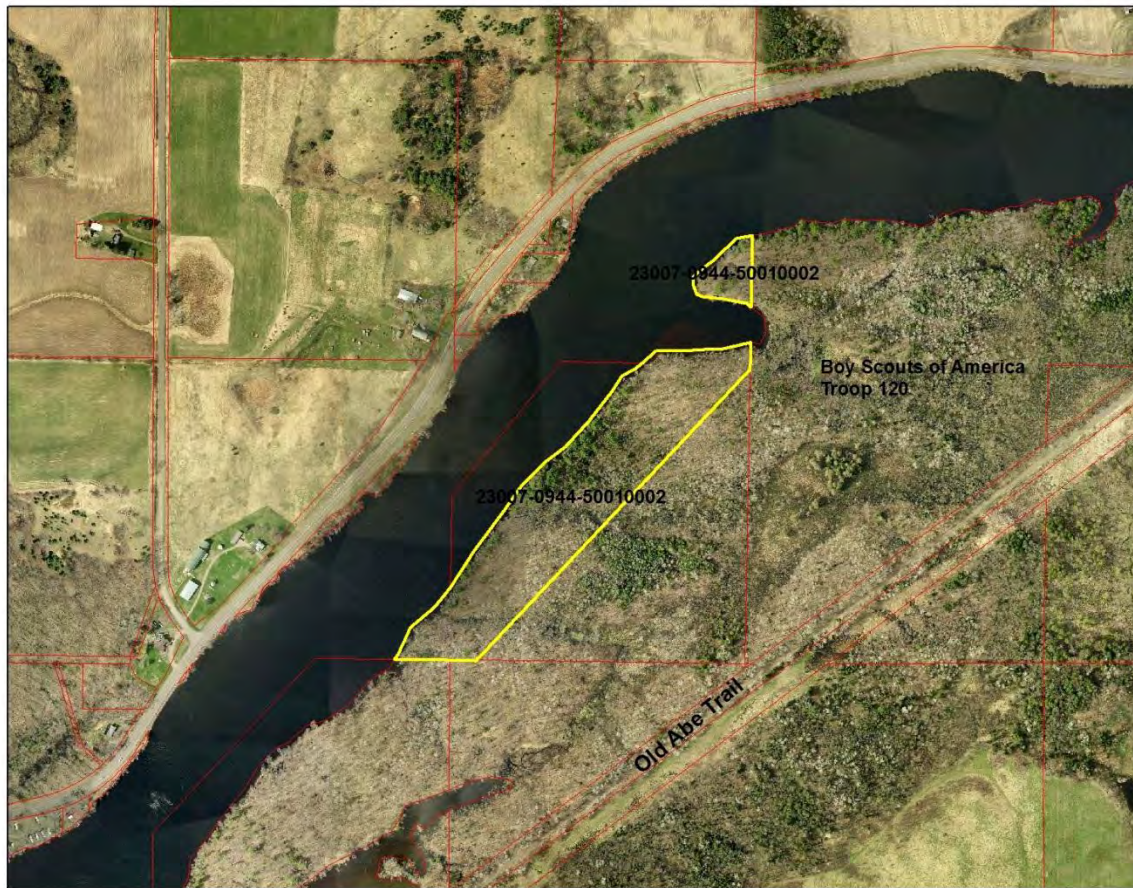
Attachment: Compilation of Type B Aerials and Plat Book 2022 (7286 : Overview of Type B Tax Deed and Other Scattered Lands Owned by

