

# AGENDA

## CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Courthouse – Room 300

**Join by phone**

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 2489 698 3659

**Join by WebEx App or website**

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m388fd75948bd62f20feb1bd7e9daeea1>

Webinar number: 2489 698 3659

Webinar password: 110525

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Consider request from Invenergy d/b/a Saratoga Solar Project LLC to approve a Letter Agreement amending Section 14 of the Joint Development Agreement dated January 18, 2024, to allow limited on-site burning for disposal of cleared vegetation.
5. Consider participation in the Hub City Wind Farm located in Marathon County and initiating the process of drafting a Wind Lease and Easement Agreement.
6. Review Correspondence.
7. Approve minutes of previous meetings
8. Approve vouchers, staff reports, & committee reports
9. Risk and Injury Report
10. Extension
  - a. AED Update
  - b. 2026 Extension Contract
11. Land & Water Conservation Department
  - a. Update on Mill Creek Watershed chloride testing
  - b. Mill Creek Phosphorus Results 2025 (informational)
  - c. WI Land+Water publication *The Field Note* featuring Kyle Andreae, LWCD Engineer Technician, as a member of the Mentor Program (informational)
  - d. The WI Land+Water Annual Conference will be held in Wis. Dells (March 4-6, 2026). Early registration opens in Dec. (K. Andreae will present on solar watering systems). (informational)
  - e. Update on nitrate well testing project / cost share reverse osmosis systems
  - f. Update on ongoing violations
12. Private Sewage
13. Land Records
14. County Surveyor
15. Planning & Zoning
16. Economic Development
  - a. Update from City of Marshfield and consider release of Economic Development grant funds of \$20,000 for the Braem Park project.
  - b. Update/Discussion regarding City of Marshfield grant request of \$8,000 for 2026.
  - c. Consider allocation of remaining 2025 REDI implementation and economic development grant funds.
  - d. Review Economic Develop Grant application and policies.
17. Committee requests for per diem for meeting attendance
18. Schedule next regular committee meeting
19. Agenda items for next meeting
20. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary (Department Head evaluations; possible change in procedure).
21. The committee may go into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 19.85 (1)(c) to review performance of the department heads the committee oversees.
22. Return to open session.
23. Adjourn

**From:** Dhindsa, Sejal <[SDhindsa@invenenergy.com](mailto:SDhindsa@invenenergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:56 AM

**To:** Nick B. Flanagan <[Nick.Flanagan@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:Nick.Flanagan@woodcountywi.gov)>; Roland Hawk <[Roland.Hawk@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:Roland.Hawk@woodcountywi.gov)>; [lance1@charter.net](mailto:lance1@charter.net)

**Cc:** Downen, Laurel <[LDownen@invenenergy.com](mailto:LDownen@invenenergy.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Upcoming Visit to Saratoga

Thanks for getting back to me! It was great to speak with you yesterday about our plans regarding tree clearing and BESS beginning of construction work. As we discussed, please see attached the letter to Wood County amending the JDA to waive the no burning requirement in this instance. In addition, I have included a summary of our discussions with the Town, the WDNR, and Air Burner's themselves for you to reference in your discussions. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments, thanks!

- August 12, 2025: Invenenergy reached out to the Town of Saratoga and Wood County representatives via email after a discussion with Air Burners, the company that makes the curtain burner we have proposed to use on site.
  - Established the setbacks and safety precautions outlined in the attachments
- August 13, 2025: Heard back from the Town Chair who wanted to run it by the fire chiefs in the area
- August 13, 2025: The fire chiefs deferred to the WDNR (Aaron Wallace) and requested that we run it by him
- August-September 2025: Invenenergy had two meetings with Aaron Wallace
  - Detailed our reasons for proposing the curtain burner and our safety measures
  - Noted requests from the WDNR to secure a special burn permit ahead of burning activities and communicate with the WDNR and locals on burning schedules.
- September 2025: Confirmed with Lorelei that in addition to providing letters to amend the JDA's, Invenenergy would provide diagrams to help visualize the site plan for curtain burner use.

Best,

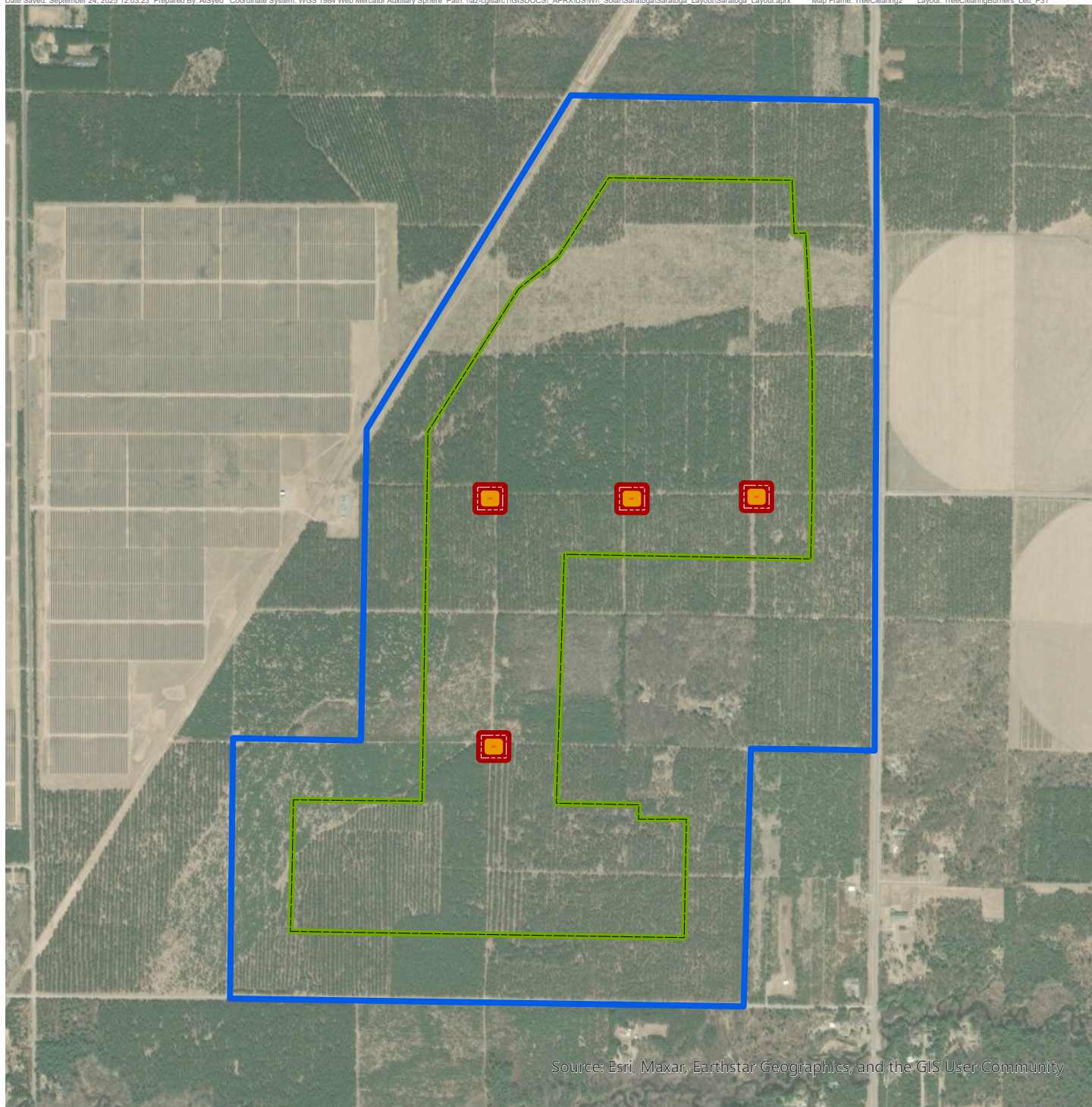
**Sejal Dhindsa** | Associate, Renewable Development | She, Her, Hers

**Invenenergy** | One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60606

[sdhindsa@invenenergy.com](mailto:sdhindsa@invenenergy.com) | W: 708-607-6840 | @InvenenergyLLC

*We're proud to share how we continued to be innovators building a sustainable world in our 2022 Invenenergy Impact Report. Visit [invenenergyimpact2022.com](https://invenenergyimpact2022.com) to learn more.*





### Legend

- Curtain Burner Placement Boundary | 500' setback from Limits of Disturbance
- Potential Burner Location
- Daily Burn Pile Boundary | 30' setback from Burner Location
- Burner Signage | 100' setback from Burner
- Project Boundary

### Notes:

- a. Curtain Burner shall be placed within the 500' setback from the Limits of Disturbance.
- b. The daily burn pile will be no less than 30 feet from the manifold side of the machine.
- c. Contractor to place signage and temporary fencing blocking off 100' from each side of the curtain burner, restricting access from equipment and material.
- d. Burner Locations are subject to change.



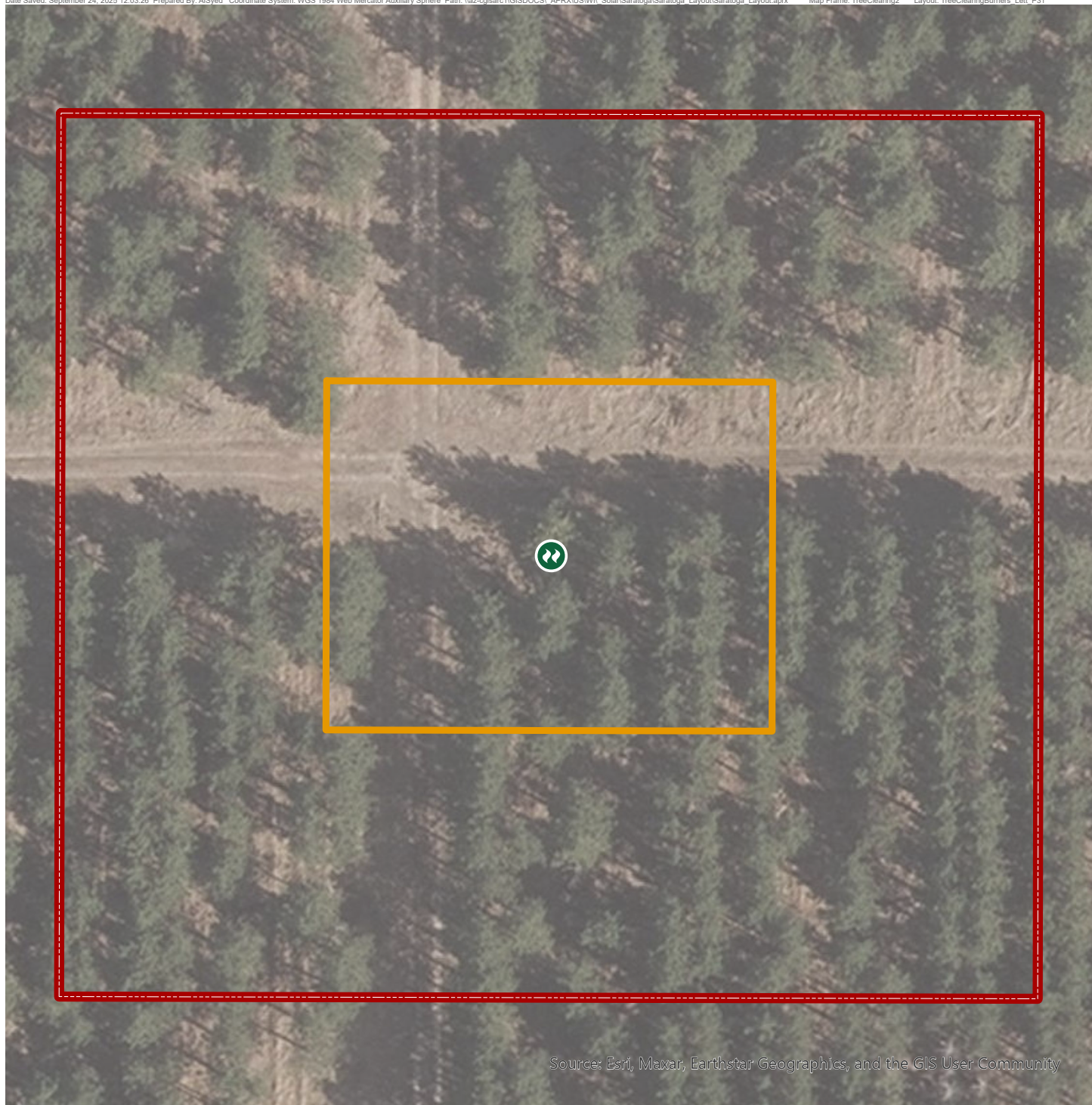
## Tree Clearing

Saratoga Solar Energy Center | Wood County, Wisconsin

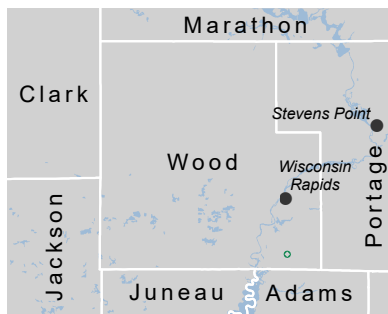
September 24, 2025

**Invenergy**








Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

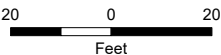


### Legend

 Curtain Burner Location

 Daily Burn Pile Boundary | 30' setback from Burner Location

 Burner Signage | 100' setback from Burner Location



### Notes:

- Curtain Burner shall be placed within the 500' setback from the Limits of Disturbance.
- The daily burn pile will be no less than 30 feet from the manifold side of the machine.

- Contractor to place signage and temporary fencing blocking off 100' from each side of the curtain burner, restricting access from equipment and material.
- Burner Locations are subject to change.

## Tree Clearing

## SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY DEVELOPER AGREEMENT

Between Wood County, Wisconsin and Saratoga Solar Project, LLC

- A. This Solar Generating Facility Developer Agreement ("**Agreement**") is by and between Wood County, Wisconsin (the "**County**") and Saratoga Solar Project, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company ("**Developer**"), executed on January 18, 2024 (the "**Effective Date**"). The County and Developer are sometimes referred to herein as a "**Party**" and collectively as the "**Parties**" to this Agreement.
- B. As used herein, the term "**Property**" or "**Site**" refers to those certain portions of specified parcels of land located in the County and described in **Exhibit A**, as may be modified as provided in this Agreement.
- C. As used herein, the term "**Solar Energy System**" or "**System**" has the meaning provided in § 1.03(2) of the Town of Saratoga's Solar Energy System License Ordinance (Ordinance 2019-9- 18).
- D. Developer represents that it owns, leases, has options to purchase, or has other contractual rights over all of the land comprising the Property, and is authorized to engage in this Agreement and incur the obligations in this Agreement with respect to the Project (defined below) that Developer intends to construct and operate on the Property.
- E. Developer desires to construct and operate up to a 150.5 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility and associated facilities such as energy storage, underground power collection lines, access roads, an operating and maintenance facility, an electrical substation, and an overhead transmission line connection (the "**Project**").
- F. Developer and the County desire to enter into this Agreement to govern the rights and obligations of each with respect to the Project, including the use of County roads, rights-of-way and drainage systems during construction and operation of the Project.
- G. By execution of this Agreement, the County provides Developer with approval to construct, operate and maintain the Project and use County roads, rights-of-way and drainage systems under the terms set forth herein (the "**Approval**").
- H. This Agreement is conditioned on Developer's initial and maintained compliance with all applicable state and federal and local laws and permit or approval requirements, including any requirements associated with a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("**CPCN**") issued by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission ("**PSC**") and any requirements in permits issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("**DNR**") for the proposed Project.

