



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: November 20, 2012
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find six (6) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration, including the establishment of 2 limited service positions.

JFO #2593 – \$3,039,968 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Vermont Department of Education. These funds will be used to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by providing professional development for educators.
[JFO received 11/07/12]

JFO #2594 – \$1,713,122 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. These funds will be used to identify and remediate housing related health and safety hazards in low-income housing units.
[JFO received 11/07/12]

JFO #2595 – Donation of \$78,750 from the Nature Conservancy to the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. The value of this donation represents the difference between the appraised value of a conservation easement on land in Pawlet (\$315,000) and the price to be paid by the State of Vermont (\$236,250) for this easement.
[JFO received 11/15/12]

JFO #2596 – \$1,489,141 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to support conformance with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards by replacing the 25-year-old database with a modern database to support licensing and inspection data. **Two limited service positions** are associated with this request.
[JFO received 11/15/12]

JFO #2597 – \$47,250 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds (in concert with JFO #2598) will be used to promote New England's value-added meat industry by providing education, marketing tools, and exposure to innovation at the producer-processor nexus. This grant supports a continuation of the work in this area that began under an expiring Federal Agriculture Innovation Center grant.
[JFO received 11/19/12]

JFO #2598 – \$15,000 grant from the John Merk Fund to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds (in concert with JFO #2597) will be used to promote New England's value-added meat industry by providing education, marketing tools, and exposure to innovation at the producer-processor nexus. This grant supports a continuation of the work in this area that began under an expiring Federal Agriculture Innovation Center grant.

[JFO received 11/19/12]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for Joint Fiscal Committee review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by December 4 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.



State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376
 [fax] 802-828-2428

Agency of Administration

SFO 2595

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

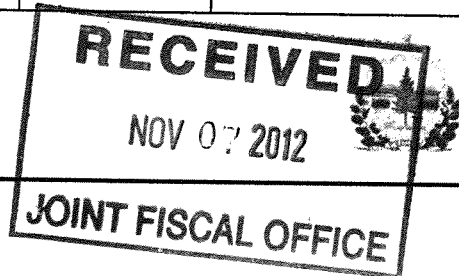
Grant Summary:	Land donation of 524 acre Hicks property in the Town of Pawlet				
Date:	11/1/2012				
Department:	ANR F&W 6120000000				
Legal Title of Grant:	Hicks Property Land Donation				
Federal Catalog #:	N/A				
Grant/Donor Name and Address:	The Nature Conservancy, 27 State Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602				
Grant Period:	From:		To:		
Grant/Donation	\$78,750 difference in value between appraised value of \$315,000 and purchase price to the State of Vermont of \$236,250.				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$78,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	Net value of land donation; no funds are being donated to the State.

Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments
	0	

Additional Comments:

11/14/12

Department of Finance & Management	<i>[Signature]</i> 11/13/12	(Initial)
Secretary of Administration	<i>[Signature]</i> 11/13/12	(Initial)
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office	11/14/12	Date



STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Natural Resources			
2. Department:	Fish and Wildlife			
3. Program:	Land donation			
4. Legal Title of Grant:				
5. Federal Catalog #:				
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:	The Nature Conservancy 27 State Street, Suite 4 Montpelier, VT 05602			
7. Grant Period:	From:		To:	
8. Purpose of Grant:	TNC will sell this conservation easement of 524 acres to the State of Vermont, Department of Fish and Wildlife for \$236,250. The parcel's appraised value is \$315,000.			
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:	Loss of permanent public access for hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing and the loss of a significant wildlife habitat.			
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 13	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$236,250	\$	\$	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$236,250	\$	\$	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$78,750	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source)	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$78,750	\$	\$	
Appropriation No:		Amount:	\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

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STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

	\$
Total	\$

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? Yes No
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.


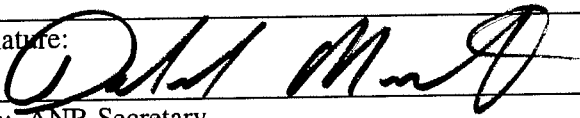
Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
Total Positions		

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: Is presently available. Can be obtained with available funds.

13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):

Signature: 	Date: 10/18/12
Title: Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife	
Signature: 	Date: 10/18/12
Title: ANR Secretary	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

Approved: _____ (Secretary or designee signature) Date: 11/18/10

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

Check One Box: Accepted _____ (Governor's signature) Date: 11/14/12

Rejected

16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

- Required GRANT Documentation**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable) |
|---|--|

End Form AA-1

(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Commissioner's Office
103 South Main Street
10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501
802-241-3730

TO: Peter Shumlin, Governor

THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources **DM**

FROM: Patrick H. Berry, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife **TWB**

SUBJECT: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Easement
Acquisition, Hicks Property, Pawlet, VT

Recommendation That you approve the acquisition of a 524-acre conservation easement on the Hicks' property which will protect significant wildlife habitat and public access for all wildlife-based activities.

Description of Project

The purchase of the Hicks property will conserve 530 acres at North Pawlet Hills, an area of statewide significance in the Town of Pawlet (See Exhibits 1 and 2 for maps of the property). The North Pawlet Hills are a natural landmark in the Northern Taconic mountain range. Its series of north-south forested hills and low mountains punctuated with sheer, high cliffs and steep slopes at its southern end, form a dramatic backdrop to the serene beauty of the Mettowee Valley immediately below. Haystack Mountain with an elevation of 1,920 ft. is the southernmost of the three low mountains that form the eastern side of the chain. It is visible from nearly all parts of town. Behind it to the north are Middle Mountain at 1,958 ft. and Bald Mountain at 2,080 ft. To the west the lower chain of hills begins with Burt Hill (1,200 ft.) and run northward to Cleveland Hill (1,370 ft.), Simonds Hill (1,200 ft.), and Lincoln Hill (1,255 ft.). This remarkable landscape dips down in the north to Wells Brook at the town line then rises again with a less obvious pattern of hills and mountains into Wells.

