



Douglas La Follette, *Secretary of State*
Kurt Schuller, *State Treasurer*
J.B. Van Hollen, *Attorney General*
Tia Nelson, *Executive Secretary*

125 S. Webster Street
Room 200
PO Box 8943
Madison, WI 53708-8943

608.266.1370 INFORMATION
608.266.0034 LOANS
608.267.2787 FAX
bcpl.wisconsin.gov

Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education.

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CONTACT: Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary (608) 266-8369

BOARD APPROVES LAND EXCHANGE AND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

MADISON – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands today approved the exchange of 40 acres of Trust Lands in Portage County for a 40-acre, privately-owned parcel in Oneida County. The Trust Lands being exchanged are isolated and non-productive. The 40-acre parcel the Board will receive in the exchange contributes to the consolidation of a block of Trust Lands located in Oneida County. The land exchange will also help to reduce forest fragmentation, improve land management efficiencies, and provide public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor recreation. This exchange eliminates the last remaining BCPL Trust Land parcel in Portage County and moves the agency forward on its land consolidation goals.

The Board also approved loans totaling \$634,000 to benefit two Wisconsin municipalities to fund their public purpose projects. Loans approved at today's board meeting include

- Harmony Grove Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District – Columbia County / Finance channel dredging and sediment removal / \$404,000
- Village of Hazel Green - Grant and Lafayette Counties / Upgrade wastewater treatment plant / \$230,000

In the last 12 months, including actions approved today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has approved 155 loan applications totaling slightly more than \$100 million. The loans can be made to municipalities and school districts for any public purpose.

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 Kurt Schuller. 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 public school libraries annually. A total of \$33.6 million has been distributed to public school libraries in 2011.

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=22193&locid=145>).

A list of loans approved in the last twelve months can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=22194&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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