- I. The Approval granted under this Agreement shall be concurrent with the Project's CPCN, subject to the rights and remedies of the County expressly provided in this Agreement with respect to Developer's breach of the terms of this Agreement.
- J. The terms of this Agreement were designed by mutual efforts of the Parties and are mutually agreed upon by the Parties. The rights and obligations of Developer and the County under this Agreement shall survive termination of the Agreement.
- K. Terms used in this Agreement shall first be interpreted based on any definition contained in this Agreement. Terms not defined in this Agreement shall be interpreted using their common meaning as appropriate for the context in which they are used.
- L. Developer and the Town of Saratoga have entered into a Solar Generating Facility Developer Agreement on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 with respect to the Project (the "**Town Agreement**").

### **Agreement**

Therefore, Developer and the County agree to the following terms and conditions in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, obligations, and agreements contained herein.

1. **Background Information.** Prior to commencement of construction or operation of the Project, Developer shall submit a detailed site plan and map; information about the owner of any lands upon which any part of the Project will be located; the name, address, phone number, and email address of the operator; and an operation plan detailing the construction, operations, and decommissioning phases over the life of the Project, including estimated timelines for each. The Parties understand and recognize that approval of the Project is under the jurisdiction of the PSC and that the Project must seek concurrence and approval from the PSC for substantive site design changes. If at any time during the operation of the Project, Developer proposes modifications to the Project in a manner that requires additional permitting review from the PSC or the DNR, Developer shall provide the County any updated site plans or other material Project details.
2. **Highway Maintenance and Use Agreement.** The Parties agree that the Project will only utilize Town roads and State highways. Prior to commencement of construction or operation of the System, Developer and the Town shall enter into a Highway Maintenance and Use Agreement regarding Town roads in accordance with the Town Agreement.
3. **Decommissioning Plan.** Prior to commencement of construction or operation of the Project, Developer will provide the Town with a detailed decommissioning plan, which shall include, within two (2) years after the beginning of commercial operation of the Project,



an obligation for Developer to provide a commercially reasonable financial assurance to the Town of Saratoga in accordance with the Town Agreement.

4. **Public Impacts Studies.** Developer has completed and the County acknowledges that the following environmental studies are publicly available on the Project website ([www.saratogasolarproject.com](http://www.saratogasolarproject.com)):

- a) Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- b) Karner Blue Butterfly Survey
- c) Wetland Delineation
- d) Geotechnical Investigations
- e) Cultural Resource Surveys
- f) Floodplain Study
- g) Road / Traffic Analysis
- h) Visual Simulations
- i) Erosion Control Plan
- j) EMF Study
- k) Noise Study
- l) Glare/Glint Study

5. **Groundwater Monitoring Plan.** Developer will perform or cause to be performed groundwater monitoring per the groundwater monitoring plan prepared for the Project, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. Groundwater monitoring will begin prior to construction and continue through year five of operations. If groundwater monitoring yields elevated levels of contaminants, above applicable regulatory standards, then Developer agrees to investigate the source of contamination and continue groundwater monitoring as necessary and to the extent such contamination or material increase in such contamination is reasonably believed to have occurred due to the construction or operation of the Project. Developer will coordinate the groundwater monitoring events with the Town of Saratoga in accordance with the Town Agreement.

6. **Battery Storage.** In the event Developer decides to install a battery energy storage system (BESS) on the Property, such BESS must be compliant with applicable laws and prudent industry standards and will include electrolyte containment to allow timely remediation and prevention of ground contamination in the event of an accident and sufficient containment of the BESS for security and accidental contact. The selected technology and design will be coordinated with the County prior to commencing construction, and Developer shall in good faith consider and use commercially reasonable efforts to incorporate any reasonable comments and recommendations provided by the County to the extent not inconsistent with prudent industry standards relating to containment design. In addition, Developer will provide Project specific BESS training to emergency responders prior to installation and prior to commencement of commercial operation of the BESS.

7. **Petroleum Based Solvents.** Due to the high groundwater table in the area, Developer will not use any petroleum-based solvents to clean solar panels or other components of the solar array within the Project.

8. **Revenue Guarantee.** Under Wisconsin law applicable on the Effective Date of this Agreement, the State of Wisconsin is required to make utility aid payments to the County if a solar generating system like the Project is located in the County. If applicable laws should change during the life of the Project reducing the amount of these state payments, Developer shall compensate the County in an amount to equal the amount of annual utility aid payments required under laws applicable on the effective date of this Agreement less any annual property taxes paid by the Developer to the County for the Site and less any other annual payments to the County that are adopted to replace the utility aid payments. Such payments shall be made annually by the Developer to the County no later than January 31 of the year following the year for which payment is made.

9. **Fencing.** Developer shall use non-barb smooth wire mesh fencing around the perimeter of the solar array, constructed with wood posts. The height of the perimeter fencing shall be the minimum allowable under state and federal law and applicable building and electric codes.

10. **Buffer from Project Fence to Existing Residences.** Developer shall not remove any existing, live trees that are within 50 feet of the Project property line boundary (excepting any portion of the Project constituting the transmission line route). If existing trees that are within such 50-foot strip in a particular area die or are destroyed during the life of the Project as part of a pervasive event (i.e., fire, flood, tornado, etc.) that destroys a material number or grouping of such trees such that the overall impact is to materially diminish the viewshed buffer effect achieved by the existing trees, the Developer agrees to work with the Town of Saratoga in accordance with the Town Agreement in good faith to establish a plan to replant trees in such areas at the Developer's expense. In addition to and without limiting the Developer's obligation to maintain the aforementioned 50-foot strip, Developer, at Developer's expense, shall also work with any owner of any residence existing as of the Effective Date of this Agreement that is within 500 feet of the Project perimeter fence, to design a plan to retain the existing vegetative buffer and review and discuss other cost-effective supplemental view shed buffering options, if necessary. Further, Developer shall include a buffer at a minimum of 300 feet from the portion of the north property line that extends east of Highway 13, as depicted in **Exhibit A-1**.

11. **Construction Operations.** Construction activities that include significant noise generating activities will generally occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., unless dusk occurs later. While not anticipated, in the event construction needs to occur outside of these hours or after dusk, **residences** within ¼ mile of where such activities are actually occurring within the Site will be notified. Developer shall not deploy significant noise

generating mechanisms to protect the solar array from damage during hailstorms, such as the use of so called "cranberry cannons" or similar devices.

12. **Lighting.** Lighting on the Site, during both construction and operations phases, shall be limited to the minimal lighting necessary for safety and security, and the Developer shall take all reasonable measures through light shrouding and other methods to reasonably mitigate light leaving the Property at night.

13. **Visitor Area and Tours.** The Developer will fund and construct a pull-off area with an elevated platform for viewing at least a portion of the Project area and a kiosk with Project information. The Project will allow limited public parking spaces to be located in the pull-off area. Additionally, once the Project is commercially operating, the Project will collaborate with the community to arrange occasional tours of the facility, subject to reasonable notice and safety and security measures. At Developer's discretion, the pull-off area may be closed at times for safety and security purposes and during inclement weather, including for the duration of the winter, and, at Developer's discretion, may include signage indicating that use of such pull-off area is only for observation purposes, constitutes "recreational activity" with immunity under Wis. Stats. §895.52, et. Seq., and all activities are at the sole risk of the undertaker.

14. **Vegetation.** Prior to commencement of construction or operation of the Project, Developer shall prepare and provide the Town of Saratoga with a copy of a vegetation management plan for the Project in accordance with the Town Agreement. The vegetation management plan shall outline plans for site vegetation management during construction and operations. After construction, the site shall be seeded with a low- growth grass seed mix under the solar panels. A pollinator seed mix shall be planted in select open areas outside of the array and inside the perimeter fence. Noxious weed and invasive species shall be managed through mowing and targeted applications of commercially available herbicides; however, no herbicides shall be stored on the site. After site vegetation is established, the Project shall not use broad applications of herbicides. No burning is allowed for disposal of cleared vegetation or trees, including tree stumps.

The Developer shall maintain a live snow fence along the west side of Highway 13 adjacent to the 50-foot buffer described in Paragraph 11. The live snow fence shall be constructed in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Transportation guidelines for snow drift prevention and consist of a minimum of one row where existing trees are present in the 50-foot buffer and 2 rows where trees are not present or sparse within the 50-foot buffer. Vegetative buffer plant material shall be initially installed between March 15 and November 15 and no later than 1 year after commencement of construction of the facility. All unhealthy and dead plants (60% or more dead plant material) shall be replaced by the Project owner or operator within one (1) year, or the next appropriate planting period, whichever occurs first.



15. **Stormwater.** Developer will prepare and comply with an Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plan (ESCWMP) in accordance with the Wisconsin General Permit to discharge under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) regulations established by the Clean Water Act and guided by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

16. **Water Wells.** During construction, in addition to water extracted from any well on the Property as contemplated below, Developer intends to use water trucks in connection with dust control and road construction. During operations, in the event adequate rainfall does not occur, Developer may use water trucks to wash solar panels, but such use is not anticipated to occur frequently. Developer will not install more than 1 water well on the Site that has a well capacity of greater than 50 gal/min, and in no event will Developer install any single water well on the Site that has a well capacity of greater than 100 gal/min; provided, however, during construction of the Project, Developer may install one well of up to 350 gal/min, so long as such well is properly capped, disposed, and abandoned pursuant to state regulations within ninety (90) days after the completion of construction of the Project. Developer will appropriately cap, dispose, and abandon existing wells on the Property pursuant to state regulations for well abandonment except that if Developer does not install a new well with the capacity of greater than 50 gal/min on the Property it may retain and use one of the existing wells on the Property.

If Developer installs a new well on the Property with capacity of greater than 50 gal/min it shall coordinate with the Town of Saratoga in accordance with the Town Agreement regarding the location of such installation.

17. **Emergency Response Plan.** Prior to commencement of construction or operation of the Project, Developer shall prepare and provide to the County a copy of a site-specific Emergency Response Plan (ERP). A copy of the ERP shall be kept on Site during construction and operation of the Project.

18. **Site Maintenance; Reduction of Surplus Property.** Developer shall at all times maintain the Site in good condition and repair. In the event Developer determines, in Developer's sole and absolute discretion, that certain portions of the Property are not needed for the siting of the Solar Energy System, Developer may reduce the size of the Site accordingly and unilaterally upon providing written notice of the same to County, along with a revised **Exhibit A** describing and depicting the revised Site. Any such change in the size of the Site may not result in the violation of any other requirements in this Agreement, including, without limitation, buffer and setback requirements in Paragraph 11 of this Agreement.

19. **Local Employment and Training.** Developer shall work with the local community to provide notice of employment opportunities and training programs.

20. **Cooperation.** Developer and the County agree to communicate and cooperate in good faith concerning the safe construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

21. **Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services.** Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility does not create any unique or especially dangerous environments or situations for emergency responders. Developer will require that all contractors on the Site during construction meet all state and federal laws for employee and public safety. Developer intends to request meetings with area emergency response agencies to provide project and facility familiarization and establish communication protocols. Developer will work with the County to establish communication protocol and arrange for any necessary site-specific training for area emergency response personnel.

22. **Snowmobile Route.** Developer will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide access to snowmobilers via a designated snowmobile route by relocating an existing snowmobile route to a relocated route along the west perimeter boundary of the Property. The location of the snowmobile route will be determined and coordinated with the Town of Saratoga and the Rome Snowmobile Club (the "Club") prior to commencing construction and in accordance with the Town Agreement.

23. **Indemnification.** Developer agrees to defend, pay on behalf of, and hold harmless the County and their supervisors, trustees, administrators, employees, and representatives (collectively the "Indemnified Parties") against any and all losses, damages, claims, expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, and liabilities for physical damage to the property of the County and for physical injury to any person, to the extent the same is proximately caused as a result of any activities or operations of Developer, its agents and employees, and arising out of the performance or non-performance of its duties pursuant to this Agreement or the construction, maintenance, or operation of the Project, except to the extent caused by the negligence or intentional misconduct of the County or any other Indemnified Parties. Furthermore, Developer agrees to defend, pay on behalf of, and hold harmless the County from any third party claims proximately caused as a result of any activities or operations of Developer, its agents and employees, and arising out of the performance or non-performance of its duties pursuant to this Agreement or the construction, maintenance, or operation of the Project, except to the extent that such claims are caused by the negligence or intentional misconduct of the County or any other Indemnified Parties. This Indemnification obligation shall survive the termination of this Agreement. Nothing in this Section extends any statutes of limitation applicable to any claims that may be brought against the County or the Developer.

24. **Insurance.** Developer shall at all times during construction and operation of the project carry Commercial General Liability Insurance with a minimum liability of \$5,000,000 per occurrence, and in the general aggregate (limits may be satisfied with a combination of General Liability and Umbrella/Excess policies) Automobile Liability insurance with a minimum liability limit of \$1,000,000 per accident, and the developer shall carry a workers compensation policy, with Employer's Liability limits no less than \$500,000, or, if the Developer is qualified self-insured in the State of Wisconsin, shall maintain not less than \$5,000,000 Umbrella/Excess insurance on an occurrence basis over its self-insured retention that may change from time to time. Such Umbrella/Excess insurance shall include automobile

liability. The commercial general liability, automobile liability and umbrella/excess liability policies shall provide the County with additional insured status on a primary and non-contributory basis (Umbrella/excess is non-contributory only) with a waiver of subrogation in favor of the County. The workers' compensation/employer's liability policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the County. All policies of insurance shall provide no less than 30 days written notice to the County of the intent to cancel or non-renew except for ten days for non-payment of premium. Certificates of insurance will be provided to the County on or before each policy renewal date.