Town of Sampson – 128 Acres waterfront on unnamed Lake

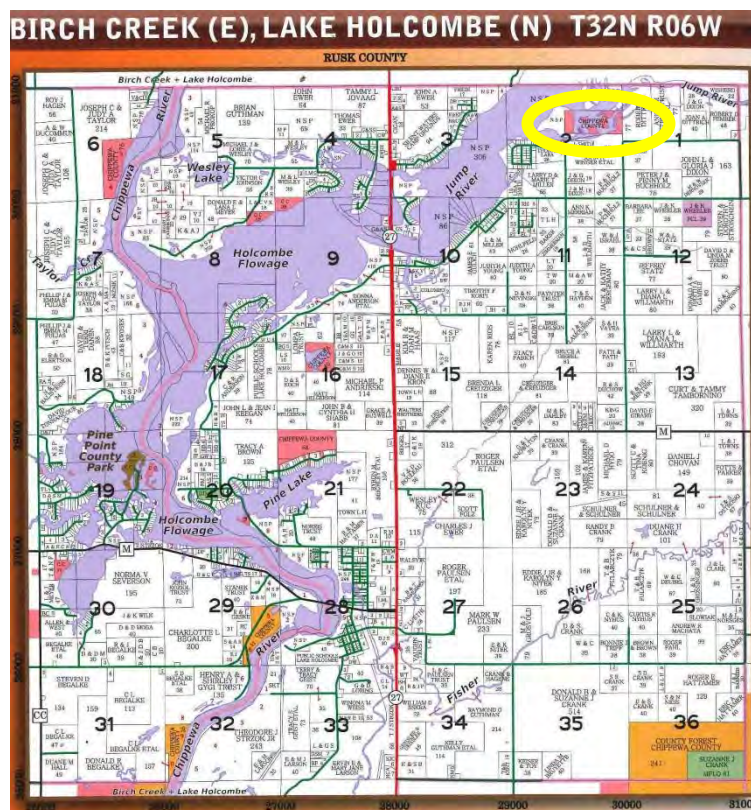


Waterfront without Public Road Access

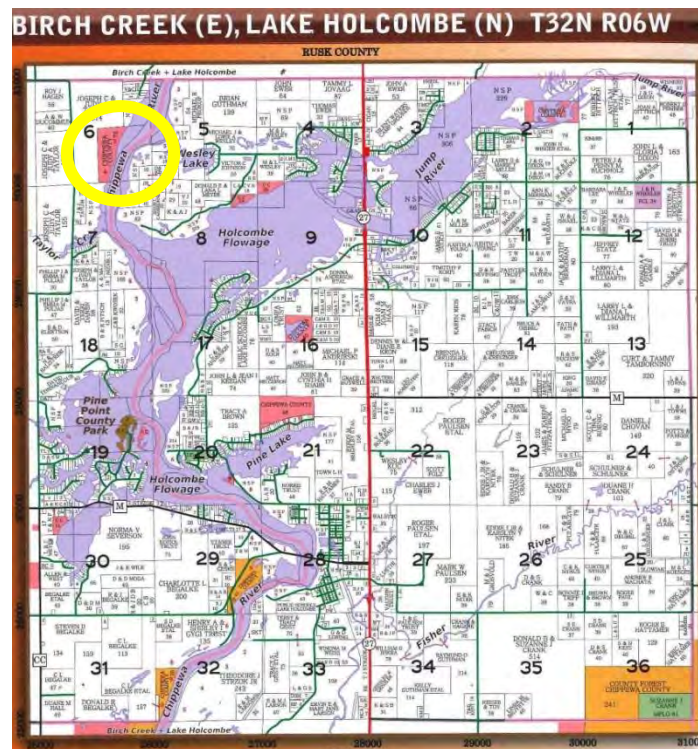
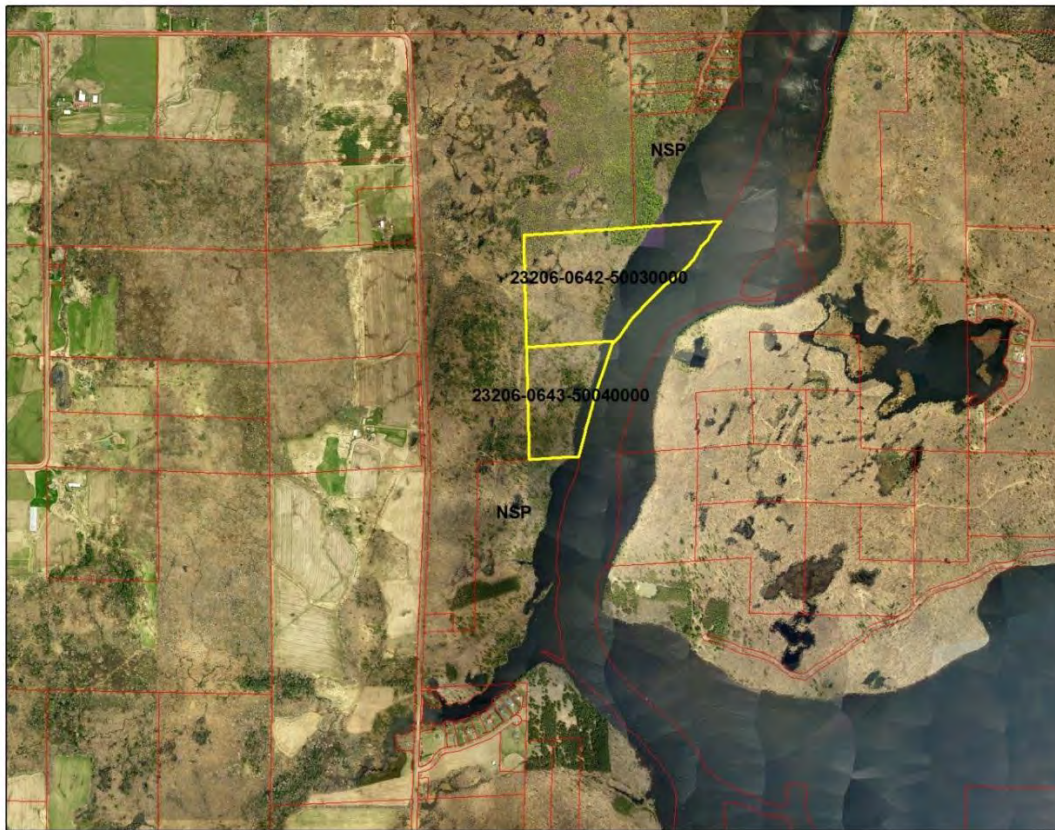
Town of Anson - ~ 14 acres Waterfront on Chippewa River with Boat Access



