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Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education.

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS APPROVES
\$5 MILLION IN LOANS AND THE SALE OF 720 ACRES OF TRUST LANDS**

MADISON – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands approved 5 loans totaling a little more than \$5 million to benefit school districts and municipalities across Wisconsin to fund their public purpose projects. In addition, the Board also approved the sale of 720 acres of Trust Lands to the WI Department of Natural Resources, which will ensure the preservation of unique natural area qualities located within those Trust Land parcels.

Loans approved at today's board meeting include:

- Town of Raymond – Racine County / Purchase end loader / \$50,000
- Village of Suring – Oconto County / Finance public works projects / \$300,000
- Town of Rubicon Sanitary District #1 – Dodge County / Construct pump station, forcemains and sewer mains / \$1,000,000
- City of Waterloo – Jefferson County / Finance public work projects / \$1,220,000
- City of Watertown – Jefferson and Dodge Counties / Fund TID #5 development / \$2,500,000

In the last 12 months, including actions approved today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has approved 259 loan applications totaling \$261.7 million. The loans can be made to municipalities and school districts for any public purpose.

The agency has sold nearly 6,500 acres of land poorly suited for timber production or otherwise located within the boundaries of another government agency. As directed by the legislature, proceeds from the sale of those Trust Lands can be reinvested in other property which helps the agency meet its goal of consolidating its Trust Lands. This consolidation will improve land management efficiency for the agency. The agency's land bank authority, granted unanimously during the 2006 legislative session, enhances BCPL's ability to support sustainable forestry, reduce forest fragmentation, permanently protect unique natural areas and improve public access.

Created in 1848 by the Wisconsin Constitution, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands was established to accept federal land grants and to manage trust funds for the benefit of public education in Wisconsin. The Board consists of Secretary of State Doug La Follette, Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen and State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass. The majority of Trust Fund assets are held in the Common School Fund, from which the majority of State Trust Fund loans are issued. Earnings from this fund are distributed to K-12 school libraries annually.

A complete list of Wisconsin municipal and school projects funded by today's Board action can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=18086&locid=145>).

A list of loans approved in the last twelve months can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=18087&locid=145>).

The agency's biennial report can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=15317&locid=145>).

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