25. **Relevant Law.** Any and all disputes arising under this Agreement and/or relating to the development and/or construction of the Project shall be resolved pursuant to the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

26. **Notices.** Notices, requests, demands, and other communications shall be sent to the following addresses:

*If to Developer:*

Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
8841 Hwy 13 South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

*If to the County:*

Wood County, Wisconsin  
Attn: County Clerk  
400 Market Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

All notices shall be in writing. Any notice shall be deemed to be sufficiently given (i) on the date, if delivered in person; (ii) five (5) days after being sent by United States registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested; or (iii) on the next Business Day if sent by overnight delivery service (*e.g.* Federal Express) to the notified Party at its address set forth above. These addresses shall remain in effect unless another address is substituted by written notice. Notices may be sent via email transmission to the email addresses provided, however, notice sent via email shall be followed by notice delivered by personal service or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight delivery.

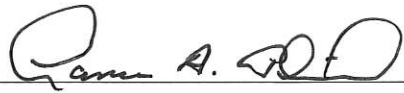
27. **Anti-Corruption.** For the purposes of this Paragraph 27 only, "Anti-Corruption Laws" shall mean, only to the extent applicable to state and local governmental entities and political subdivisions thereof, (a) the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977; and (b) all applicable national, regional, provincial, state, municipal or local laws that prohibit tax evasion, money laundering or otherwise dealing in the proceeds of crime or the bribery of, or the providing of unlawful gratuities, facilitation payments, or other benefits to, any government official or any other person. The County hereby represents, warrants, and covenants that in connection with this Agreement and the business resulting therefrom: (i) it will comply with all

applicable Anti-Corruption Laws; (ii) whether directly or indirectly, it has not accepted and will not accept any payment, gift, promise, or other advantage, to or for the use or benefit of any government official or any other person where that payment, gift, promise, or other advantage would comprise an impermissible facilitation payment or otherwise violate the Anti-Corruption Laws; (iii) it will retain its books and records for the period required by applicable law or the County's own retention policies, whichever is longer; and (iv) in the event the County becomes aware it has breached an obligation in this paragraph, it will promptly notify the Developer, subject to the preservation of legal privilege. Subject to the preservation of legal privilege, for so long as such books and records are actually retained by the other Party, each Party shall have a right, at its expense, and the other Party shall take reasonable steps to enable this right, to audit the other Party's relevant books and records with respect to compliance with this paragraph. Nothing in this Agreement shall require a Party to perform any part of this Agreement or take any actions if, by doing so, the Party would not comply with applicable law, including the Anti-Corruption Laws. The obligations in this Paragraph 27 shall survive the termination as described above.

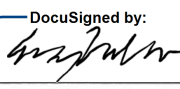
*[Signature Page Follows]*


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Solar Generating Facility Developer Agreement.

**WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

By:   
Name: Lance A. Pliml  
Title: County Board Chairman

**SARATOGA SOLAR PROJECT, LLC**

By:   
Name: Emily Truebner  
Title: Authorized Person

By:   
Name: Rod Northway  
Title: Authorized Agent

**Exhibit A – the Property**  
**Legal Description**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**TRACT 1**

SECTION NINETEEN (19), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

A PORTION OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) AND A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) EXCEPTING THEREFROM LOT ONE (1) OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO. 10858 RECORDED MARCH 08, 2021 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2021R02632.

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00350 & 18-00353

AND

SECTION TWENTY (20), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4), EXCEPT HIGHWAY RECORDED IN VOLUME 420, PAGE 503 AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM LOT ONE (1) OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO. 10858 RECORDED MARCH 08, 2021 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2021R02632.

THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4)  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4)  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00356, 18-00360, 18-00361, 18-00362, 18-00363, 18-00364, 18-00365, 18-00367, 18-00368

AND

SECTION TWENTY-ONE (21), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4  
THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4  
THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4  
THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00381, 18-00384, 18-00382 & 18-0385

AND

SECTION TWENTY-NINE (29), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4), EXCEPT HIGHWAY  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4)  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4)  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4)  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)  
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4)

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00505, 18-00506, 18-00507, 18-00509, 18-00510, 18-00511, 18-00513, 18-00514,  
18-00515, 18-00516

AND

SECTION THIRTY (30), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, WOOD COUNTY,  
WISCONSIN.

THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4)  
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4)  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4)  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4)  
THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4)  
SOUTHEAST 1/4 SOUTHEAST 1/4

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00521, 18-00524, 18-00531, 18-00532, 18-00533 & 18-00534.

AND

**TRACT 2**

PARCEL 1:

THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST,  
TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN, EXCEPT ANY LANDS CONVEYED FOR ROAD  
PURPOSES.

PARCEL 2:

THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST,  
TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN, EXCEPT ANY LANDS CONVEYED FOR ROAD  
PURPOSES.

PARCEL 3:

THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST,  
TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 4:

THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN, EXCEPT ANY LANDS CONVEYED FOR ROAD PURPOSES.

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00366, 18-00369, 18-00379 and 18-00380

AND

**TRACT 3**

PARCEL 1:  
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4) EXCEPT THE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SECTION TWENTY (20), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 2:

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-ONE (21), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 3:  
THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) AND THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-SEVEN (27), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 4:  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4), THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4), THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4), AND THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT (28), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 5:  
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4), AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4), SECTION THIRTY-FOUR (34), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-ONE (21) NORTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

TAX PARCEL NOS 18-00357, 18-00376, 18-00476, 18-00477, 18-00489, 18-00492, 18-00501, 18-00504, 18-00586, and 18-00587

AND

**TRACT 4**

PARCEL 1:

THE SW-1/4 OF THE NE-1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, THE TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 2:

THE NE-1/4 OF THE NW-1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 3:

THE NW-1/4 OF THE NW-1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 4:

THE SW-1/4 OF THE NW-1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PARCEL 5:

THE SE-1/4 OF THE NW-1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

TAX PARCEL NOS. 18-00491, 18-00493, 18-00494, 18-00495 and 18-00496

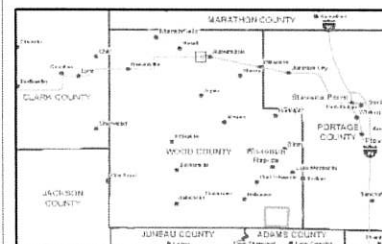


Exhibit A-1



## **Exhibit B – Groundwater Monitoring Plan**

February 1, 2023

Ms. Emily Truebner, VP Permitting & Environmental  
Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
422 Admiral Boulevard  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Re: Proposal for Groundwater Monitoring Plan  
Saratoga Solar Project  
Wood County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Truebner:

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) is pleased to provide this scope of work to conduct groundwater monitoring at the proposed Saratoga Solar Project (Subject Property). It has been requested that the Subject Property will perform ongoing groundwater monitoring to determine whether the proposed construction and operation of the Subject Property adversely impacts the groundwater conditions. The scope of work for the proposed activities are provided below.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

According to a review of the 2018 *Golden Sands Dairy Monitoring Report*, prepared by Collier Consulting and dated March 1, 2019, the existing groundwater monitoring well network includes 10 (10) wells. Three (3) of the existing wells are proposed for sampling by ECT during each monitoring event, as follows:

- One (1) on-site monitoring well (MW-U4);
- One (1) up-gradient monitoring well (MW-U3); and,
- One (1) down-gradient monitoring well (MW-D2).

The groundwater monitoring activities will be completed over approximately seven (7) years in accordance with the following tasks:

#### ***Task 1: Pre-Construction Groundwater Sampling and Reporting***

- A site-specific Health and Safety Plan will be prepared for this sampling event.
- ECT will conduct one (1) groundwater sampling and reporting event prior to the start of construction at the Subject Property, with a preference of a Fall or Spring sampling event.
- Prior to sample collection, depth-to-water measurements will be taken from MW-U4, MW-U3, and MW-D2 for the purpose of creating a potentiometric surface map to determine groundwater flow direction at the Subject Property.
- One (1) groundwater sample will be collected from MW-U4, MW-U3, and MW-D2 via U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) low-flow sampling protocols. Groundwater will be filtered prior to collection for metals analysis (described in following bullet).
- The groundwater samples and a trip blank will be transported on ice under chain-of custody for laboratory analysis of:
  - Herbicides using U.S. EPA Method 8151
  - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) using U.S. EPA Method 8160

3720 Wilder Road, Suite B, Bay City, Michigan • [ectinc.com](http://ectinc.com) • 734-769-3004

**ECT**



Ms. Emily Truebner, VP Permitting & Environmental  
 Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
 February 1, 2023  
 Page 2

- Semi-volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) using U.S. EPA Method 8270
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 8 Metals (Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium (total), Lead, Mercury, Selenium, and Silver) using U.S. EPA Methods 60108/7470-7471
- The investigation derived waste (IDW) consisting of purge and decontamination water will be drummed for disposal and stored on-site. The IDW will be properly disposed of by a third-party waste-hauler on an as-needed basis, at least once per year. All IDW disposal assumes non-hazardous disposal and that the owner/client signs as the generator.
- Following the sampling event and receipt of analytical data, a groundwater monitoring report will be prepared. The report will include a summary of sampling activities, appropriate figures and data tables, and copies of the laboratory reports.

**Task 2: Construction Groundwater Sampling and Monitoring**

- A site-specific Health and Safety Plan will be updated for this sampling event.
- ECT will conduct one (1) groundwater sampling and reporting event during construction activities at the Subject Property.
- Prior to sample collection, depth-to-water measurements will be taken from MW-U4, MW-U3, and MW-D2 for the purpose of creating a potentiometric surface map to determine groundwater flow direction at the Subject Property.
- Groundwater sampling, laboratory analysis, and IDW collection will be conducted in the same manner as discussed above.
- Following the sampling event and receipt of analytical data, a groundwater monitoring report will be prepared. The report will include a summary of sampling activities, appropriate figures and data tables, and copies of the laboratory reports.

**Task 3: Operations Groundwater Sampling and Monitoring**

- A site-specific Health and Safety Plan will be updated for each annual sampling event.
- ECT will conduct annual groundwater sampling and reporting events for five (5) years following construction of the Subject Property. Therefore, five (5) sampling events will occur.
- Prior to sample collection, depth-to-water measurements will be taken from MW-U4, MW-U3, and MW-D2 for the purpose of creating a potentiometric surface map to determine groundwater flow direction at the Subject Property.
- Groundwater sampling, laboratory analysis, and IDW collection will be conducted in the same manner as discussed above.
- Following each sampling event and receipt of analytical data, a groundwater monitoring report will be prepared. Each report will include a summary of sampling activities, appropriate figures and data tables, and copies of the laboratory reports.

Ms. Emily Truebner, VP Permitting & Environmental  
 Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
 February 1, 2023  
 Page 3

#### COST ESTIMATE

The estimated cost to perform the work described is \$84,375, which will be invoiced monthly on a Time & Materials / Not to Exceed basis. A breakdown of the costs is provided in the following table.

Proposed Activities	Estimated Cost
<b>Task 1: Pre-Construction Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination with all parties</li> <li>Completion of one (1) groundwater monitoring and sampling event as described above, including analytical analysis.</li> <li>Partial costs for disposal (costs are split between tasks)</li> <li>Completion of Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling Report</li> </ul>	\$10,250 (1 event)
<b>Task 2: Construction Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination with all parties</li> <li>Completion of one (1) groundwater monitoring and sampling event as described above, including analytical analysis.</li> <li>Partial costs for disposal (costs are split between tasks)</li> <li>Completion of Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling Report</li> </ul>	\$10,250 (per event; assumed 1 event)
<b>Task 3: Post-Construction Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination with all parties</li> <li>Completion of one (1) groundwater monitoring and sampling event as described above, including analytical analysis.</li> <li>Partial costs for disposal (costs are split between tasks)</li> <li>Completion of Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Sampling Report</li> </ul>	\$11,275 (per event; 5 events total \$56,375)
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$76,875</b>

#### ASSUMPTIONS

This work will be completed in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Master Services Agreement between Saratoga Solar Project, LLC and ECT, dated January 25, 2023. If unusual conditions are encountered (i.e., inaccessible locations, dry wells, etc.), the costs may need to be adjusted. No work outside the agreed upon scope of work will be conducted without your prior approval.

The above costs assume that the monitoring wells are able to be located and produce sufficient groundwater, that normal conditions will be encountered, and that any delays, obstructions, or other limitations caused by the client or her agents will result in additional expense to the client. All laboratory work will be reported on a standard two-week turnaround time.

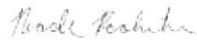
ectinc.com

**ECT**

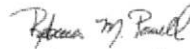
Ms. Emily Truebner, VP Permitting & Environmental  
Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
February 1, 2023  
Page 4

Please contact us if there are any questions regarding this proposal. If you concur with our proposal, please provide an executed Task Order. ECT appreciates the opportunity to assist with this very important project.

Sincerely,  
Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.



Nicole Rockentine  
Geologist, RG  
Site Assessment & Remediation  
M: 248.790.2622  
[NRockentine@ectinc.com](mailto:NRockentine@ectinc.com)



Rebecca Powell  
Operations Director  
Site Assessment & Remediation  
M: 989.802.4913  
[RMPowell@ectinc.com](mailto:RMPowell@ectinc.com)

September 25, 2025

To Wood County,

Following discussions with the Town of Saratoga and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) on the topic of burning cleared vegetation at the Saratoga Solar Project (“Project”) beginning during the fall of 2025, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to amend the Joint Development Agreement between Wood County and the Saratoga Solar Project, LLC (“Saratoga”) dated January 18, 2024 (“JDA”) to allow for on-site trench burning of cleared vegetation (“Burning”). Section 14 of the JDA is hereby amended to strike *“No burning is allowed for disposal of cleared vegetation or trees, including tree stumps.”* Any Burning conducted by Saratoga on the Project site shall comply with the terms of this Letter Agreement.

Saratoga will utilize a T300 Trench Burner manufactured by Air Burners, Inc. (“Machine”) for the Burning and abide by the required safety measures outlined below:

- The daily burn pile will be no less than 30 feet from the air curtain manifold side of the Machine, as measured from the nearest point of the Machine to the daily burn pile.
- A 100-foot clearance area free of all debris and flammable materials will be maintained on the side of the burn trench opposite the Machine’s air curtain manifold.
- If at any point the sustained windspeed exceeds 20mph at the Project site, the Machine will not to be used within the 24-hour period following the last observed windspeed measurement in excess of 20 mph. Any Burning currently underway at the time of a windspeed measurement in excess of 20 mph will cease as soon as safely possible and Burning will not resume for a period of 24 hours following the last observed sustained windspeed measurement in excess of 20 mph.
- A self-imposed 500-foot buffer clear of debris and flammable materials will be maintained from the Burning, as measured from the nearest point of the burn trench and Machine, as a means of proactive risk mitigation.