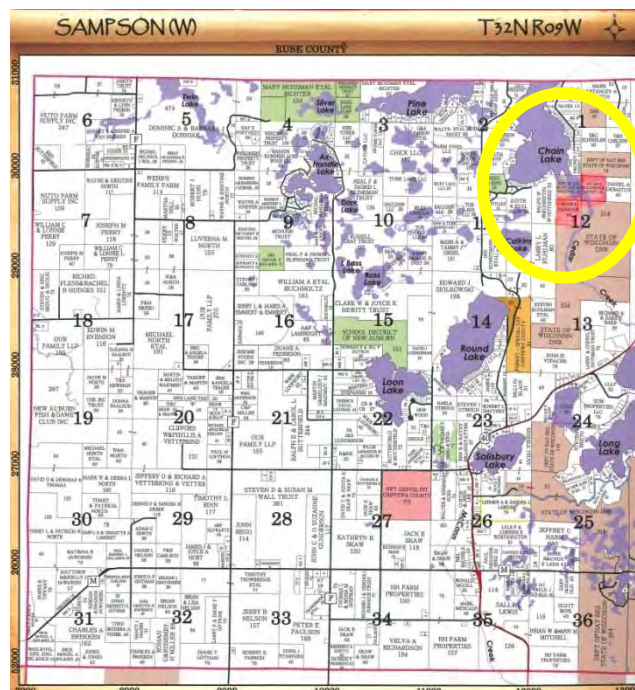
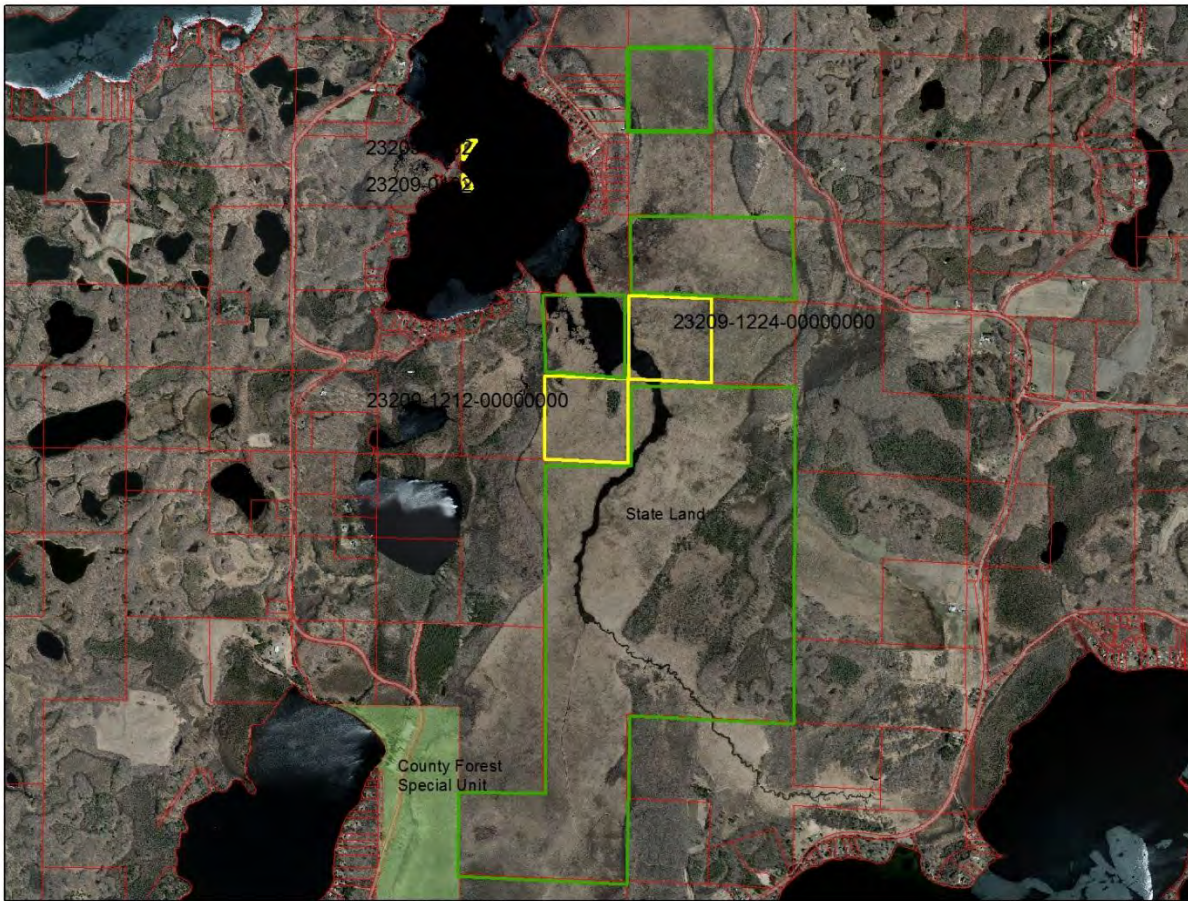
Town of Lake Holcombe - ~ 60 acres Waterfront at Jump River Confluence with Lake Holcombe with Public Access by Boat



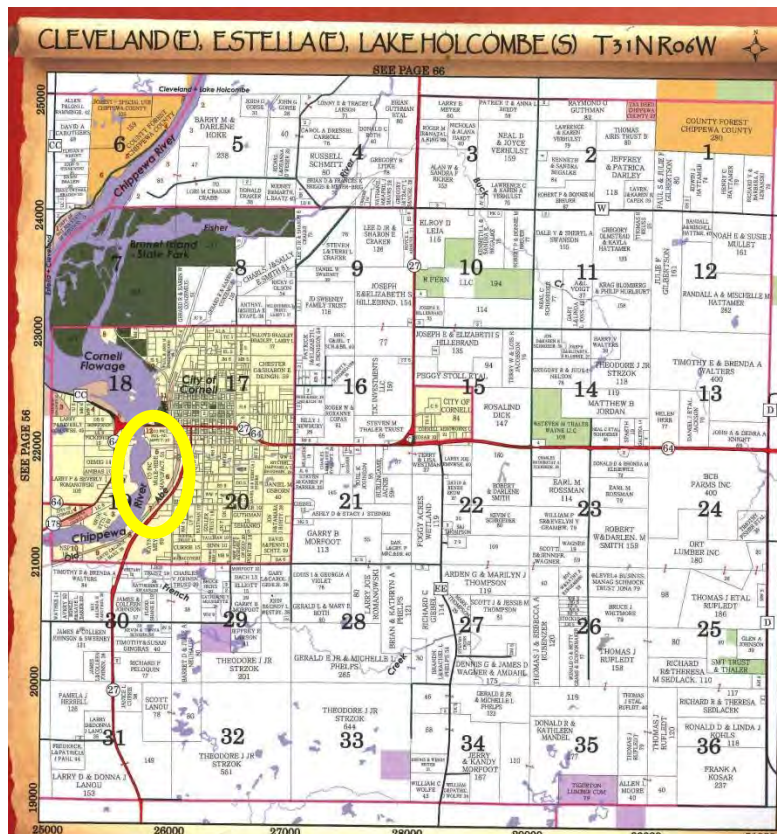
Town of Birch Creek - ~ 76 acres Waterfront on Chippewa River above Lake Holcombe with Public Access by Boat



