



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: December 22, 2011
Subject: JFO #2539, #2540, #2541, #2542

No Joint Fiscal Committee member has requested that the following items be held for review:

JFO #2539 – \$52,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. These funds will reimburse four area agencies on aging for expenses incurred during their response to Tropical Storm Irene.

[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2540 – Donation of land valued at \$93,343 from the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The amount of the donation represents the appraised value of a 286.7 acre parcel in Athens and Grafton. The parcel will provide permanent protection of public access for public hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, as well as wildlife conservation. The donation is part of a larger property acquisition that has been approved by the Governor.

[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2541 – \$453,279 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds will be used to help Vermont farmers meet requirements under the Clean Water Act by supporting four positions (3 existing) focused on completing manure and wastewater management systems. **One limited service position is associated with this request.**

[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2542 – \$96,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds will be used to support **one limited service position** to work with agricultural and environmental partners on developing work plans and reporting outcomes of efforts to address water quality goals.

[JFO received 11/21/11]

The Governor's approval may now be considered final. We ask that you inform the Secretary of Administration and your staff of this action.

cc: Susan Wehry, Commissioner
Patrick Berry, Commissioner
Chuck Ross, Secretary



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: November 21, 2011
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find four (4) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. Two (2) limited service position requests are included among these items.

JFO #2539 – \$52,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. These funds will reimburse four area agencies on aging for expenses incurred during their response to Tropical Storm Irene.
[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2540 – Donation of land valued at \$93,343 from the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The amount of the donation represents the appraised value of a 286.7 acre parcel in Athens and Grafton. The parcel will provide permanent protection of public access for public hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, as well as wildlife conservation. The donation is part of a larger property acquisition that has been approved by the Governor.
[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2541 – \$453,279 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds will be used to help Vermont farmers meet requirements under the Clean Water Act by supporting four positions (3 existing) focused on completing manure and wastewater management systems. **One limited service position is associated with this request.**
[JFO received 11/21/11]

JFO #2541 – \$96,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. These funds will be used to support **one limited service position** to work with agricultural and environmental partners on developing work plans and reporting outcomes of efforts to address water quality goals.
[JFO received 11/21/11]

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 legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by December 7 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

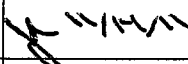
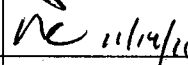
State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

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

Agency of Administration

JFO 2540

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

Grant Summary:		This donation of a 286.7 acre parcel located in Athens and Grafton, VT would provide permanent public access for hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and the conservation of significant wildlife habitat including beaver wetlands.			
Date:		11/10/2011			
Department:		ANR F&W 6120000000			
Legal Title of Grant:		Athens Dome Wetland Complex			
Federal Catalog #:		N/A			
Grant/Donor Name and Address:		VELCO			
Grant Period:		From:	To:		
Grant/Donation		Land with an appraised value of \$93,343.20			
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Position Information:		# Positions	Explanation/Comments		
		0			
Additional Comments:		This land donation has been approved by the Athens and Grafton Selectboards.			
Department of Finance & Management				(Initial)	
Secretary of Administration				(Initial)	
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office				Date	

11/14/11

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:	Athens Dome Wetland Complex, Athens & Grafton, Vermont			
7. Grant Period:	From:		To:	
8. Purpose of Grant:	Donation of 286.7 acres from VELCO which will provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including the beaver wetlands.			
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:	If not accepted, we will be unable to use the donated value of this parcel as state match to purchase two other parcels of land.			
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 2012	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$	\$	\$	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$93,343	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source)	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$93,343	\$	\$	
Appropriation No:	61200000000	Amount:	\$93,343	0 9
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

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

		Total	\$ 93,343
--	--	--------------	-----------

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: <i>Michelle Ryan for Patrick Barry</i>	Date: 10/31/11
	Title: Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife	
	Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 11-7-11
	Title: ANR Secretary <i>[Signature]</i>	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 11/19/11
-------------------------------------	-----------	--	----------------

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check One Box: Accepted	(Governor's signature) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 11/17/11
-------------------------------------	----------------------------	---	----------------

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

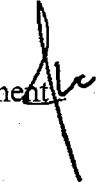
Fish and Wildlife Department
Barre District Natural Resources Office
5 Perry Street, Suite 40
Barre, VT 05641
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

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

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Beth Robinson, Office of the Governor

From: Jane Lazorchak, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department 

Date: September 16, 2011

RE: Request for Approval by the Governor for the Fee Acquisition of Two Adjoining Properties and the Acceptance as a Donation of a Third Adjoining Property in the Towns of Athens and Grafton, Vermont.

