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Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education.

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BOARD APPROVES THE SALE OF 1,095 ACRES OF TRUST LANDS AND \$3.5 MILLION IN LOANS

MADISON – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands approved the sale of 1,095.9 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. In addition, the Board also approved seven loans totaling a little more than \$3.5 million to benefit school districts and municipalities across Wisconsin to fund their public purpose projects.

Loans approved at today's board meeting include:

- Village of Deerfield – Dane County / Finance the purchase of capital equipment and vehicles / \$150,000
- Town of Dover – Racine County / Finance public works project / \$1,000,000
- Hartford J1 School District – Dodge & Washington Counties / Finance energy conservation projects / \$300,000
- Iowa County / Finance public works project / \$789,000
- Town of Ottawa – Waukesha County / Finance public works project / \$408,164
- Village of Solon Springs – Douglas County / Refinance prior service pension liability / \$30,000
- Stratford School District – Marathon County / Finance construction and remodeling / \$875,000

In the last 12 months, including actions approved today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has approved 245 loan applications totaling \$229.2 million. The loans can be made to municipalities and school districts for any public purpose.

The agency has sold nearly 7,500 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=18858&locid=145>).

A list of loans approved in the last twelve months can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=18864&locid=145>).

The agency's current biennial report can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=18464&locid=145>).

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