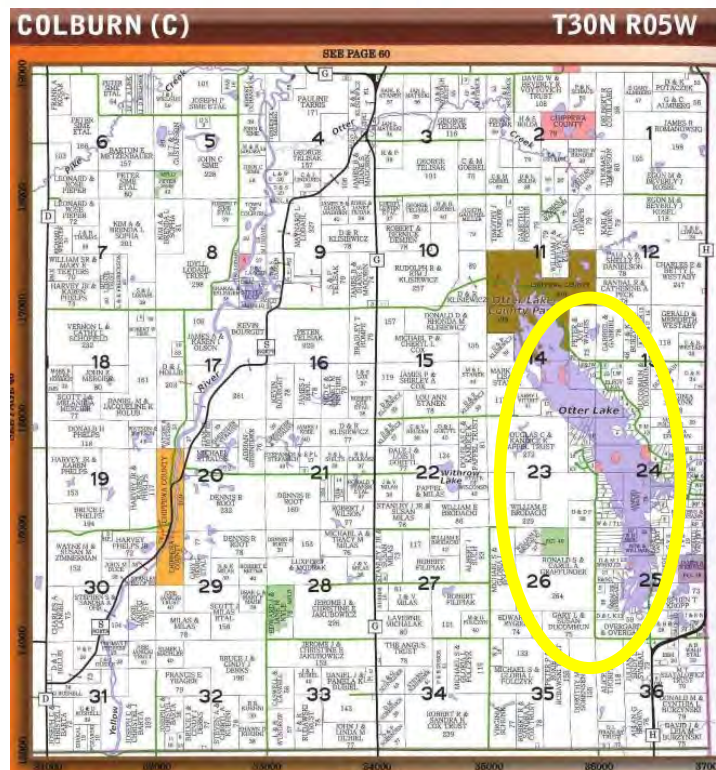
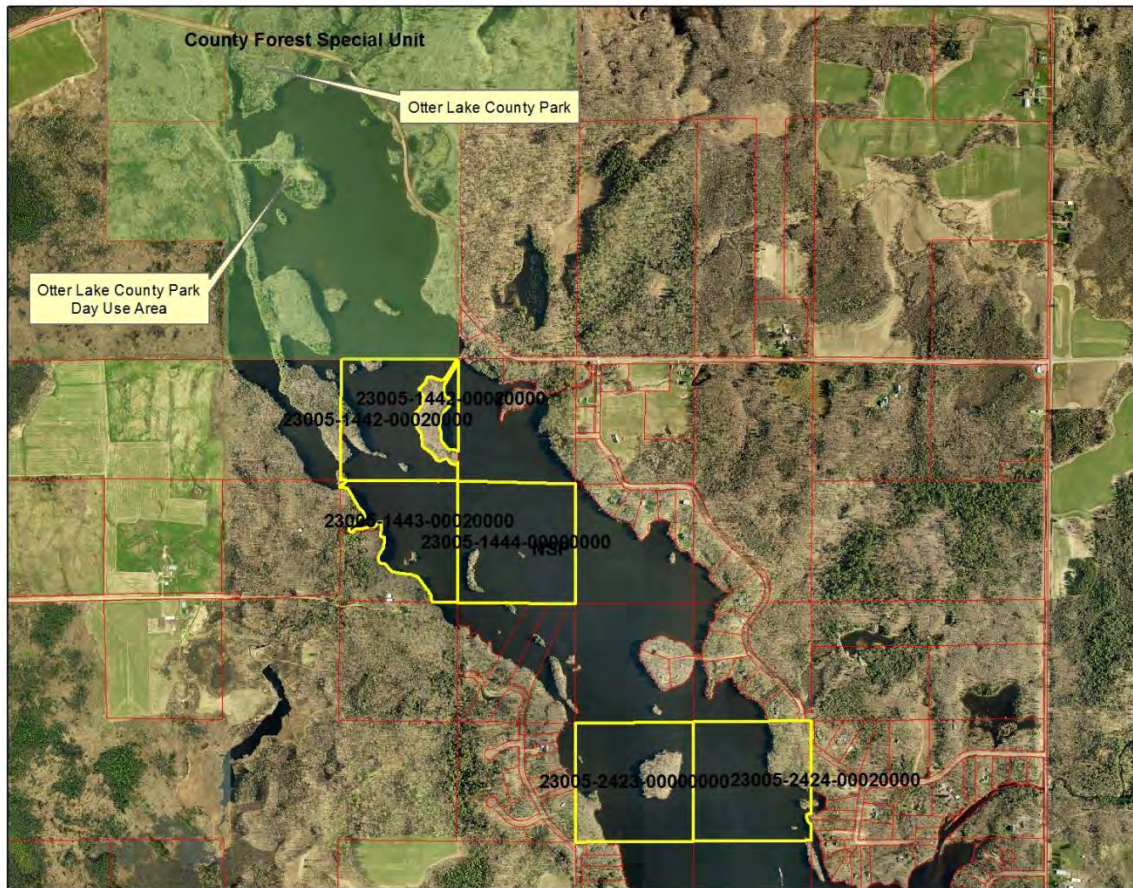
Town of Sampson – Waterfront on Chain Lake with Public Access by Boat