Saratoga will obtain a Special Burn Permit from the Wisconsin DNR prior to beginning any Burning on site. Saratoga will also take care to notify the Town of Saratoga and Wood County prior to beginning any Burning on the Project site. Upon request from the Wisconsin DNR, Saratoga will avoid Burning activities in the springtime (for purposes of this Letter Agreement, defined as the months of March, April, and May) unless otherwise discussed with and approved by the Wisconsin DNR, Wood County, and the Town of Saratoga.

This Letter Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. Should any provision of this Letter Agreement be held, in a final and unappealable decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be either invalid, void, or



unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect, unimpaired by the holding.

Except as modified by this Letter Agreement, all other terms and conditions of the JDA shall remain in full force and effect.

By signing the below, you acknowledge your agreement to the terms of this Letter Agreement and represent and warrant that you have full authority to execute this Letter Agreement on behalf of Wood County. This Letter Agreement may be executed in one or more duplicate counterparts (including by PDF or facsimile) and when signed by all parties listed below shall constitute a single binding agreement.

Sincerely,

Saratoga Solar Project, LLC  
A Delaware limited liability company

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

AGREED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Wood County

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Overview

Alliant Energy is developing a wind energy project in southwest Marathon County, Wisconsin. Wind energy allows Alliant Energy to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to customers without emitting greenhouse gases. This proposed project is expected to generate enough clean, low-cost energy to power nearly 30,000 homes annually. This project will provide significant economic benefits to the community through the total capital investment, construction and operations jobs created, landowner leases and aid payments generated.

## Project Facts

**Location:** Towns of Day, McMillan, Eau Pleine, Cleveland, and Green Valley

**Typical Development Timeline:** 3-6 years

**Typical Construction Timeline:** 1 year

**Estimated Size:** 100 MW

**Estimated Number of Turbines:** 20-25

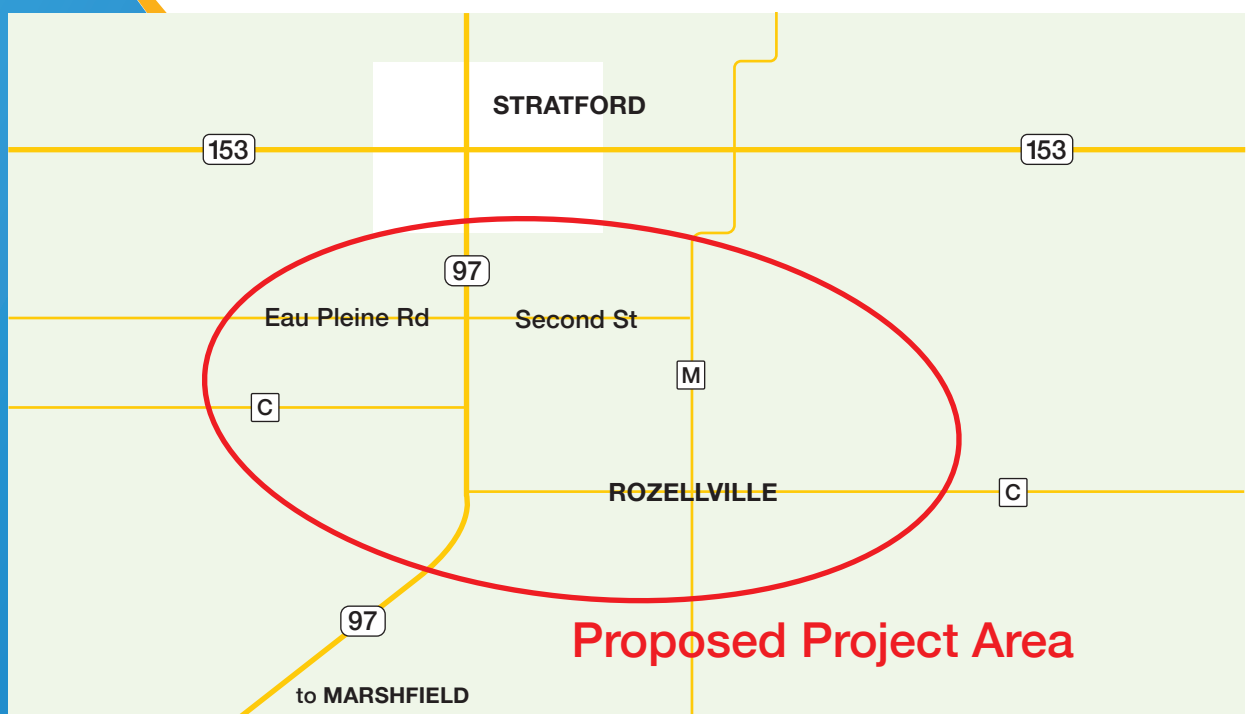
**Annual Estimated Production:** 300,000 MWh

**Homes Powered:** Approximately 30,000 annually

**Shared Revenue Estimate:**

- Township/s = \$216,700\* annually
- County = \$283,300\* annually

\*Actual amounts determined by the state. Estimated values are for a 100 MW Wind Project.  
The shared revenue is subject to change pending the size of the project.



# **MINUTES**

## **CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Leichtnam, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick, George Gilbertson

**MEMBER EXCUSED:** Tom Buttke

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the September 3, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Under the risk & injury report, Land & Water Conservation Director Wucherpennig reported a motor vehicle accident involving himself in the county vehicle. As it just happened, they are waiting for insurance to decide whether it will be totaled or able to be fixed.
6. Amy Golding from C2 Makerspace in Marshfield gave a presentation on the activities of the various clubs working out of the space at UWSP and Marshfield. She noted the equipment purchased with the economic development grant funds and is requesting the release of those funds. Motion by Perlock/Hovendick to approve the release of \$1,750 of economic development grant funds to C2 Makerspace. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Jeremy Sickler from the South Wood County Airport Commission highlighted the committee on various projects and ventures of the airport and is requesting the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding to the airport. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Meredith Kleker from the Wisconsin Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau requested REDI Implementation Funds to help fund a feasibility study being conducted for an indoor sports facility in Wisconsin Rapids. They are requesting \$5,000 of REDI Implementation Funds to be able to add to the other donations to be able to complete the study. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$5,000 of REDI Implementation Funds for the feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Extension Associate Dean Jason Hausler introduced Mallory McGivern as the interim area extension director. She will be in place for the next few months. They reviewed that the current



funding for the Food Wise educator was ending, and until the county decides what to do with this position, Hausler proposed using unspent funds from the budget from vacancies during the year to fund its continuance until the end of the year. Motion by Leichtnam/Schulz to approve the use of unused Extension funding to fund the Food Wise educator position until the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Wucherpfennig reviewed the current status of the Nitrate Well Testing and the funding of reverse osmosis systems as well as the number of systems currently being used. He reviewed various measurements along Mill Creek Water Shed and action being taken along the watershed. He also discussed current violations and their respective status.
11. A field day is coming up highlighting various land conservation practices will be held at Albert Acres' in Junction City on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee was advised that if they plan to attend to let the Land & Water Conservation Dept. and the County Clerk's office know so that it can be noticed in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.
12. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg, along with Extension Educator Rombalski reviewed a draft of the economic development grant request with the committee. Some adjustments were made to the document, which will be brought back next month for final approval.
13. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM, and will contain a possible closed session.
14. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 11:07 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

# Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

October 1, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jeff Furton	WCB #1
Bill Clendenning	WCB #15
Russ Perlock	WCB #4
Jason Greenberg	P+2
Barb Peeters	LWCD
George Gilbertson	LWCD Rep
Andy Guidry	C7 makerspace
Dennis Polach	wcb-14
Wayne Schmitz	WCB-1
Meredith K. Koster	WCB Rapids Area C/B/WCB
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
Jason Hausler	Extension
Mallory McGivern	Extension
Jeremy Sickler (Web Ex)	Alexander Field
Victoria Wilson (Web Ex)	P+3
Darrin Steinbach (Web Ex)	Finance
Katie DeKleyn (Web Ex)	County Clerk
Lance Pliml (Web Ex)	CB Chair
Ben Jeffrey (Web Ex)	Health Dept
Kayla Rombalski (Web Ex)	Extension
Kayla Yang (Web Ex)	Finance

## Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension Wood County

For the period of: October 2025

For the range of vouchers: 30250131 - 30250147

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30250131	GATOR GARB PROMOTIONS INC	4-H DC Learning Journey	10/14/2025	\$488.52	P
30250132	GATOR GARB PROMOTIONS INC	4-H DC Learning Journey	10/14/2025	\$362.52	P
30250133	GATOR GARB PROMOTIONS INC	4-H DC Learning Journey	10/14/2025	\$371.52	P
30250134	GATOR GARB PROMOTIONS INC	4-H DC Learning Journey	10/14/2025	\$447.04	P
30250135	MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM	4-H AmeriCorps Member Match	10/14/2025	\$4,850.00	P
30250136	US BANK	October Credit Card Statement	10/23/2025	\$595.05	
30250137	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Educational Materials	10/23/2025	\$121.48	
30250138	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Educational Materials	10/23/2025	\$35.93	
30250139	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	Office Supplies	10/23/2025	\$131.84	
30250140	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	Clean Sweep Collection - Ag	10/23/2025	\$284.54	
30250141	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	Clean Sweep Collection - HHW	10/23/2025	\$22,591.43	
30250142	BORES TRINA	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$17.21	
30250143	EBERLEIN BENJAMIN	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$151.48	
30250144	MCNELLY JENNIFER L	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$44.10	
30250145	MITCHELL ANNA M	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$104.86	
30250146	ROMBALSKI KAYLA-ROSE	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$178.08	
30250147	YOUNG WENDY	October Expenses	10/28/2025	\$49.79	
<b>Grand Total:</b>				<b>\$30,825.39</b>	

### Signatures

Committee Chair:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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## Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT.

For the period of: OCTOBER 2025

For the range of vouchers: 18250115 - 18250133

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18250115	BARKLEY TIMOTHY	NMFE Reimbursement	09/25/2025	\$787.00	P
18250116	CHILI IMPLEMENT CO	Parts for no-till drill	09/29/2025	\$263.18	P
18250117	WATER EXCELLENCE	Cost share nitrate RO system (DN)	09/22/2025	\$4,880.00	P
18250118	KNUTH RONALD	Cost share harvestable buffers	09/30/2025	\$5,160.00	P
18250119	KNUTH RONALD	Cost share harvesable buffers	09/30/2025	\$2,362.50	P
18250120	KNUTH RONALD	Cost share harvestable buffers	09/30/2025	\$2,497.50	P
18250121	KNUTH RONALD	Cost share harvestable buffers	09/30/2025	\$540.00	P
18250122	CHAT-R-BOX CATERING	Field Event Lunch	10/07/2025	\$385.00	P
18250123	WATER EXCELLENCE	CS nitrate removal system (NO)	10/08/2025	\$4,960.00	P
18250124	WATER EXCELLENCE	CS nitrate removal system (TB)	10/08/2025	\$4,880.00	P
18250125	ALBERT DUSTIN	Seed for test plots/field day	06/23/2025	\$2,430.00	P
18250126	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	10/14/2025	\$132.78	P
18250127	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	10/15/2025	\$64.98	P
18250128	US BANK	Field tour, water testing	10/17/2025	\$599.00	
18250129	USTIANOWSKI DANIEL	NMFE Reimbursement	10/24/2025	\$468.00	
18250130	WEILER ALAN K	Cost share cover crops	10/24/2025	\$3,498.95	
18250131	JAGODZINSKI JAMES & LESLIE	Cost share cover crops	10/24/2025	\$3,377.50	
18250132	JAGODZINSKI JAMES & LESLIE	Cost share cover crops	10/17/2025	\$385.00	
18250133	WATER EXCELLENCE	CS nitrate removal sysem (JD)	09/30/2025	\$4,960.00	
<b>Grand Total:</b>				<b>\$42,631.39</b>	

### Signatures

Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Planning & Zoning

For the period of: November 2025

For the range of vouchers: 22250065 - 22250074 38250020 - 38250020

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22250065	AYRES ASSOCIATES INC (Eau Claire)	LR-ARPA Funds Air Photo	09/24/2025	\$58,176.00	P
22250066	OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER	PS-Prof Services/Postage	09/26/2025	\$509.05	P
22250067	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	LR-Office Supplies	09/23/2025	\$195.89	P
22250068	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Services Per Contract	10/01/2025	\$1,126.66	P
22250069	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-Sanitary Permit Fees	10/01/2025	\$1,300.00	P
22250070	WCCA (COUNTY CODE ADMINISTRATORS)	PS-Training/Conferences	10/10/2025	\$150.00	P
22250071	LAMERS BUS LINES	PS-Office Supplies	09/29/2025	\$567.00	P
22250072	QUEST CIVIL ENGINEERS LLC	SU-R/M Serv Other	10/16/2025	\$26,000.00	P
22250073	US BANK	LR/PL/ED Credit Card Charges	10/17/2025	(\$123.64)	P
22250074	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	LR-Office Supplies	09/24/2025	\$195.89	P
38250020	SOUTH WOOD CO AIRPORT COMM	ED-Grants, Donations, Contrib	10/02/2025	\$15,000.00	P
Grand Total:				\$103,096.85	

### Signatures

Committee Chair:

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Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

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Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

## 4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator*

*Trina Bores, 4-H AmeriCorps member*

- A travel experience to Washington DC in which youth learned how government functions, what democracy means, and the roles engaged citizens play in representative democracy so that they can better understand civics and their role in it.
  - **Total Reach:** 27 youth 2 adult volunteers
  - **Testimonial from youth participant:** *"This trip was truly a blessing. It helped me see what our history has to do with the many decisions of our world today. It showed me a glimmer into a past that I have not seen nor experienced. This trip has helped me see why learning our history is so important. I don't think I have ever felt more connected to our past than I have here on this trip. I love how every experience truly shows us how our past has now bled into our future, creating laws and rules that our world follows now. This trip has shown me so many wonders and I am truly grateful for this experience."*
- A hands-on activity booth at a community festival in which youth got to create "worms" using chemistry. At this booth, youth and parents learned more about 4-H, our hands-on learning methods, and had fun discovering how fun science can be.
  - **Total Reach:** Over 100 youth and their parents.
- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in an alternative learning environment, where students learn financial and life skills including budgeting, spending & saving, how to find and apply for rental housing responsibilities as a renter, managing housing & household expenses, basic cooking and living skills, and basic home maintenance. Through this program, participants build a foundation of independent living skills which increase their financial and housing stability and decrease their reliance on public supports.
  - **Total Reach:** 81 Students

## AGRICULTURE

*Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator*

- A statewide survey for dairy producers, where participants shared detailed records on inputs, management practices, and expenses associated with raising replacement heifers to generate updated benchmarks and highlight cost-saving opportunities, to support more informed decision-making and improve the economic sustainability of dairy operations.