Enclosed is a request for approval by Governor Shumlin for the acquisition of two properties and the acceptance as a donation of a third property totaling 560 acres in the towns of Athens and Grafton, Vermont that will be used to create a new Wildlife Management Area to conserve significant wildlife habitat and public access for all wildlife-based activities. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) is acquiring these three parcels to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including a large complex of wetland habitats. The Athens Dome Wetland Complex will protect habitat for the federally endangered Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), as well as undeveloped forest and wetlands across three adjacent properties owned by David Bemis, The Nature Conservancy and VELCO. The total budget for the project is \$443,343. The majority of the funding for the project, \$300,000, will come from federal funding to recover federally endangered species habitat with the match for the federal funds coming from a land donation valued at \$93,343 and \$50,000 from Duck Stamp Funds.

Included with the request for Governor approval are a map of the properties and copies of the letters signed by both the Athens and Grafton Select Boards stating town support for the state acquisition of these parcels.

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


cc: Patrick H. Berry, Commissioner, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
John M. Austin, Habitat Section Supervisor



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 of Vermont

THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources ^{DM}

FROM: Patrick H. Berry, Commissioner, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department 

SUBJECT: Fee Acquisition by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department of 3 properties in the towns of Athens and Grafton, VT to create a Wildlife Management Area.

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of two properties and accept, as a donation, a third property totaling 560 acres in the towns of Athens and Grafton, Vermont that will constitute a Wildlife Management Area to conserve wildlife habitat and provide public access for all wildlife-based activities.

Description of Project

This project, referred to as the Athens Dome Wetland Acquisition, will result in the conservation of over 560 acres of undeveloped forest and wetlands across three adjacent properties owned by David Bemis, The Nature Conservancy and VELCO (See Exhibit 1). The project is located in the towns of Athens and Grafton which are part of the Southern Vermont Piedmont region. Many of the state's rare, threatened, or endangered plants occur in very restricted habitats and are associated with the Champlain Valley and the Southern Piedmont regions of Vermont due to their unique, warm climate. Current rates of human population expansion and land use conversion place an even greater urgency for the conservation of at-risk species within these regions of the state, as they are the fastest growing regions in the state for development. The Southern Vermont Piedmont is also a region that is receiving less overall attention by the conservation community in Vermont. While 19.2% of Vermont land is currently conserved either by federal, state, municipal, or private conservation groups, only 8% of the Southern Vermont Piedmont is conserved as such. Therefore, this represents a unique and significant opportunity for public ownership of an ecologically rich area that also affords outstanding opportunities for public access for hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing and more.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD), with funding and support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is interested in conserving the Athens Dome Wetland Complex for a variety of reasons. Importantly, the wetlands on these properties support the federally-endangered Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*) which is known to occur in two locations within the project area. Numerous beaver-influenced wetlands provide ideal habitat for the Northeastern bulrush. This project also provides a unique

opportunity to conserve a large area of upper elevation watershed. In addition, there is a commitment to monitor the northeastern bulrush populations and their associated habitat over time to inform management decisions and to direct additional conservation priorities in the area.

A project of this scale also provides many additional fish and wildlife and public benefits including:

- The protection of five pristine and undeveloped ponds, and the majority of their watershed that provide excellent fish and wildlife habitat. Two otters were observed on a site visit utilizing the pond on the south end of the VELCO lands.
- The protection of a large block of intact forest land which provides habitat for neo-tropical migrant birds, moose, bear, fisher, beaver and other species identified in Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan¹ as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- Conservation ownership that will ensure public access for low-impact, compatible recreation, including hiking, nature study, hunting and fishing in an area with little public ownership.
- The protection of prominent ridgeline that provides the scenic backdrop to several communities in Vermont.
- The protection of significant cultural resources on the property. While working on the conservation of the properties, the Department identified the Turner Farmstead property and the Birchdale Camp structures on the property which are highly significant historic resources related to the heritage of African Americans in Vermont.

Need and Cost

The VFWD is acquiring three parcels to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including the beaver wetlands.

Purchase of the 78.77 acre from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The appraisal value of the TNC parcel is \$88,000. The VFWD will buy the property from TNC for \$88,000.

Acceptance of the 286.7 acre VELCO property. The appraised value of the VELCO parcel is \$93,343.20. The property will be donated to the VFWD and used a match to leverage the federal funds. 5 acres have been excluded from the appraised value so that the federal grant conditions do not apply there. The 5 acres were designed to include the Area of Potential Effect (APE) around the cultural resources on the property. This was designed to give the VFWD the flexibility over time to transfer out the APE area to a more appropriate steward of the cultural resources.