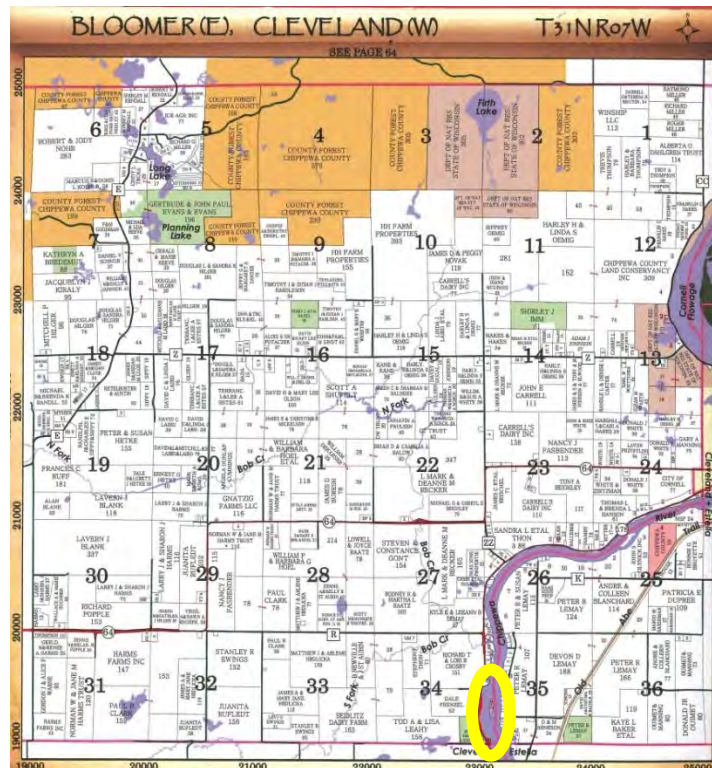
City of Cornell – Waterfront on Chippewa River with Public Access by Boat (public currently accessing site from adjacent property owned by Mule Hide)



Town of Colburn – Waterfront on Otter Lake with Public Access by Road, Boat, or Adjacent Public Land



Town of Cleveland – Waterfront (Island) on Chippewa River with Public Access by Boat





5.2

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHIPPEWA COUNTY CARBON CREDIT PROCESS**

Chippewa County has been examining the possibility of a forest carbon offset project since late 2020. There are several Counties in Wisconsin that are considering or have entered into contracts to create carbon projects in their County Forests.

This report will be used to update the Committee on the ongoing process.

Carbon Buffer Pool

The owner has little liability for reversals due to natural events beyond their control (i.e. fire, wind, disease, pest). These are covered from the landowner's buffer pool contributions, roughly equal to 18% of credits issued to the project¹. While buffer contributions in the project summary depicted below are taken directly from the project's own credits, ACR allows for other ACR approved offsets to be utilized to meet buffer requirements. As alternative ACR credits may be available at rates lower than the anticipated sales price of the project's own credit issuance, Anew may procure alternative buffer credits in order to maximize project revenues. If alternative buffer credits are procured for this purpose, the cost of the credits will be directly passed on to the landowner, with zero Anew fee for the procurement effort.

¹ In the unlikely event that an unintentional reversal exhausts the landowner's buffer pool contribution, the landowner is obligated to provide ACR a volume of credits equal to 10% of the difference between the number of credits released and the buffer pool contributions of the project. ACR covers the remaining 90% of the difference.

Chippewa County Forest Carbon Volume and Revenue

Date	Volume Sold (a)	Price (b)	Gross Revenue	Project Expense (c)	Net Revenue	Forest Owner Revenue (d)
2022	63,000	\$15.00	\$945,000	(\$184,285)	\$760,715	\$570,536
2023	61,000	\$16.00	\$976,000	(\$23,370)	\$952,630	\$714,473
2024	61,000	\$17.00	\$1,037,000	(\$23,370)	\$1,013,630	\$760,223
2025	61,000	\$18.00	\$1,098,000	(\$23,370)	\$1,074,630	\$805,973
2026	61,000	\$19.00	\$1,159,000	(\$23,370)	\$1,135,630	\$851,723
2027	61,000	\$20.00	\$1,220,000	(\$104,508)	\$1,115,493	\$836,619
2028	20,000	\$21.00	\$420,000	(\$16,400)	\$403,600	\$302,700
2029	6,000	\$22.00	\$132,000	(\$14,020)	\$117,980	\$88,485
2030	6,000	\$23.00	\$138,000	(\$14,020)	\$123,980	\$92,985
2031	6,000	\$24.00	\$144,000	(\$14,020)	\$129,980	\$97,485
TOTAL	406,000		\$7,269,000	(\$440,733)	\$6,828,268	\$5,121,201

Monitoring Endowment (e)

\$312,508

Buffer Pool Deductions: All volumes presented post-deduction of ~18% of issued credits. This mandated "insurance policy" covers unintentional reversals (losses of carbon stocks) due to natural occurrences, such as fire, pest, or disease.



January 28, 2022

Town of Auburn
Katie Lindsley, Clerk/Treasurer
22904 52nd St
New Auburn, WI 54757

RE: Town Severance Payment for County Forest Revenue Collected in 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

Chapter 28 of Wisconsin Statutes establishes County Forest Law. Section 28.11(9)(d) of that law states "Of the gross receipts from all timber sales on the County Forest, 10% shall be paid annually to the Towns having County Forest land on the basis of acreage of such lands in the Towns".

