



June 14, 2022

RE: Comments on Decision Items 4G and 4H – Princes Point & Leola Marsh Land Acquisitions

From: Ron Eckstein and Linda Parker

To: Chair Kazmierski and members of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board

The Natural Resources Board has a unique opportunity to secure a large grassland habitat in central Wisconsin and a large wetland habitat in southern Wisconsin. Members of Wisconsin's Green Fire support approval of the Leola Marsh Wildlife Area and the Princes Point land acquisitions.

The Leola Marsh land acquisition is a positive start in efforts to manage prairie chickens and all the associated grassland wildlife. Wisconsin grasslands have declined dramatically in recent decades and are critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The acquisition cost is reduced because of two significant private contributions and the use of Pittman-Robertson funds.

The Princes Point land acquisition is outstanding. It is a spectacular opportunity to restore a large, connected wetland for waterfowl in a region of the state where up to 75% of wetlands have been drained. Pittman-Robertson funds significantly reduce the cost of this land acquisition.

The conservation opportunity to secure two large tracts of grassland and wetland for the people of Wisconsin is quite remarkable. We recommend the NRB take a big conservation step and approve these proposals.

Sincerely,

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Linda Parker, Phillips
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Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

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