- An article series was written for dairy farmers and advisors that explores how feed efficiency can guide decision-making, the factors that influence it, and its limitations. The purpose of this article is to support informed and strategic on-farm management related to feed efficiency data.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### *Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator*

- Basic grant writing workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.
  - **Total Reach:** 236 individuals from nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments
- Testimonial from virtual workshop participant: "It was a good intro to grant writing course and would recommend it to anyone that is looking to start grant writing."
- Facilitation of a strategic planning process for the Wood County Health Department in which priorities are identified for 2026-2028.
- Completion of two record-setting Wood County Clean Sweep events.
  - **Total Reach:** 382 Wood County households

## CRANBERRIES

### *Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist*

- The Proceedings for 2025 Cranberry School were prepared, collated, and are currently awaiting publishing from UW Communications.
- Archived Cranberry Virtual Brown Bags are being edited, transcribed, and uploaded to YouTube
  - See [go.wisc.edu/cranberrybrownbags](https://go.wisc.edu/cranberrybrownbags) for the playlist!
- An updated list of all cranberry research being conducted in Wisconsin is being compiled for distribution before the Research Round Table, to be held Nov. 6.

## FOODWISE

### *Hannah Wendels, FoodWise Nutrition Educator*

- As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, SNAP-Ed funding has been eliminated. While this programming is ending, Extension is committed to the Wood County community. Our broader mission of education and outreach will continue, including nutrition and health education. Thank you to the CEED committee for your support of these efforts and extending this position.
- A 5-week nutrition education series for fifth grade classrooms at Howe Elementary School, where students will learn about MyPlate, making healthy food and beverage choices, how to read nutrition facts labels, and about being physically active to help them to be healthier in school and at home.
  - **Total Reach:** 55 fifth grade students at Howe Elementary



- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in an alternative learning environment, where students learn financial and life skills including budgeting, spending & saving, how to find and apply for rental housing responsibilities as a renter, managing housing & household expenses, basic cooking and living skills, and basic home maintenance. Through this program, participants build a foundation of independent living skills which increase their financial and housing stability and decrease their reliance on public supports.
  - **Total Reach:** 81 Students
- A partnership with United Way/Hunger Coalition, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-income seniors can receive around 25-30 pounds of nutritious foods to stock their pantry with. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security.
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Pittsville Community Hall, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
  - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Nekoosa Area Community Center, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
  - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### *Ka Zoua Thao, Bilingual (Hmong) Community Health Worker*

- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Pittsville Community Hall, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
  - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A bi-monthly support group for Hmong elementary students in grades four and five, where they learn about feelings, safety, and respect through storytelling, art, and guided conversations. Using age-appropriate terms, basic concepts of mental health, personal boundaries, and trusted adults while honoring Hmong traditions and values will be introduced. Through this program, Hmong students will feel safe, heard, and confident to lay the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being and opening the door to healthier conversations in their families and communities.
  - **Total Reach:** 7 students in grades four and five



- A bi-weekly meeting for Hmong middle and high school students to engage in open conversations, cultural storytelling, and guided activities to learn about mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault within the Hmong community. They gain tools to recognize signs of trauma, understand healthy boundaries, and access support systems – all in a safe, judgement-free environment. Through this effort, we are fostering a generation of informed, compassionate youth who feel seen, heard, and empowered to break cycles of silence and advocate for healing and change in their families and communities.
  - **Total Reach:** 33 students in grades 6-8
  - **Total Reach:** 8 students in grade 9-12
- A Tai Chi class for older adults and individuals with arthritis, where participants learn gentle, low-impact movements designed to improve balance, flexibility, and joint health. Through this activity, the program help reduce the risk of falls and empower participants to lead healthier, more active lives, fostering independence and confidence in their daily routines.
  - **Total Reach:** 25 registered participants
- Building relationships and engaging with partners to address health needs with the Hmong community within Wood County.
- Ongoing one-on-one meetings with Hmong clients, where resources and referrals are made. Through these efforts, individual clients are able to receive support navigating through the healthcare and legal systems and get connected with community resources.
  - **Total Reach:** 8 one-on-one clients
- The Hmong Women's Social Space serves as a monthly gathering for Hmong women to engage in discussions about often overlooked topics within their community. This initiative aims to foster relationships among participants and empower them to advocate for the recognition of their voices.
  - **Total Reach:** 5 participants

## HORTICULTURE

*Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator*

- A diagnostic service for the general public, where Marathon and Wood County residents' horticultural inquiries are answered through evidence-based resources. This effort is designed to reduce pollution through horticultural product (pesticides and fertilizers) misuse.

## HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

*Ben Eberlein, Human Development & Relationships Educator*

- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in an alternative learning environment, where students learn financial and life skills including budgeting, spending & saving, how to find and apply for rental housing responsibilities as a renter, managing housing & household expenses, basic cooking



and living skills, and basic home maintenance. Through this program, participants build a foundation of independent living skills which increase their financial and housing stability and decrease their reliance on public supports.

- **Total Reach:** 81 Students
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Pittsville Community Hall, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
  - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Nekoosa Area Community Center, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
  - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A direct education activity for elementary & middle school students in which participants learn basic financial concepts like the difference between needs & wants and to identify personal financial values and goals. Through this, they establish a foundation of knowledge for positive money management later in life.
  - **Total Reach:** 12 youth

## NATURAL RESOURCES

*Jen McNelly, Natural Resources Educator*

*Anna Mitchell, Natural Resources Educator*

- A hands-on learning station utilizing the Enviroscope Model for K-8th grade students from St. Paul's School in Wisconsin Rapids where students learned about watersheds, land use impacts to them, and best management practices that can be used to mitigate human impacts. Through this activity students are able to visualize what a watershed is and how human land use impacts the watershed. Students are also able to demonstrate the impacts of best management practices to minimize human impacts
  - **Total Reach:** 40 Students
- A joint presentation for County Land and Water Conservation Department and County Health Department staff where attendees learned about what resources the UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and UW-Madison Division of Extension offer to help local counties to either develop their own groundwater program or enhance existing efforts to address groundwater concerns. Through this presentation attendees are able to professionals and discuss potential projects for collaboration.
  - **Total Reach:** 42 Attendees



- A lecture and activities for high school students enrolled in the Natural Resources course at Lincoln High School, where participants discussed and learned about pollution in drinking water and groundwater by using hands on activities and the groundwater model. Through this effort students will be able to understand what groundwater is and how it moves, identify different types of pollution to groundwater and drinking water, and demonstrate factors that influence the movement of pollution underground
  - **Total Reach:** 18 students
- A hands-on learning station utilizing the Enviroscape Model for all 5th grade students in Waushara County, where students learned about watersheds, land use impacts to them and best management practices that can be used to mitigate human impacts. Through this activity students are able to visualize what a watershed is, and human land use impacts the watershed. Students also are able to demonstrate the impacts of best management practices to minimize human impacts.
  - **Total Reach:** 198 Students and 27 Adults
  - **Testimonials from event chaperones:**
    - *"Great model to show importance of erosion control"*
    - *"Kids loved hands on impact of pollution"*
    - *"Teacher really kept students involved!"*
    - *"Her table model was very interactive which kept kids involved"*
    - *Presentation – excellent. Involved kids' interaction"*
    - *"Jen is always energetic and informative"*
    - *"Very upbeat and positive through instruction"*
    - *"Great visual and interaction"*
    - *"Worked well with kids"*
    - *"Speaker is very engaging. I enjoyed her."*
- A data analysis effort for partners at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where Natural Resources Educators and Specialists reviewed responses from multiple stakeholder listening sessions to identify common themes across audiences. Through this data analysis, partners gained insights that will guide discussions at an upcoming roundtable event and inform the development of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, helping ensure the strategy reflects stakeholder perspectives and priorities.
- A meeting with Nepco Lake District, where members reviewed results from a stakeholder engagement survey and outlined the strategic planning process. Through this meeting, participants learned how to incorporate community feedback into planning efforts, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered in decision making. This meeting is designed to foster inclusive and informed strategic planning, laying the groundwork for future meetings and conversations that will guide the Lake District's long-term goals and initiatives.
- Planning for Science by the River, a free, one-day, outdoor event for community members of all ages from Wood County and surrounding areas. The goal of this event is to celebrate science and the outdoors through Discovery Stations that explore different fields of science through information,



demonstrations, and hands on learning opportunities. Through this event, attendees will learn about opportunities to engage in science and conservation related organizations and will gain a better understanding of science and conservation efforts within their communities.

- Planning for a Health and Conservation Fall Summit for County Health and Land and Water Conservation Department Staff, as well as state agency representatives in collaboration with Wisconsin Land and Water. The goal is for county representatives to learn more about emerging water-related health and conservation issues, so that they can use the information from the summit to address these issues in their counties.
- Planning for a nutrient loss reduction strategy stakeholder roundtable event for agricultural producers, partners and agency representatives in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Land and Water, and UW-Madison Division of Extension. The goal is for stakeholders to come together at a one-day event to discuss nutrient loss reduction strategy actions that can help inform and guide an updated state nutrient loss reduction strategy.
- Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Wood County Citizen Water Groups, where stakeholders meet to discuss ways to implement their annual action plan, learn about water related issues in Wood County, plan events and activities, update each other on work being done in Wood County, and identify new collaborations for future work/projects.
  - **Total Reach:** 15 Citizen Members of the Wood County Citizen Water Group





## Wood County, Wisconsin LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

### Activities Report for Barb Peeters - October 2025

- Generated/processed cost share contracts for:
  - *harvestable buffers* utilizing ARPA grant funds and Surface Water Grant funds (R. Knuth/4 contracts-\$15,960.00); (G. Peplinski/5 contracts-\$49,360.00); and (Roth Golden Acres/3 contracts-\$70,500.00). The payments will be made in two installments: half in 2025 (after verification of cover establishment) and half in 2026 (after verification of maintenance). Per the signed contracts, if upon annual verification by LWCD staff the harvestable buffers are not maintained for the years specified in the contracts (3-year & 5-year), the landowner/grant recipient agrees to repay the incentive amount(s) in full. Created spreadsheet to track annual verification of the harvestable buffers.
  - *cover crops* utilizing SWRM grant funds (L. Jagodzinski \$3,377.50; L. Jagodzinski-\$385.00, A. Weiler \$3,498.95)
  - *cover crops* utilizing Mill Creek grant funds (Roth Golden Acres \$805.00)
  - *manure storage closure* utilizing SWRM structural/bond grant funds totaling \$8,932.00 (M. Duckett).
  - *nitrate removal systems* (M. Warner, P. Hobart, G. Bredl, T. Eglund, C. Fisher, R. Randorf). As a side note, nitrate removal system cost-share contracts include a requirement for grantees to submit nitrate water test results annually for 3 years (in 2026, 2027 & 2028). Created spreadsheet to track annual water test results.
- Processed reimbursement requests and/or payments for:
  - four first-year *harvestable buffer* cost share contract reimbursement requests (R. Knuth) totaling \$10,560.00.
  - *nitrate removal systems* payments to landowners (D. Newman-\$4,880.00; N. Oltesvig-\$4,960.00; G. Bredl-\$4,880.00)
  - *Nutrient Management Farmer Education* (NMFE) payment totaling \$787.00 (T. Barkley). Wood County is the financial manager for the DATCP NMFE Grant in 2025 and responsible for processing reimbursements to class attendees for Wood, Marathon, Taylor, Clark, Portage and Lincoln counties. Also processed first reimbursement payment for NMFE grant totaling \$34,980.00.
  - four *DATCP cost-share contract* payments totaling \$14,394.23 (K. Lewis-\$5,349.58 & T. Bulgrin-\$2,168.20, L. Jagodzinski \$3,377.50, A. Weiler \$3,498.95). Also submitted reimbursement request to DATCP.
  - payments for rental of no-till drill as received (K. Eastling, T. Scheunemann, R. Johnson).
    - NOTE: usage of the no-till drill has decreased over the past two years so the 2026 budget revenue was decreased to reflect this downward trend (partially weather related, but overall general decrease in use). The roller-crimper wasn't rented in 2025 and only rented twice in 2024, so revenue was decreased in the 2026 LWCD budget.
  - Completed TRM grant reimbursement request for Kerry Lewis Rip-Rap project (\$70,420.00), compiled supporting documentation and emailed to County Conservationist due to the fact the request needs to be submitted to the WI DNR by the County Conservationist. Revised TRM grant reimbursement request with changes requested by the DNR Senior Water Resources Mgmt Specialist/ Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator and resent documents to County Conservationist for resubmission to DNR (due to the fact both TRM grant funds & SWRM grant funds were used).
- Attended October 1<sup>st</sup> CEED meeting at courthouse.
- Completed mandatory employee Wood County Security Training Fall 2025 assignment.
- Assisted Conservation Program Manager (Rod Mayer) by making copies for a nonmetallic mining public records request for the Milestone/Dupee Farms Quarry. Generated invoice and processed payment for copies.
- Recorded five cost-share contracts for nitrate removal systems with the Register of Deeds as received (N. Oltesvig, L. Goodwin, M. Warner, G. Bredl, R. Randorf).
- Attended open enrollment benefits meeting at courthouse.
- Worked with I.T. to obtain Adobe Pro license for Kendra Wilhelm/Conservation Specialist due to the fact Adobe Pro is required for the grant writing she is doing and supplied appropriate account number for cost of annual license.
- Attended the WI Land+Water Conservation 2025 Fall Technical Tour hosted by the Juneau County Land & Water Resource Dept. on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a VERY informative and interesting tour highlighting conservation practices. The first stop was at the *National Wildlife Refuge* in Necedah where we witnessed work being done to remove 100-year-old ditch "laterals" branching across the land draining 60,000 acres of wetland in order to restore the Little Yellow River and the surrounding wetland habitat within the refuge. The current ditches are dumping excessive water and speeding up the flow which negatively impacts the ecosystem and causes downstream flooding. Their work aims to restore the river's natural, meandering form and function and the ability of wetlands to hold the water. The second stop was at *Cranberry Creek*

*Cranberries* where they strive to combine cutting-edge technology with deep-rooted sustainability to grow nearly 10% of Wisconsin's cranberries. They are participants in Wisconsin's Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP). Through this initiative, they are helping to refine best practices in nitrogen management to improve nutrient use efficiency while protecting water quality and soil health. They also maintain an ongoing partnership with UW-Madison researchers and the Wis. Cranberry Research & Education Foundation, supporting and participating in research projects spanning horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, genetics, weed science, and soil and water management. The final stop was the *WI Air National Guard Hardwood Bombing Range* where we split up into multiple groups to see the inner workings of the range and the different conservation efforts being used (i.e. pollinator plantings in drop zones and buffer areas, management of invasive species, etc.). The Hardwood Bombing Range encompasses 7,200 acres in Juneau County with its northern boundary along the Wood County line.