Effective 2014, Chippewa County increased the Town's share of timber sale revenues to 12% in recognition of the importance of Town infrastructure to management of the County Forest. Enclosed is payment for your Township's share of the County Forest timber sale revenue generated in 2021.

Please note that in recognition of local infrastructure needs County Forest Administrators and the Wisconsin County Forest Association lobbied the State to increase the County Forest Acreage Share Payment to local municipalities. This Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) had remained at \$0.30/acre since 1989. The passage of 2021 Wisconsin Act 58 has increased the PILT payment to \$0.63/acre. Townships with County Forest will receive the increased payment from the State in mid-June of 2022.

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Matt Hansen
County Forest Administrator and Public Liason
(715) 738-2599
mhansen@co.chippewa.wi.us
enclosure

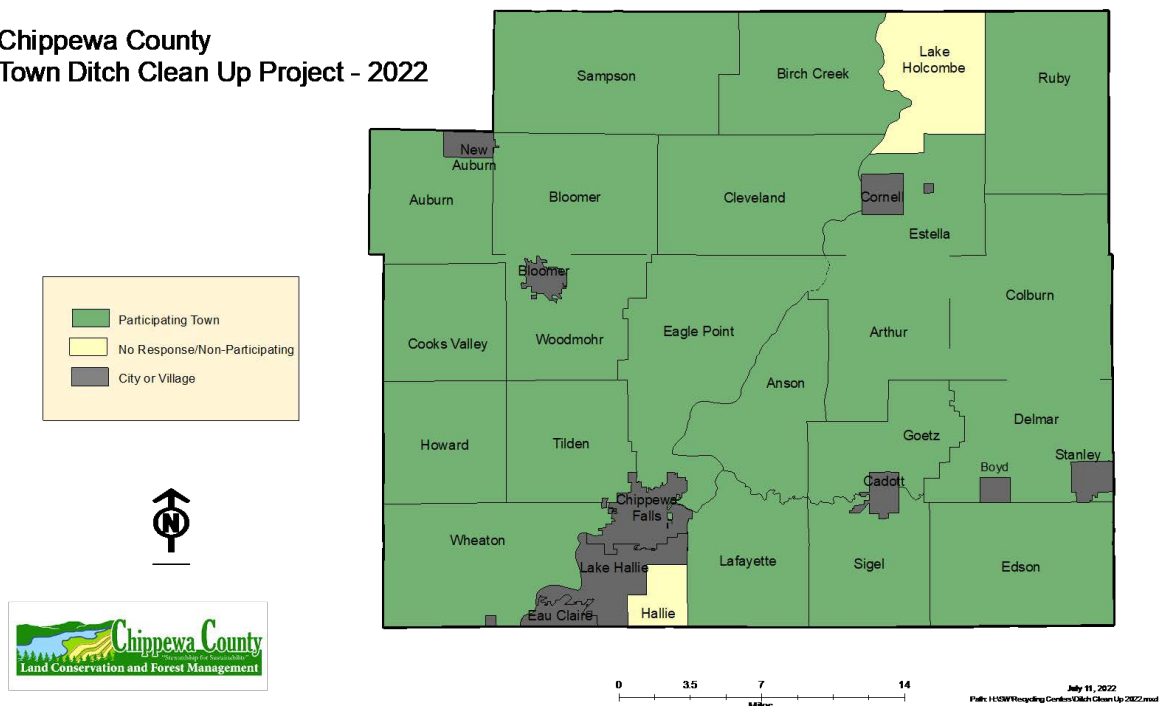
2022 SPRING ROAD DITCH CLEANUP Final Report

The Chippewa County Recycling Program recognizes that there is an increase in roadside litter and illegal dumping and that roadside cleanup is a direct and recurring cost to the towns. The Chippewa County Recycling and Forest & Trails Divisions within the Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management implemented a Spring Road Cleanup Pilot Project in 2015. The Chippewa County Recycling Program managed the project and the Forest & Trails Division funded it.

The towns are responsible for inspecting the ditches. Towns are paid \$500 to cover these efforts as well as hauling and disposing of trash and recyclable items. While only recyclable items are tracked, Colburn reported this year that only trash was recovered from their town road ditches. Specifically, towns are responsible for transporting tires to a prearranged Chippewa County tire collection day and transporting appliances and/or electronics to First Choice in Eau Claire. The county pays the tire collection program and First Choice directly for disposal fees. The disposal process has changed slightly since the first year where First Choice picked up directly from the towns.

This is the eighth year of the project and again all twenty-three Chippewa County towns were invited to participate in the ditch cleanup project. The number of towns participating went from twelve in 2015 to fourteen for 2016-2018, sixteen in 2019, eighteen for 2020, twenty-two for 2021, and twenty-one for 2022. While there is one town that has not participated in any year, nine towns have participated all eight years.

**Chippewa County
Town Ditch Clean Up Project - 2022**



Information specific to 2022 is included below as well as data and trends for the eight years.

2022 Appliances Collected:

	Actual Items Collected
Non-Freon Appliances	1
Freon Appliances	4
Total	5

2022 Electronics Collected:

	Actual Items Collected
TVs	46
Other Electronics	20
Total	66

2022 Tires Collected:

	Actual Items Collected
Tires	1138

2022 Chippewa County Disposal Fees: \$4,942.00

- Appliances: \$60.00
- Electronics: \$922.00
- Tires: \$3960.00

Note: The 2020-2022 Waste Tire Recycling Contract with Liberty Tire Recycling rates have increased from \$120/ton in 2019 to \$285/ton in 2020 to \$290/ton for 2021 to \$330/ton for 2022. The number of tires recycled decreased by 30.5% from 2020 but the disposal costs have increased \$5/ton.