Purchase of the 195 acre from David Bemis. The Department is under contract to purchase a 195-acre portion of the Bemis property in the town of Athens. The VFWD completed an appraisal and valued the property at \$170,000.

The total cost for the project is \$443,343.20. The majority of the funding for the project, \$300,000, will come from federal funding to recover federally endangered species habitat

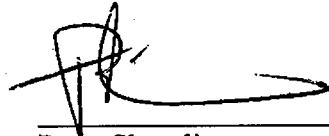
with the match for the federal funds coming from a land donation valued at \$93,343 and \$50,000 from Duck Stamp Funds.

Your approval of these acquisitions are required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, that 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 ...". This project has already been reviewed and approved by the Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee at their meeting in January 2008. In addition, the towns of Athens and Grafton support this project as documented in the letters from the Select Boards (Exhibit 2).

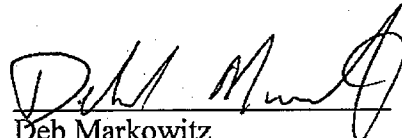
APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

We the undersigned, hereby approve the purchase of land by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Department to protect public access and the natural resources on 560 acres across three parcels that comprise the Athens Dome Wetland Complex. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

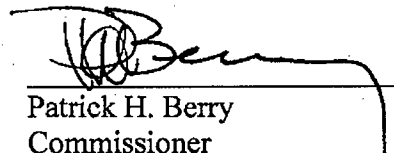
10-11-11
Date


Peter Shumlin
Governor
State of Vermont





Date

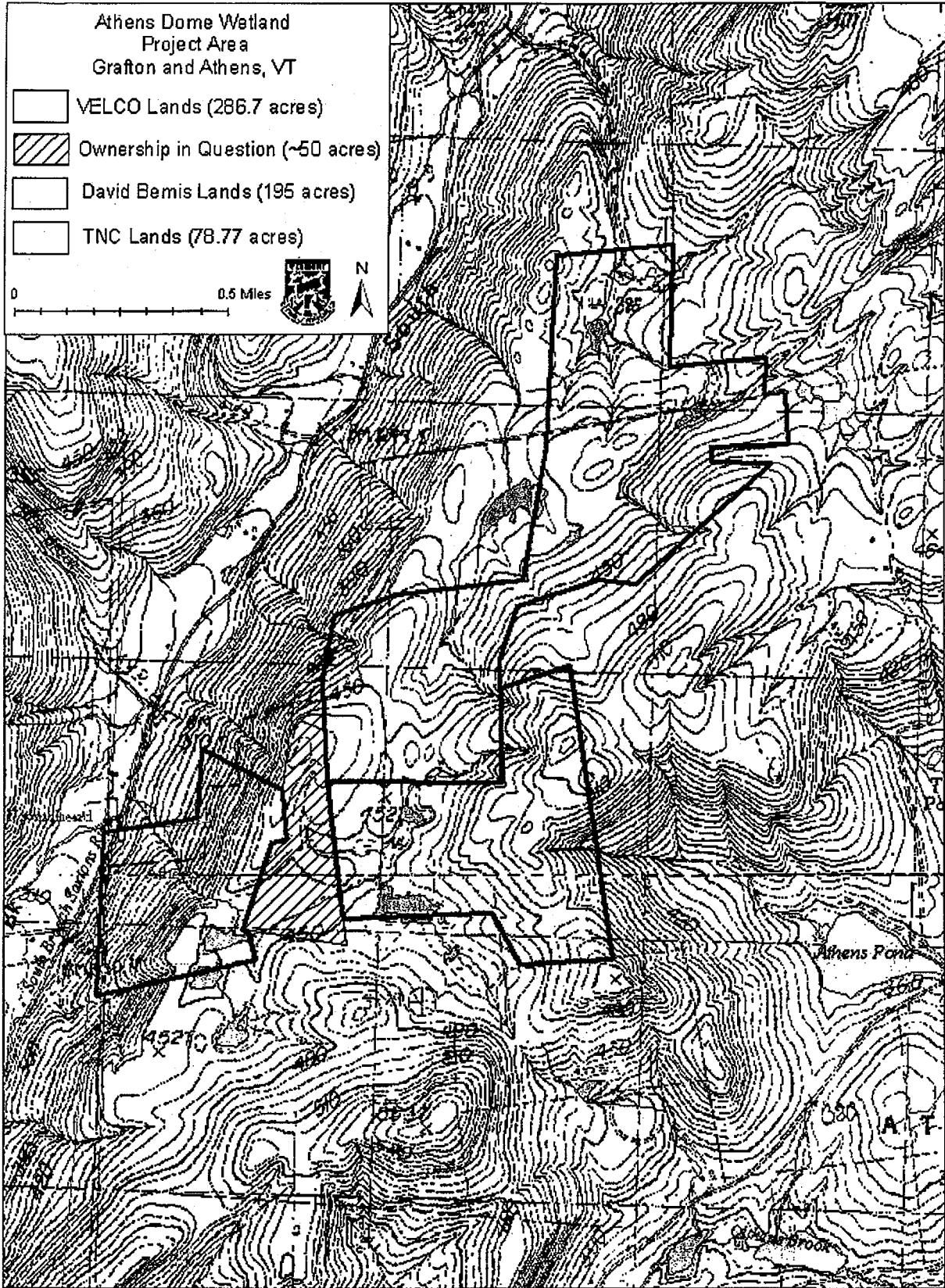
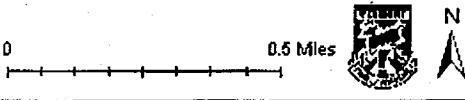