- Logged third quarter mileage for both LWCD trucks and generated journal entries for Wildlife & NMM mileage.
- Finalized plans for Albert Acres Demo Trials Field Event on October 7<sup>th</sup>; called in final head count to caterer, obtained supplies, attended event and assisted with clean up at conclusion of event. It was a successful field event with demos of skip-row plantings in corn grain with an inter-seeded cover crop in the rows to increase cover crop biomass in corn grain. Winter camelina (a new type of cover crop to our area) in a soybean rotation was also showcased. The event was co-sponsored by Wood County LWCD and EPPIC (the Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation) which is a network of farmers, landowners, farm groups, lake stewards, etc. whose purpose is Integrating resilience into the natural resources, community, and economy of the Eau Pleine Watershed.
- Verified wildlife damage general ledger, printed reports and assembled all invoices and attachments for third quarter 2025 reimbursement request to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources.
- Worked with fruit tree broker to finalize fruit tree orders from two nurseries for the 2026 tree sale. We're offering fruit trees for the first time in our 2026 tree sale (apple trees (Honey Crisp, Empire & Wolf River), pear trees (Flemish Beauty & Wisconsin Jung Hardy) and peach trees (Reliance & PF24C-Cold Hardy)). If fruit tree sales are well received, we'll continue to include them in the annual tree sale and possibly expand varieties per customer preferences. I anticipate the fruit trees will go over well due to the number of customers that have called/emailed this month requesting information and inquiring when the sale starts (the 2026 tree/shrub/seed sale runs from early November 2025 through January 16, 2026).
- Finalized 2026 tree sale order forms, product descriptions and tree sale newsletter.
- Organized County Board packet materials and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.
- Assisted I.T. with updating four computers in our department to Windows 11 and troubleshooting issues that arose.
- Completed September sales tax report and forwarded to Finance.
- Worked with I.T. to have the 2026 poster contest information updated on the LWCD website. The 2026 theme is "**Soil. Where It All Begins.**" Posters are due in our office for judging by Friday, January 16, 2026. First place winners in each division will advance to the Area Contest on January 28<sup>th</sup> and first place winners there will advance to the state contest at the WI Land+Water Conference in March. The contest is open to all Wood County students in grades K-12.
- Worked with I.T. over a two-week period to troubleshoot issues with sending LWCD photos taken with new dept. cell phone (photos are for work projects/event purposes).
- Scheduled, compiled agenda, attended and took minutes at October 23<sup>rd</sup> staff meeting.
- Assisted Conservation Program Coordinator with mailing nonmetallic mine reclamation permit and processing of 2025 permit fee (for new Mathy-Marshfield site with Mathy Construction Co.).
- Worked with Deputy Finance Director to revise 2026 LWCD payroll percentages due to budget adjustments voted on by the Operations Committee for the 2026 budget year. Printed updated reports and shared with County Conservationist.
- Ordered dept. supplies and processed invoices/payments. Processed journal entries for truck mileage and well testing.
- Downloaded the DATCP monthly report for October and shared with LWCD staff (CREP reporting deadline, NMFE survey)
- Vacation days on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> & Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Wellness Committee meeting and shared updates with LWCD staff & Parks/Forestry staff via email.
- Processed department invoices/vouchers and deposits weekly for submission to the Treasurer/Finance.
- Submitted CREP Annual In-Kind Cost Reporting to DATCP (submission deadline of 12/5/25).
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> payrolls. Reviewed payroll reports and verified distribution by accounts/department.
- Reviewed 2025 budget due to unanticipated increase in staff mileage reimbursements as a result of Sept. accident with LWCD truck (truck will be out of commission until at least the end of November with \$13,700+ in repairs).
- Served as point of contact for LWCD staff while Conservationist was out of the office October 3, 9, 15, 16, 21, 24, 29, 31.
- Electronically submitted staff reports/packet materials to the County Clerk's office for the CEED meeting packet. Obtained approval of Conservationist to include article in *The Field Note* publication highlighting Kyle Andreae, LWCD Engineer Technician, as well as Mill Creek phosphorus results for 2025 and added to CEED agenda as informational items.

## Activities Report for Emily Salvinski

*-October 2025-*

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- **Wednesday, October 1.** Made a map to show where nitrate water treatment systems have/will go in. Added information to that shapefile. Made a document on step by step guide with pictures on how to convert old mxd to arcpro so I can refer to it.
- **Thursday, October 2.** Converted and updated a large NMP so I can use it for reductions next. Prepared materials for water testing.
- **Monday, October 6.** Updated gis layers to match records so far in spreadsheets (cost-sharing).
- **Tuesday, October 7.** Attended field day at Dust Albert's farm.
- **Wednesday, October 8.** Sampled baseflow at 6 locations within SE Wood County. Added results to our tables and DNR's SWIMS database. Prepared information for future cost sharing of cover crops.
- **Thursday, October 16.** Prepared for farmer meeting. Collected samples in the Mill Creek watershed to be tested for total suspended solids and total phosphorus.
- **Friday, October 17.** Visited farmer and landowner to sign contracts and check cover crops. Created project in BITS and filled in the information for a TRM grant so we can get reimbursed from the DNR.
- **Wednesday, October 22.** Received Mill Creek total phosphorus results and updated spreadsheets and brochures for the final time for 2025.
- **Thursday, October 23.** Attended staff meeting. Used GPS to measure areas with and without cover crops in the field. Took that information and put onto computer to get acreages and added that information to contract. Wrote up answers to questions received on water testing from a student.
- **Friday, October 24.** Met with farmer to sign contract and check cover crops. Attended NMFE meeting.
- **Tuesday, October 28.** Field checked cover crops, took pictures, organized pictures back at office. Started adding information to GIS.

## Activities Report for Kyle Andreae – October, 2025

- October 1 – Lippert Design
- October 2 – Tech Tour
- October 3 – Gilbertson Site Visit, No-till Drill Transport
- October 6 – Gilbertson Site Investigation
- October 7 – Albertson Field Day
- October 8 – Cohort meeting, Gilbertson Site Investigation
- October 9 – Gilbertson Design, No-till Drill Repair
- October 10 – No-till Drill Repair
- October 13 – Mine Site Coordinate Transformations, Gilbertson Design
- October 14 – Gilbertson Design
- October 15 – No-till Drill Transport, Duckett Site Visit
- October 16 – Duckett Permitting
- October 17 – Duckett Site Visit, Gilbertson Design
- October 20 – Gilbertson Design
- October 21 – Eastling Design
- October 22 – Mine Site Inspections, Eastling Design
- October 23 – Staff Meeting, CREP Annual Report
- October 24 – No-till Drill Trouble Shooting, Eastling Design
- October 27 – No-till Drill Move/ Assess Repairs, CREP Annual Report
- October 28 – CREP Annual Report
- October 29 – Gilbertson Design/ Site Visit, Duckett Construction Inspection
- October 30 – Duckett Construction Inspection
- October 31 – Duckett Construction Inspection



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### Activities Report for Kendra Wilhelm – October 2025

- Coordinated the use and transport of the no-till drill for 3 operators.
  - This consists of answering questions via phone, managing the schedule of the no-till drill, and transporting the no-till drill to renters.
- Received signatures on harvestable buffer contracts for R. Knuth.
- Attended an open enrollment meeting hosted by Human Resources.
- Assisted the Nepco Lake District with Surface Water Grant technical assistance.
- Assisted with a phone call regarding the tree and shrub sale.
- Organized documentation and reporting for the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network Grant.
- Communicated water quality testing results with office staff.
- Attended the Albert Acres' Demo Trials Field Day hosted by our office.
- Read the latest version of Cover Crop Strategies.
- Presented for two classes at River Cities High School about conservation in our everyday lives, what a County Land & Water Conservation Department is/does and the conservation poster contest.
- Participated in a debrief meeting regarding Nepco Lake District's surface water education grant and how the educational sessions went this year and ideas for next year.
- Completed "Prevent the Spread" signage checks at all boat and kayak landings.
  - All data along with corresponding photos of each landing was entered into the SWIMS (DNR) database.
- Completed an organisms in trade check at Ace Hardware. No aquatic invasive species found.
- Answered questions via phone regarding invasive Japanese Knotweed.
- Answered questions via phone regarding soil testing, residue management, and cover crops.
- Worked with the IT Department to remove Kofax PDF from computer and install Adobe Pro.
- Coordinated with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Auburndale Elementary School regarding a date to present information about the conservation poster contest.
- Coordinated with Roth Golden Acres to map out harvestable buffers they implemented this fall. Mapping occurred on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Transfer to ArcGIS Pro and compiling information for cost-share contracts occurred on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Cost share contracts were reviewed and signed on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Created a general soils presentation that can be used at various ages to promote the conservation poster contest.
- Met with Anna Mitchell, UW-Extension, to discuss goals of the Nepco Lake District, their ongoing strategic planning process, and educational programs for next year.
- Attended a webinar on harmful algal blooms.
- Communicated and coordinated a field visit with the City of Marshfield Street Superintendent on a consult to identify potential NR40 invasive species. The field visit occurred on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. No invasive plants were found.
- Answered various questions about the Snap Plus nutrient management software.
- Delivered cover crop cost-share contracts to McMillan Farms and verified the cover crop fields.
- Completed grant documentation for the Management Plan Implementation Surface Water Grant.
  - Included budget tracking, match tracking, calculating harvestable buffer reductions, and ensuring all reporting paperwork is readily available.
- Completed GIS mapping of the roads the Wood County Highway Department sprayed during the 2025 season. I overlay this map with known invasive species populations to track years of treatment at each site.
- Reviewed updates made to Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WisCALM) that establishes impaired waters of the state.
- Read the "Nitrates on Tap: The Cost of Nitrate Contamination in Wisconsin's Drinking Water" report published by the Alliance for the Great Lakes and Clean Wisconsin. This report was shared by Jen McNelly, UW-Extension.

- Participated in a discussion with Nepco Lake District board members regarding the shoreline assessment that was completed on Nepco Lake this summer. We discussed goals of the Nepco Lake District and how they would like to represent the data from the shoreline assessment.
- Participated in the October 23<sup>rd</sup> staff meeting.
- Participated in the Fall Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership Meeting as required by the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant.
- Put together information for cover crop cost share contracts for Roth Golden Acres.
- Watched recordings of the 2025 nutrient management regional meeting updates.
- Participated in a meeting with DNR and UW-Extension staff regarding our surface water grant applications.



## ***Activities Report for Rod Mayer – OCTOBER 2025***

- Met with landowner owning property near Milestone Dupee mine site – reviewed plan and answered questions.
- Completed Civil Rights training.
- Staff meeting 9/24/25, 10/23/25
- Knuth wildlife damage (soybean and corn) field appraisals, damage acres maps, calculations, DNR database input, conversions, etc. (8 fields)
- Process Bymers Act82 permit application for damage shooting permits – re-map and calculate acres changes, update database & file, sent to DNR.
- Sent pond exemption info to landowner for shoreland zoning check.
- Completed Know Be 4 security training.
- Reviewed Anderson pond site exemption, approval letter sent, file updates, spreadsheet updates.
- Raikowski wildlife damage (soybean) field appraisals, damage acres maps, calculations, DNR database input, conversions, etc. (2 fields)
- Contact with Shane, Bank, Corp. Counsel, and permit holder for expired Financial Assurance on site. Drafted and sent deadline letter to have updated FA in place. Reviewed Corp Counsel second letter to be sent for compliance – etc.
- Scan Grube Peat Site file – respond and send the info to DNR. Multiple phone discussions and emails with DNR.
- Email to Earth for needed info – amendment to Biron site plan, update on 186 map layer needed, Cepress plan review updates, and MR 2 map layer needed.
- Earth Cepress preliminary draft 1 plan review (68 pages) – drafted and sent needed info and clarification. Noted also need to work with DNR CH 30 permitting and stormwater permitting – with all operations clarified and matching.
- Milestone Dupee public notice ended – emailed Milestone for needed material to issue permit (hard copy, fee, FA, digital boundary).
- Input coordinate layer into GIS for Cepress permit area – found errors – corresp. to Earth for needed corrections.
- Bear advice to landowner (bear in corn) – able to line up a hunter and the bear was harvested under the hunter's tag.
- Drafted new NMM inspection route list (changes/edits)
- Called all mine operators for updates for mine site inspections. (52 sites)
- Input Milestone Dupee permit area and wetlands digital boundaries into GIS – convert, adjust, etc.
- Reviewed Milestone Dupee FA – create mine site in software, update spreadsheet, review hard copy, process fee, issue permit, etc.
- Bear in wildlife fence issue – gave advice – put in contact with APHIS.
- Mine site inspections – completed site inspections on 52 mine sites – GPS all changes and boundaries, pictures taken and filed under mine site name of issues found, etc. (2 weeks)
- Bear hit silage on farm – enrollment info from landowner – site visit and deployed fox lights to prevent further damage and move bear off of site.
- Completed 3<sup>rd</sup> ¼ wildlife damage program reimbursement. Entered expenses into DNR database, put report together (20 pages), sent to DNR.
- Updated spreadsheet with all mine site inspection dates.



# Wood County WISCONSIN

## OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director  
Vacant, County Planner  
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator  
Brad Cook, Code Administrator  
Kayla Rautio, Code Technician  
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant  
Julie Mancl, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for November 5, 2025

### 1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

**Alliant Energy** – On October 5<sup>th</sup> Corporation Counsel Nick Flanagan and I met with Ben Tanko from Alliant Energy. Ben provided an update on the proposed Hub City Wind Farm, and we talked about the process of developing a wind lease and easement agreement if Wood County decides to participate with 142.13 acres of land that is leased to the UW-Madison Agricultural Research Station. A fact sheet on the proposed Hub City Wind Farm is attached to this report.

**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Summit** – On October 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> I attended the WEDC Summit in Green Bay. Topics covered at the summit included talent and business attraction, strengthening local economies, improving quality of life, and building long-term economic resilience.

**City of Marshfield Planner** – On October 22<sup>nd</sup> I met with James Lieven who was recently hired as the city of Marshfield Planner. At the meeting we shared project updates and opportunities for future collaboration.

**North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission** – On October 28<sup>th</sup> I participated in the NCWRPC meeting. Some of the agenda items included adoption of the 2026 DOT Work Program, SRTS TAP Urban and Rural Applications, adoption of the 2026 budget, and adoption of the regional comprehensive plan.

**Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund (CWED)** – Since CWED dropped loan rates from 6% to 3% a few months ago, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of loan applications. There is currently about 18 loans in the pipeline and the loan committee has been reviewing applications on a continuous basis. Even with all of the recent loan activity there is plenty of funding for future opportunities.