2015-2022 Item Comparison:

	2015**	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Appliances	32/23	4	11	14	27	27	25	5
TVs	53/87	63	52	44	57	87	68	46
Other Electronics (including monitors)	13/37	7	10	5	30	15	6	20
Tires	431/674	587	661	393	436*	1,297	921	1,138***

*2019 includes 18 tires given to a farmer instead of to the tire site

**2015 has two counts per item. Due to a 5-month delay in pick-up of the recycled items, the stockpiled items inventoried changed from the original declared ditch retrieval numbers. Some items may have been scrapped out or given to other recyclers besides First Choice. Other variances could have been new items brought to the recycling center (not found in the ditch). All inventories as of the October pick-up were paid for through the ditch project and the procedures were changed for subsequent years of the project to avoid this issue.

***2022 includes 16 tires kept at Tilden's sand pile instead of being brought to the tire site.

Ditch Clean Up Program trends:

- In 2020, the 87 TVs retrieved was the highest TVs retrieved since the start of the program.
- The 2020 tire retrieval was the highest ever with 1,297 tires.

The chart below shows the costs to date for 2015-2022. The Recycling Program had \$10,000 budgeted and transferred from the Forest & Trails Division.

2015-2022 Project Costs:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Participating Towns	12	14	14	14	16	19	22	21
Town Payments	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,500	\$11,000	\$10,500
Disposal Fees	\$3,166	\$2,626	\$2,975	\$1,786	\$2,224	\$6,801.50	\$4,552.09	\$4,942
Totals	\$9,166	\$9,626	\$9,975	\$8,786	\$10,224	\$16,301.50	\$15,552.09	\$15,442

The total disposal fees have decreased by 40% but the payments to the participating towns have increased by 16% from \$9,500 to \$11,000.

Summary of 2015-2022 Towns Participation:

9 towns have participated all years (Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Cooks Valley, Eagle Point, Estella, Goetz, Lafayette, Ruby)

1 town has never participated



**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
COMMUNITY WELL ADVISORY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

5.3

Discussion regarding recommended professionals invited to assist with the ad hoc committee and guidance on priorities to initiate the location of community wells in the nitrate sensitive regions.



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION CHIPPEWA COUNTY COVER CROP COST SHARE POLICY

6.1

For the health and safety of the homeowners of Chippewa County who access groundwater to supply their eating/drinking/bathing water, cover crops that decrease the need for and work to prevent nitrogen from leaching into said groundwater will be incentivized to encourage adoption in the Nitrogen Targeted Areas of the County. This policy will lay out the process to prioritize and distribute the funds allocated to the program.

COVER CROP COST SHARING POLICY

Version 9/7/22

Policy

For the health and safety of the homeowners of Chippewa County who access groundwater to supply their eating/drinking/bathing water, cover crops that decrease the need for and work to prevent nitrogen from leaching into said groundwater will be incentivized to encourage adoption in the Nitrogen Targeted Areas of the County. This policy will lay out the process to prioritize and distribute the funds approved by the County Board in the 2021-2026 ARPA Plan and Resolution 34-22.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to: expand the adoption of the cover crop conservation practice in the areas susceptible to nitrogen leaching; to encourage proper establishment and successful maintenance of the cover crop and to deter soil erosion with the improvement of soil health qualities. This policy will establish a system that provides guidance for distribution of county cover crop funds, based on identified criteria to address the resource concern.

Scope

This Policy shall apply to all interested landowners in county cover crop cost sharing.

Definitions

1. Cost Sharing is funding provided by federal, state, and local entities to offset the risk of implementing new conservation practices.
2. Cover Crop is a plant that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, scavenge nitrogen, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, and increase biodiversity.
3. Grant Recipient is the person who has been awarded a cost share contract and has a financial risk in the planting/harvesting of the cover crop
4. High Priority is a rating given to an application, which after assessing all the ranking criteria, shows the highest benefit to assist in the mitigation of the resource concern.
5. Landowner is any person holding fee title or an easement to the property.
6. Low Priority is a rating given to an application, which after assessing all the ranking criteria, may not address all the resource concerns, but still provides an environmental benefit if approved.
7. Nitrogen Water Test is a homeowner's water test that quantifies the amount of nitrate in the groundwater and its relation to the drinking water health standards.

8. Nitrogen Targeted Areas are areas identified on the Groundwater Nitrogen Targeted Areas of Wisconsin map, developed by WI DNR, to indicate the highest nitrogen leaching potential.
9. NR 151 Statewide Performance Standards are standards and prohibitions developed by the WI Department of Natural Resources for agricultural facilities and practices designed to achieve water quality standards, as required by s. 281.16 (3).
10. Operator is a person who has interest in property which allows the person to undertake cropping, livestock management, land disturbing construction activity, or maintenance on the property.
11. Ranking Criteria are a set of components that comprise a ranking score for an individual assessed application.
12. Ranking Period is the period of time after the application deadline and prior to the signing of contracts, to evaluate and select the high priority applications.
13. Schedule of Implementation is a timeline developed with the landowner that will lay out the implementation of conservation practices to address the resource concerns identified in a Whole Farm Assessment. Implementation may be completed voluntarily, but in order to require it, the Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management (LCFM) must provide a 70% offer of cost sharing, in accordance with NR 151.
14. Whole Farm Assessment is a complete assessment of the resource concerns on an agricultural production facility, in relation to the NR 151 Statewide Performance Standards.