Deb Markowitz
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

9/23/11
Date


Patrick H. Berry
Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department

Athens Dome Wetland
Project Area
Grafton and Athens, VT

-  VELCO Lands (286.7 acres)
-  Ownership in Question (~50 acres)
-  David Bemis Lands (195 acres)
-  TNC Lands (78.77 acres)



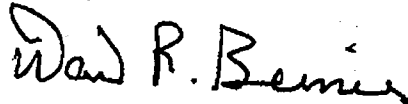
Town of Athens
Select Board

November 19, 2009

Dear Ms. Lazorchak,

After reading your letter that summarized the Fish and Wildlife Department's (DFW) involvement and discussing the project further at our Select Board meeting on November 19, 2009, we are writing to offer our full support for the DFW involvement in the purchase of the Athens Dome Wetland Complex as a new Wildlife Management Area in the towns of Athens and Grafton. More specifically, the town supports the DFW purchasing the parcels to conserve the federally-endangered Northeastern bulrush and other significant natural resource values on the property and public access for wildlife-based recreation. Thank you for meeting with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan R. Benner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Chair of the Athens Select Board
Athens, VT

Town of Grafton
Select Board

October 25, 2010

Dear Ms. Lazorchak,

After reading your letter that summarized the Fish and Wildlife Department's (DFW) involvement and discussing the project further at our Select Board meeting on October 25, 2010 we are writing to offer our full support for the DFW involvement in the purchase of the Athens Dome Wetland Complex as a new Wildlife Management Area in the towns of Athens and Grafton. More specifically, the town supports the DFW purchasing the parcels to conserve the federally-endangered Northeastern bulrush and other significant natural resource values on the property and public access for wildlife-based recreation. Thank you for meeting with us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William G. Karus in cursive script.

Chair of the Grafton Select Board
Grafton, VT

Agency of Natural Resources Land Acquisition Review Committee Case Report

Project Information

LARC Case #	1689	Project Name	Athens Wetlands	Priority	HIGH		
Previous LARC Case #							
Description	This property is dominated by wetlands. A federally endangered plant was found on the property. Other parcels in this area are either for sale or already conserved giving F&W the potential to preserve a large block of land in the region of the state that doesn't have a lot of conserved land.						
Transaction Type	PURCHASE	Price	Unknown	Interest to be Acq.	FEE-SIMPLE	Fund(s)	USFWS Recovery Land Acq Grant
Location:	Town	Athens & Grafton		County	Windham		
Owner	Bob Knight						
# of Parcels	1	Total Acres	500				
Dept to Manage	F&W	Contact	Jane Lazorchak				

LARC Review

Date	1/25/2008
Recommendation	Acquire
Comments	This project has overwhelming support from DEC/WQD Wetlands Section and F&W Springfield Office staff. Access will be important if this is to be a new Wildlife Management Area for management, as well as the public.

Secretary Review


Date	2/24/2008
Disposition	ACQUIRE
Comments	Okay to go.

Notes

--

**Department of Fish and Wildlife
Business Office
103 South Main Street
10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501
802-241-3704**

To: Jason Aronowitz, Budget Analyst
Finance & Management

From: Sherri A. Yacono, Business Manager 

Date: October 26, 2011

Subject: AA-1: Athens Dome Wetland Complex Land Donation

Attached is an AA-1 package for a land donation known as the Athens Dome Wetland Complex parcel of 286.7 acres located in Athens and Grafton, Vermont with a value of \$93,343.

If there are any questions, please call me at 2279-3837. Thanks for your assistance.

Enclosure

cc: Jane Lazorchak