**Central Housing Region** – On October 29<sup>th</sup> I participated in two Central Housing Region Public Hearings and a Housing Committee Meeting. The first public hearing was held to provide an update on the Progress of 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The second public hearing was held to provide an update on the application for 2026 CDBG funds which will total approximately \$2.5 million in funding. In the Committee Meeting a program manager update was provided and changes to the Housing Procedures Manual adopted.

### 2. Planning & Zoning (Vacant)

### 3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- Parcel Mapping
- Address Mapping
- Historic Air Photo Georeferencing
- Custom Maps

### 4. Code Administrator (Brad Cook)

10-1-2025- Open Enrollment Meeting, (1) mound plow insp TN: 15, (1) mound-tanks insp TN: 21, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-2-2025- (1) mound, drainfield, and tank insp TN: 22, (1) holding tank insp TN: 11, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-3-2025- (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for reconnect mound TN: 17, (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 06, (1) soils onsite review and visit TN: 07, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-6-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep mound TN:07, (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 17, (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep HT TN: 03, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-7-2025- (1) new HT insp TN:03, (1) soils review and onsite TN: 22, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-8-2025- (1) mound plow insp TN:22, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-9-2025- ACE Leadership Program- Rosholt

10-10-2025- ACE Leadership Program-Rosholt

10-13-2025- (1) SL inp review and onsite TN: 22, (1) rep conv insp TN: 13, (1) mound and tank insp TN: 22, staff meeting, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-14-2025- (1) HS 25-041 letter written and sent to owner TN: 10, (1) rep conv insp TN: 18, (1) mound plow insp TN: 16, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-15-2025- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN:07, (1) mound plow, abs cell, and tank insp TN: 17, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-16-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep conv TN: 07, (1) SL meeting and discussion with owner TN: 18, (1) new conv insp TN: 07, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-17-2025-(1) floodplain permit reviewed and issued TN: 08, (1) soils review and onsite TN: 02, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-20-2025- (2) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit(s) for rep and new conv TN: 18, (1) new conv insp TN: 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-21-2025- (1) new conv insp TN: 13, (1) POWTS violation insp TN: 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-22-2025- (1) new mound and tanks insp TN: 15, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-23-25- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN: 12, (1) new conv insp TN: 07, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-24-25- (1) mound and tanks insp TN: 02, (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07,12, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-27-2025- (1) new conv insp TN: 18, (1) mound plow insp TN:02, (1) mound and tank insp TN: 04, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-28-2025 (1) mound, abs cell, insp TN: 02, (1) SL/FP meeting TN: 14, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

## **5. Code Technician (Kayla Rautio)**

**A.** Reviewed and approved POWTS & well permit applications

**B.** Reviewed and approved soils evaluations

**C.** Reviewed and approved shoreland zoning permit

**D.** Completed inspection reports

**E.** Studied floodplain zoning

**F.** Assisted with daily phone calls/emails/office questions

**G.** Inspections/Investigations:

- 9-25-25: Conventional inspection TN: 18
- 9-26-25: Holding tank inspection TN: 17
- 9-30-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 07; Mound reinspection TN: 07
- 10-1-25: Conventional inspection TN: 07; Well inspections TN: 07, 07
- 10-2-25: Mound reinspection TN: 22
- 10-6-25: Holding tank inspection TN: 21
- 10-8-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 15; Mound reinspection TN: 15; Mound plow inspection TN: 22
- 10-9-25: Conventional inspection TN: 13; Mound reinspection TN: 22
- 10-10-25: Mound reinspection TN: 15; Mound plow inspection TN: 10; Tank replacement inspection TN: 07
- 10-14-25: Conventional inspection TN: 18; Holding tank inspection TN: 16; Well inspection TN: 01; Mound plow inspection TN: 11
- 10-15-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 17; Mound reinspection TN: 17

- 10-16-25: Mound reinspection TN: 11
- 10-20-25: Conventional inspection TN: 07
- 10-22-25: Conventional inspection TN: 07 – plumber no show
- 10-23-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 07; Mound reinspection TN: 07
- 10-24-25: Mound tanks and piping inspection TN: 02
- 10-29-25: Conventional inspection TN: 07

**H. Attended Meetings/Trainings/Etc.**

- 9-30-25: Open enrollment meeting
- 10-1-25: KnowBe4 security awareness training
- 10-13-25: Staff lunch

**6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Julie MancI)**

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were 19 sanitary permits, 4 shoreland permits and 20 well permits issued in October 2025. 3 CSMs were received for review and 5 were recorded with the Register of Deeds in October.
- b. Triennial Program Fee – Postcards for 4,638 property owners were mailed on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Payments of the \$25 fee have begun coming in by mail, Point and Pay and property owners stopping in the office to pay this fee. As always, we receive a great deal of phone calls asking what the fee is for.
- c. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
  - i. September 30<sup>th</sup> Open enrollment meeting (VW & JM)
  - ii. October 1<sup>st</sup> KnowBe4 security awareness training
  - iii. October 1<sup>st</sup> CEED meeting (VW & JM)
  - iv. October 13<sup>th</sup> Staff meeting (VW & JM)

**Contract Between Wood County and  
Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System**

This contract is by and between Wood County, State of Wisconsin (**County**), and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, on behalf of the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Division of Extension (**Extension**) and is entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the County Committee on Agriculture and Extension Education by sections 59.22(2)(d) and 59.56(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**Whereas**, Extension is organized both around geography, as Extension educators deliver programs in communities throughout the state, and around academic disciplines including Agriculture, Natural Resources, Community Development, Youth, Human Development & Relationships, and Health;

**Whereas**, Extension is committed to maintaining an office in every county willing to commit to continued funding and space for Extension staff. Extension recognizes the value in keeping a local presence in every county and keeping the shortest distance possible between the people of Wisconsin and the Extension staff delivering programming to them;

**Whereas**, Extension provides opportunities to additional resources such as statewide specialists and UW-System campus resources to address specific local issues in core areas of expertise;

**Whereas**, the County is a critical partner in developing and implementing key educational priorities for county residents. In collaboration with Extension leadership, counties will identify local services of priority to their communities. County will agree to co-fund Extension educators based upon annually established flat fees for positions as defined below; and

**Whereas**, the parties need to define their respective rights and responsibilities;

**Now therefore**, the parties agree as follows:

**1. Term, Amendment & Termination.**

- a. The term of this contract is one (1) year. The term shall run from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, unless amended or terminated as set forth below.
- b. Any additions, changes, modifications or renewals of this contract are subject to the mutual agreement and written consent of authorized representatives of both parties.
- c. Either the County or Extension may cancel this entire Agreement with or without cause upon sixty (60) days' written notice delivered by mail or in person; provided, however, the County shall be responsible for paying a prorated amount of fees under Section 3.1.a. through the notice period. In addition, if the contract is cancelled before the end of the term, the discount identified in Section 3.1.a. shall



be prorated (i.e. the discount amounts to roughly \$834 per month).

2. **Extension Responsibilities.** Extension agrees to:

- a. Hire local Extension staff who will deliver educational services aligned to County priorities. As vacancies occur, and if the County and Extension agree to continue to support the desired program and position, Extension will seek County input when filling vacant positions.
- b. Provide an Area Extension Director (AED) to serve as County department head and supervise Extension staff at no cost to the County.
- c. Invoice the County semi-annually, in May and November for amounts due under this agreement.

3. **County Responsibilities**

3.1 In consideration of the programs that Extension provides to the County under this contract, the County agrees to:

- a. Pay to Extension the County share of up to \$401,251 for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 as allocated below.

<b>Co-Funded Positions</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Total</b>
4-H Extension Educator	\$49,063	1.0	\$49,063
Agriculture Extension Educator – Cranberry	\$49,063	0.5	\$24,532
Human Development and Relationships Educator	\$49,063	1.0	\$49,063
Community Development Educator	\$49,063	1.0	\$49,063
Agriculture Extension Educator – Dairy	\$49,063	0.5	\$24,532
First Educator Discount			(\$10,000)
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 186,253</b>
<b>Proposed or fully-county funded positions and other county contributions</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Total</b>
Natural Resources Educator – Surface Water	\$90,529	0.5	\$45,265
Natural Resources Educator – Ground Water	\$90,529	0.5	\$45,265
Horticulture Educator	\$86,214	0.3	\$25,864

4-H Associate Educator	\$62,040	0.5	\$31,020
Health and Well-being Educator	\$84,480	0.8	\$67,584
<b>Final Total</b>			<b>\$ 401,251</b>

- b. Provide travel funds, office facilities (for Wood County located at: 400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495), information technology equipment (such as computers, printer, and phones) and internet connectivity, office supplies, and educational programming materials to the Extension educators identified in 3.1(a),
  - c. Provide salary and fringe benefits for the County clerical support staff who support the Extension educators identified in 3.1(a),
  - d. Provide other supporting budgetary items through regular County budgetary procedures in which funds are appropriated for such purposes under applicable Wisconsin law.
- 3.2 Consider and assess opportunities to provide office space with a desk and chair for fully state funded Extension employees who serve in a regional or statewide capacity. These regional and statewide educators will be provided state-purchased technology and IT support. The opportunity for these positions to access the internet through the county may also be discussed.
- 4. **Delegation of Financial Budget Authority.** The parties hereby acknowledge that Extension will employ an Area Extension Director (AED), whose responsibilities may include certain budget-related functions as set forth in the Delegation of Financial Budget Authority Form (DFBA Form) attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. County may authorize the AED to carry out such functions on its behalf, but only to the extent specified in in the DFBA Form, which must be signed by an authorized representative of County in order to be effective. The County may rescind such authorization at any time by providing written notice to Extension. In the event that the parties execute a new agreement governing the subject matter of this agreement such that the term of this agreement and the term of the new agreement run consecutively, the parties agree that the delegations set forth in a duly signed DFBA Form shall remain in effect upon execution of the new agreement unless the County rescinds such authorization by providing written notice to Extension.
- 5. **General Conditions** This contract is established under the following conditions:
  - a. **Notices.** Any notice or demand which must be given or made by a party to this Agreement or any statute or ordinance shall be in writing, and shall be sent via e-mail and certified mail. Notices to the County shall be sent to County Representative(s). Notice to the Extension shall be sent to Area Extension Director.
  - b. **Employer, Personnel Rules, Volunteers and Liability.** Any employees hired by Extension under Section 2.a. of this contract are employees of Extension, and are subject to the personnel rules, policies, and procedures for faculty, academic staff

or University staff, as appropriate to the respective appointment in Extension as established by Wisconsin statute, and, or administrative rules; and, or, by policies or procedures adopted by the Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin - Division of Extension. Any individual who meets Extension's definition of a volunteer and completes all registration requirements will be considered an Extension volunteer. Extension will be responsible for ensuring that its employees and volunteers take affirmative steps to make clear, when entering into relationships with third parties, that they are employees or volunteers of Extension. Extension shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its employees while acting within the scope of such employment. To the extent they are acting as agents of Extension, Extension shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its volunteers while acting within the scope of such agency.

Any individuals who are employed by the County in order to satisfy obligations under Section 3.1 of this contract (fully county funded) are County employees and are subject to applicable County personnel rules, policies and procedures. Any volunteer engaged by County to further the purposes of this contract will be considered a volunteer of County. County will be responsible for ensuring that its employees and volunteers take affirmative steps to make clear, when entering into relationships with third parties, that they are employees or volunteers of County. County shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its employees while acting within the scope of such employment. To the extent they are acting as agents of County, County shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its volunteers while acting within the scope of such agency.

- c. **Billing.** For the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, Extension shall bill the County for the total amount under Section 3.1.a. of this contract. The County will be billed for the first half of the total contract by May 31st and the second half of the total contract by November 30<sup>th</sup>. If services are not rendered or excess services are provided to the County by Extension during the contract period, the parties will use good faith efforts to adjust the total contract amount and update future bills to coincide with the new agreed upon amount. The County shall pay the amount billed within 30 days of the billing.
- d. **Cybersecurity Provisions.** Each party shall be responsible for the response to, remediation of, and any resulting notification requirements related to cybersecurity breaches of their own information technology systems or those of any third parties hired on their behalf. This responsibility includes the financial costs of any breaches, e.g., forensics, remediation, notifications, etc. The County and Extension shall determine their individual need for cyber liability insurance coverage. Any breaches that could impact Extension data classified as moderate or high risk must be reported to Extension staff, via the Area Extension Director, and the University of Wisconsin - Madison Cybersecurity Operation Center (CSOC) Help Desk, 608-264-4357 following the risk-based timelines outline in the UWSA System Policy 1033 and associated Incident Response Plan. Following a reported breach event, the County will provide a primary staff contact and periodic response updates to Extension and the CSOC until event closure. Any breaches that could impact County data will be reported to the County immediately upon learning of the breach. The County shall provide the Area Director with the expressed point person

or position for which to report a breach.

- e. **Insurance.** The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System as an agency of the State, and consequently, Extension, is self-funded for liability (both public and property) under ss. 893.82 and 895.46(1), Wis. Stats. As a result, such protection as is afforded under respective Wisconsin Statutes is applicable to officers, employees, and agents while acting within the scope of their employment or agency. Since this is statutory insurance, there is no liability policy as such that can extend protection to any others.

County agrees to maintain appropriate insurance to cover the potential liability of its officers, employees and agents while acting within the scope of their employment or agency. Such insurance may be provided through a self-insurance program. To the extent that an Extension employee is allowed to use a County vehicle, the responsibility for insuring that vehicle lies with the County.

- f. **Nondiscrimination Statement.** The County and Extension will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and rules prohibiting unlawful discrimination. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law..

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Extension Director  
UW-Madison, Division of Extension

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Financial Services  
UW-Madison, Division of Extension

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
On Behalf of Board of Regents of  
The University of Wisconsin System

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exhibit A

### Delegation of Financial Budget Authority Form

Area Extension Directors play an important part in county Extension offices as they manage the faculty and staff within that county, and many times, that includes the county support staff. Area Extension Directors also work with county partners to develop a departmental budget and provide oversight to that budget on an annual basis in cooperation with corresponding county financial departments and county board committees. The Delegation of Financial Budget Authority allows Area Extension Directors, hired, and managed by Extension as state employees, to manage county fiscal resources in service to the people of those counties.

To be completed by the county administrator or county official delegating signature/budget authority.

County hereby delegates to the Area Extension Director for \_\_\_\_\_ County and \_\_\_\_\_ (no other person, if blank) authority to approve/authorize the following financial budget matters on behalf of County, provided, however, that such delegation is limited to the extent that such matters are directly related to County's authority under section 59.22(2)(d) and 59.56(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes and subject to any conditions/limitations indicated by County below.