Responsibility and Authority

The LCFM Department is responsible for promoting, ranking, contracting, and ensuring compliance with the applicants of the County Cover Crop Cost Sharing Program. After approval, the LCFM Department will confirm compliance and perform applicable groundwater and soil health testing.

Ranking

1. Criteria Used in Ranking:
 - a. Percentage of the Fields present on nitrogen sensitive area
 - 1) Utilization of the Groundwater Nitrogen Targeted Areas of Chippewa County
 - Groundwater Nitrogen Targeted Areas of Wisconsin (arcgis.com)
 - 2) Points awarded per percentage
 - 100% = 100 pts
 - b. Years of Commitment
 - 1) 1-4 Years available
 - 2) 10 Points awarded per year
 - 4 years = 40 pts

- c. Whole Farm Assessment Allowed
 - 1) Flat Rate
 - Assessment = 50 pts
 - d. Participation in another cost share program
 - 1) Program is aimed at 1st time adopters
 - 1st time = 50 points
 - 2) If currently participating in another cover crop cost share program, applicant will be placed in the low priority category
 - e. Tie Breaker
 - 1) If two or more applications rank the same, the date and time the application is received in the office will be utilized to break the tie
 - The earlier of submittals will rank higher
2. High Priority Ranking Pool
 - a. 1st time participation in a cost share program for cover crops
 - b. 4-year commitment to planting cover crops on the contracted acres
 - c. Landowner agrees to permit the LCFM Department Staff to complete a Whole Farm Assessment on all acres owned, not just fields contracted for cover crop
 - d. Landowner agrees to develop a schedule of implementation
 - 1) Approved by Landowner and LCFM Department
 - 2) Implementation contingent upon the LCFM Department's ability to secure 70% cost sharing for additional practices
 3. Low Priority Ranking Pool
 - a. If any of the following occur, the application would be considered in the Low Priority Pool
 - 1) If Landowner is currently participating in a separate cost share program:
 - Regardless of what fields the cost sharing is received for
 - Any participation puts the entire enterprise into the low priority pool
 - 2) 1-4 years commitment to planting cover crops on the contracted acres
 - 3) Landowner does not wish to allow a Whole Farm Assessment on all acres owned
 4. Eligibility
 - a. Land must be located in Chippewa County
 - b. Land that follows a row crop such as corn and soybeans
 - c. If a landowner rents out the cropland:
 - 1) The contract will be signed by both the landowner and the operator
 - 2) The payment will go to the person who runs the risk of the crop
 - 3) If the operator changes before the contract is completed, the new operator will need to follow the requirements of the contract.
 - d. 100 acres maximum per contract
 - 1) If an operator has leases for multiple landowners, the operator is held to the 100-acre maximum, not per landowner they lease from
 - 2) In the case of a corporation or entity, the entity is held to the 100-acre maximum, not the individual landowners

5. Cost Share Rates
 - a. High Priority
 - 1) Rate will be \$70/Acre x 4 Years = \$280/Acre
 - Cost share recipient will receive all 4 years in an upfront payment
 - Cost share contract will be recorded on the deed to ensure the agreement follows the land in the case of a change in ownership
 - b. Low Priority
 - 1) Rate will be \$30/Acre/Year
 - If participating in a separate program and willing to meet all the criteria in Section 5c the cost sharing would be the difference of current cost share up to a total of \$70/acre
 - 2) Grant recipient will receive 1-4 years in an upfront payment
 - Cost share contract will be recorded on the deed if more than one year is contracted.
 - This is to ensure the agreement continues in case the land is sold
 - c. If the Landowner is currently participating in a separate cost share program, this will place them into the Low Priority pool. However, if they wish to increase their existing cost share up to \$70/acre, they must agree to all of the following:
 - 1) 4-year commitment to planting cover crops on the contracted acres
 - 2) Landowner agrees to permit the LCFM Department Staff to complete a Whole Farm Assessment on all acres owned, not just fields contracted for cover crop
 - 3) Landowner agrees to develop a schedule of implementation
 - Approved by Landowner and LCFM Department
 - Implementation contingent upon LCFM ability to secure 70% cost sharing for additional practices
6. Monitoring
 - 1) Both pools will receive:
 - Baseline/Follow up nitrate groundwater test
 - Baseline/Follow up soil health test
7. Payment Requirements
 - a. Fields must be seeded by October 15th of each year of the contract:
 - 1) Landowner must contact the LCFM at least two weeks after planting and no later than November 1st of each year of the contract to notify:
 - When the fields were planted
 - Which fields are planted
 - Which cover crop species was used
 - If the deadline will not be met
 - Due to inclement weather conditions
 - An extension may be granted by the LCFM Department
 - Due to neglect of the contract
 - The remaining cost share funds would be refunded to the LCFM Department
 - Landowner could appeal decision to LCFM Committee

- b. The LCFM Department will confirm cover crop:
 - 1) Has been planted
 - 2) Is growing at an approved emergent rate
 - For Fall planted cereal grain – 10 plants/sq. ft
 - For summer planted multi species grass – 50% canopy cover over the soil surface
 - c. The LCFM Department will conduct:
 - 1) The baseline nitrate groundwater test at farmstead the first and last year of the contract
 - 2) The baseline soil health test on representative field for the farm each year of the contract
 - 3) The Whole Farm Assessment the first year of the contract
 - d. The LCFM Department and the Landowner will:
 - 1) Develop Implementation Plan
8. Follow up Years
- a. Landowner will follow section 7a for all subsequent years of contract
 - b. The LCFM Department will:
 - 1) Follow section 7b for all subsequent years of contract
 - 2) Work with Landowner to develop conservation solutions for resource concerns identified in Whole Farm Assessment
 - Apply for cost sharing as applicable for the conservation solutions