The Fish and Wildlife Department's (FWD) Heritage Program has designated North Pawlet Hills a state-significant ecological site, because of its several excellent examples of dry elfin oak woodland and dry oak woodland, several excellent examples of dry oak-hickory-hophornbeam forest, warm acidic outcrop, and cliff communities. What is especially notable about this list is the number of occurrences and their concentration within this unfragmented forested landscape. Among the list of 14 rare and uncommon plants are Douglas knotweed (S1), Smooth forked chickweed (S1), Smooth false foxglove, Short-styled snakeroot, Drooping bluegrass, and Broad beech fern.

Peregrine falcons (S2) have long nested on nearby Haystack Mountain's cliffs, and in the last few years two breeding pairs have been documented there. This is an area rich in

wildlife, common and uncommon. Black bears and bobcats are among the wide-ranging species which are known to use the project area for at least part of their life cycle, and in the last few years moose have become more common.

Clark Hicks assembled his 530-acre property over a period of several years, and has used it for hunting and other forms of recreation. A modest camp is located at the end of Rees Rd. The property is enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal Program; the most recent logging activity was several patch cuts for wildlife. Knowing that the conservation of this parcel will be expensive, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) reached out to the FWD to partner on its conservation through the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). As such, TNC will buy the property from Clark Hicks and immediately transfer a conservation easement to the FWD and the Vermont Housing Conservation Board, the two primary funders. The conservation easement will allow the camp to be subdivided off at a later date if TNC determines they need to sell it (See Exhibit 2). Other funding for the project will come from private donors in the area.

Need and Cost

The FWD is acquiring this conservation easement to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat. The estimate set for the total project costs are approximately \$660,000 which reflects the total cost of the property from Clark Hicks to TNC. The total costs for the conservation easement project are \$240,000. Funding for this project will come from the LIP (\$240,000), the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (\$375,000) and private funds raised by TNC (\$45,000).

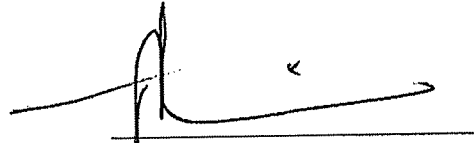
Your approval of this acquisition is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, which states in part "the secretary, with approval of the governor, may exchange, sell or lease lands under the secretary's jurisdiction when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the state to do so ..." The Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee was notified of this conservation easement project at their meeting in March 2012 meeting (See Exhibit 3). In addition, the town of Pawlet supports this acquisition as documented in the letter from the Select Board dated 8/7/12 (Exhibit 4).

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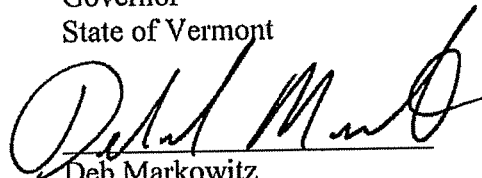
APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

We the undersigned, hereby approve the purchase of a conservation easement on the Hicks Property by the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the natural resources on the 524 acres belonging to Clark Hicks in Pawlet, VT. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

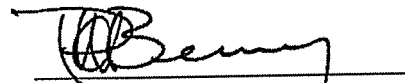
9/12/12
Date


Peter Shumlin
Governor
State of Vermont

8-31-12
Date


Deb Markowitz
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

8/29/12
Date


Patrick H. Berry
Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department

Fish and Wildlife Department
Barre District Natural Resources Office
5 Perry Street, Suite 40
Barre, VT 05641
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

[phone] 802-479-4405
[fax] 802-476-0129

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Sarah London
From: Jane Lazorchak
Date: May 7, 2012
RE: Governor's Approval Needed for the Purchase of a Conservation Easement on the Hick's Property in Pawlet, VT.

Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Shumlin for the purchase of a conservation easement by the State of Vermont. The conservation easement will be held by the Fish and Wildlife Department (FWD) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). This property is in the Town of Pawlet and is owned by Clark Hicks. The Nature Conservancy is under contract to buy his 524-acre property and will convey the conservation easement to the FWD and VHCB. Total costs for this conservation easement project are approximately \$240,000. Total costs for the entire conservation project are \$660,000.

Funding for this acquisition will come from Landowner Incentive Program funds provided to the Department from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of at-risk species and state-significant natural communities and totals \$240,000. Additional funding for the purchase of the property will come from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (\$375,000) and private donors in the area. Included with the Governor's approval memo are two maps of the project, a copy of the approval from the Agency Land Acquisition Review Committee and a copy of a letter signed by the Chair of the Pawlet Select Board stating town support for the state acquisition of this easement.

If you have any questions regarding this easement project, please contact me directly at 479-4405 or at jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us, thank you.

cc: Patrick Berry, Commissioner
John M. Austin, Habitat Section Supervisor



Town of Pawlet
Select Board

August 7, 2012

Dear Ms. Lazorchak,

After reading your letter that summarized the Fish and Wildlife Department's (FWD) involvement and discussing the project further at our Select Board meeting on August 7, 2012, we are writing to offer our full support for the FWD's involvement in the purchase of an easement on Clark Hick's property in the town of Pawlet. More specifically, the town supports the FWD purchasing the easement to conserve the natural resource values on the property and public access for all wildlife-based recreation. Thank you for meeting with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Beech". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Chair of the Pawlet Select Board
Pawlet, VT