



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

April 23, 2018

Ms. Kitty McNamara
St James Township Supervisor
P.O. Box 22
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Dear Ms. McNamara:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is interested in purchasing a parcel of land in St James Township, adjacent to the Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area. We are in conversation with willing sellers and are seeking a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to finance this acquisition.

While we are in the process of acquiring financing and negotiating possible terms for a sale with the landowner, the DNR is consulting with the local governments on the potential impacts this acquisition may have on the surrounding communities. As part of this initiative we are gathering comments, whether they are positive, neutral, or negative, about the DNR acquiring the property. The DNR wants to know: 1) if there are any concerns; 2) if there is anything the DNR can do to address those concerns; 3) if the community would value the addition to the wildlife area; and 4) if the Township Board would support, would have no objection to, or would not support the sale.

The 58.2-acre wooded parcel is on Garden Island in T39N, R10W, Section 2 (parcel # 013-202-012-10 and parcel # 013-202-012-15). To help put the parcel in context, I have attached a plat map, state wildlife area map, aerial imagery, and Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) estimate for the property. If desired, the Wildlife Habitat Specialist and I would be willing to meet with you or to make a formal presentation before the Township Board. Ideally, we would like to have comments or statements in writing by Mid-August, although that need not be a formal resolution from the Board. An email stating any concerns and your assessment of the proposed purchase would suffice.

Please call me to discuss any questions or comments that you may have. We appreciate your input.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kleitch
Wildlife Biologist
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Enclosures