Invoices	Travel Reimbursements	Supply & Expense Reimbursements
Time/Leave Approvals	Purchase Requisitions	Internal Budget Transfers
Inter- departmental transfers	County specific space agreements for educational programs	Bank account signatory
Other items:		
Conditions:		

***This authorization is effective until either party (UW-Madison Extension or \_\_\_\_\_ County) requests a change to the document***

**Budget Authority signature:** I am aware this constitutes a delegation of budget authority allowing the Area Extension Director, and any other position mentioned above, to manage county fiscal resources in service to the Extension office and residents of \_\_\_\_\_ county. I understand that delegating authority does not release \_\_\_\_\_ County, from full responsibility as Budget Authority.

County Administrator/County Official(s):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

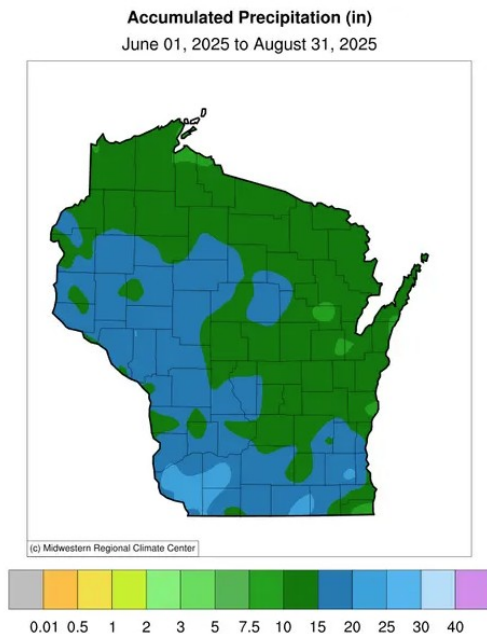
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Spring of 2025

May and spring kept WI on its toes: record-breaking heat to unseasonable chills, dry spells to drenching storms. The spring season as a whole flip-flopped between a very wet March, an near-normal April, and a dry May.

As a whole, **the summer of 2025** was warm and sticky. Wisconsin avoided the 100-degree mark-a threshold the state has not reached in recent years. August brought an overabundance of rain to some parts of Wisconsin, while other areas became parched.



[https://  
climatology.nelson.wisc.e  
du/august-and-summer-  
2025-climate-summary/](https://climatology.nelson.wisc.edu/august-and-summer-2025-climate-summary/)

Figure 8. Summer accumulated total precipitation in inches, showing northwest to east-central Wisconsin receiving 10 to 15 inches of rain. West-central to southeast Wisconsin received 15 to 20 inches of rain, with a few pockets of 20 to 25 inches.

## Total Phosphorus in the Mill Creek Watershed 2025



Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department

111 West Jackson Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
(715)421-8475



Wood County sampled 4 locations within the Mill Creek Watershed once a month from May thru October as part of the plan to restore the watershed, known as the 9-Key Element Plan. The samples were sent to AgSource Laboratories to test for **phosphorus (P)** and **total suspended solids (TSS)**



**Phosphorus** is a common part of agricultural fertilizers, manure, and organic wastes in sewage and industrial effluent. It is essential for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen in rivers and lakes. The water quality criteria for total phosphorus is 75 µg/l or lower in streams and 100 µg/l or lower in rivers.

**Total Suspended Solids** is a method of measuring the amount of sediment in water. Sediment in our waterways is attributed to urbanization and agriculture. Increased sediment reduces water clarity and therefore, less light is able to penetrate water's surface and reach plants underwater. This reduces photosynthesis and oxygen production, which creates low oxygen conditions.

The Land and Water Conservation Department started to implement the **9-Key element plan** in 2020. It is a 10 year roadmap on how to improve the Mill Creek Watershed using conservation practices such as buffers and cover crops. Total phosphorus monitoring will be a way to track progress. The monitoring will take place throughout a 10 year period.

#### Units

Total phosphorus results in this brochure are listed in µg/l, or micrograms per liter. You may see total phosphorus results elsewhere as mg/l or milligrams per liter. Use the conversion below to compare:

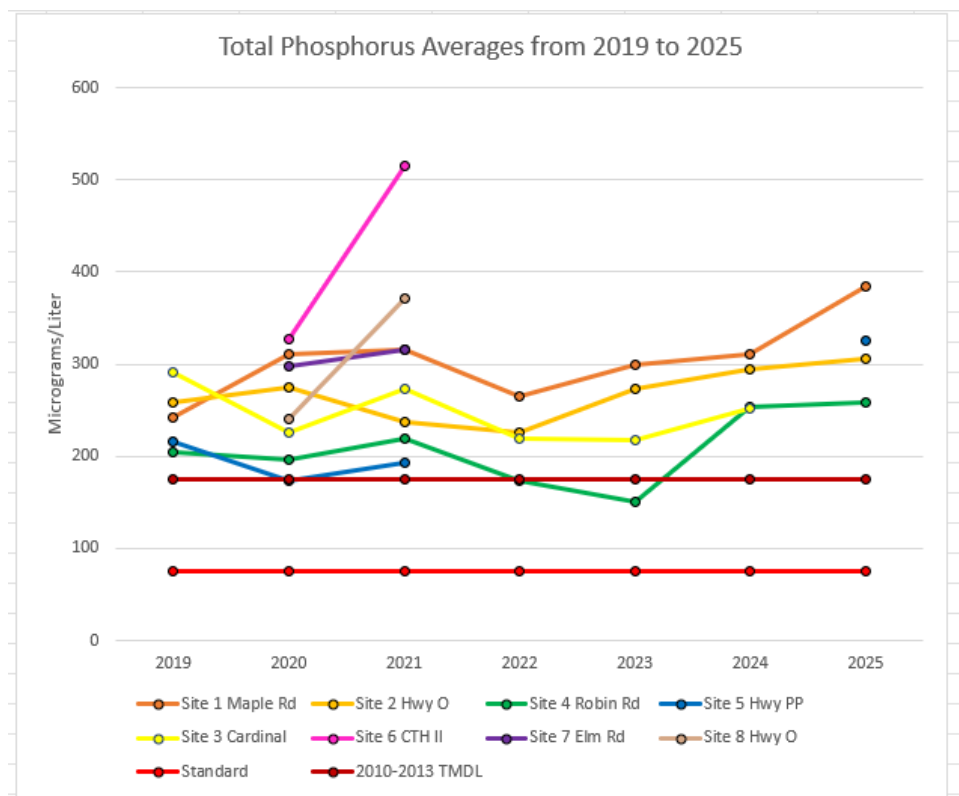
$$100 \mu\text{g/l} = 0.100 \text{ mg/l}$$

*Mill Creek has a long history of data collection over the years. Mill Creek was 1 of 19 tributaries of the Wisconsin River tested by the DNR from 2010-2013, May through October. It had a median total phosphorus result of 175 micrograms per liter. Compared to the other tributaries, Mill Creek ranked 4th on the list with the highest tested total phosphorus.*



## Average Total Phosphorus

The graph below shows the total phosphorus averages from 2019 to 2024. Averages were calculated from the 6 samples taken at each site once per month from May to October.

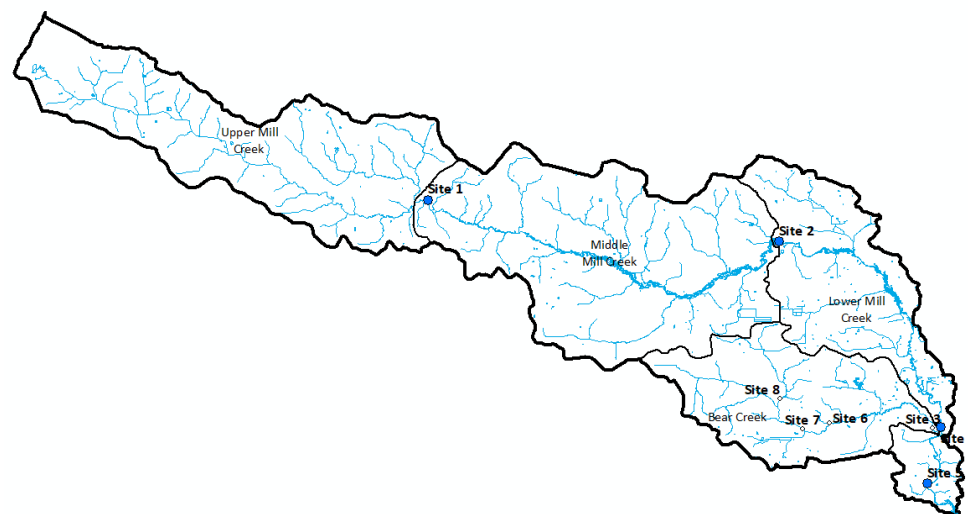


## Graph Take Aways

- \*Site 1, which is the furthest upstream location that is sampled, has had a higher average reading than Site 2, 3, and 4 for five years in a row
- \*Site 1 and 2 had an average reading increase two years in a row.
- \*Site 3 and 4 had an average reading increase from last year.
- \*Site 2 and 4 had their highest average reading since monitoring started, in 2019.

## Weather and Sampling

Sampling takes place at the same time every month, no matter the weather. This means sampling can take place during ideal conditions or during runoff conditions. The intention is not to make the results look good or look bad, but to get a snapshot in time that is a piece in the overall puzzle.



## Sampling Locations

In the past there were 8 sampling sites visited once per month, May thru October. This year there were 4 sampling sites. The blue points on the map show the current sampling locations. These included; Mill Creek at Maple Road (Site 1), Mill Creek at Hwy O (Site 2), Mill Creek at Robin Ln (Site 4), and Mill Creek at Hwy PP (Site 5).

## Results: Mill Creek (Upper, Middle, Lower and Entering the WI River)

Site		May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Avg
1	Maple Rd	2025	690	290	400	340	190	385
		2024	250	430	410	320	280	310
		2023	160	460	390	370	200	300
		2022	123	280	410	280	310	265.5
		2021	309	620	352	291	180	315
		2020	436	326	306	486	132	310.33
		2019	235	290	236	216	252	241.33
2	Hwy O	2025	610	220	260	430	150	305
		2024	200	280	590	350	205	294.167
		2023	240	210	290	330	190	273.333
		2022	126	270	270	270	240	226
		2021	253	312	292	285	128	236.5
		2020	254	285	257	303	215	274.67
		2019	290	291	278	215	324	259
4	Robin Rd	2025	540	160	270	320	110	258.3
		2024	140	310	300	410	170	253.333
		2023	210	90	80	160	110	150
		2022	107	270	130	120	180	172.833
		2021	255	226	231	374	109	219.5
		2020	166	320	158	94.9	172	195.65
		2019	145	222	286	161	290	204.33
5	Hwy PP	2025	830	170	370	360	110	325
		2022	94.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		2021	159	215	247	316	107	193
		2020	161	257	338	109	153	173.83
		2019	132	228	389	163	269	216.33

Results in May were high across the board and played a role in increasing the yearly averages. There was 1.5" of rain within the last 24 hours of sampling right in the upper half of Mill creek as planting preparation was in full swing with not many crops up.

Site 5 had it's lowest reading for June and September, and highest reading for August. Site 2 had it's highest reading for August. Site 1 had its highest reading for September.

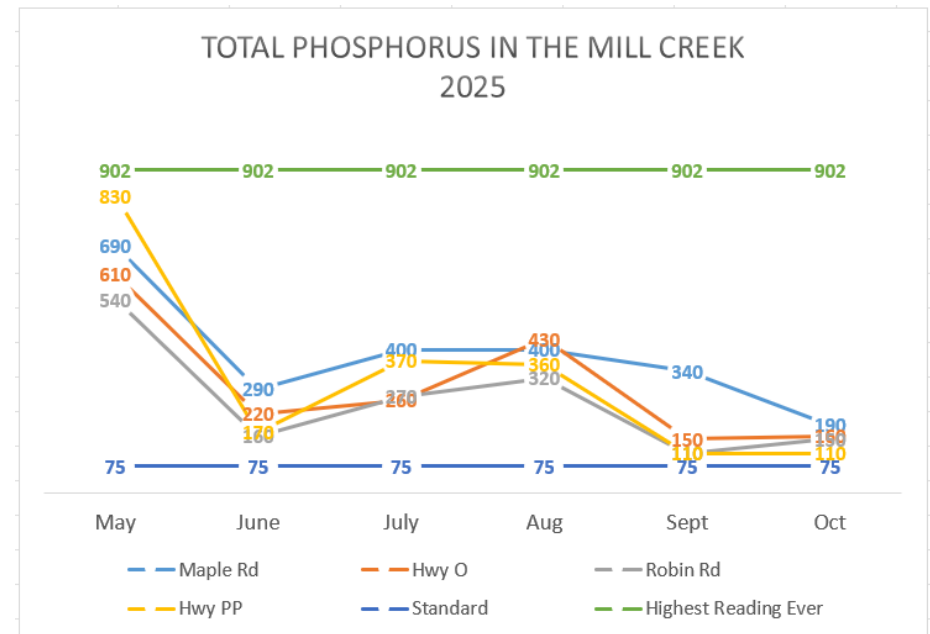
## TSS and TP Results May 2023 vs May 2025 at Site 1 Mill Creek at Maple Rd



05/16/2023  
Total Phosphorus 160 µg/l  
Total Suspended Solids 5 mg/l



05/15/2025  
Total Phosphorus 690 µg/l  
Total Suspended Solids 28 mg/l  
\*Rained 1.5" previous 24 hrs





# THE FIELD NOTE

 **LAND+WATER**  
WISCONSIN'S SOURCE FOR  
LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Volume 33 | Issue 2

64







# MESSAGE FROM MATT

**F**all is upon us—though the 80-degree temps as I write this don't make it feel that way—and while the sheer delights of a Wisconsin autumn should never, ever be looked past, the calendar says the new year will be here before we know it.

What the conservation landscape will look like as we start that new year, particularly from the federal funding and programmatic perspective, is uncertain, to put it mildly. However, we have a clearer picture at the state level, with the 2025-27 state biennial budget having been approved this past summer.

Though there were not many conservation “wins” in that budget, increased funding for county conservation certainly was certainly one of them. Through the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection budget, county conservation staffing received the most sizable funding increase in years—the specifics of which are spelled out on page 5.

This success would not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of WI Land+Water's county conservation members. We asked our members to show up in support of our county conservation cause, and did they ever.

Our members gave literally full days of their time to provide testimony at Joint Committee on Finance budget hearings. They also attended listening sessions at smaller venues like community centers and cafes to actually have engaging discussions with their legislators. They even brought legislators into the field in their home districts to see conservation projects, and hear firsthand from partnering landowners and farmers about why county conservation technical support and cost-share funding matters to them. Our members passed resolutions, made phone calls, sent emails, and more.

Here's the thing, though. That WI Land+Water members came out in numbers to support our budget efforts is not actually that surprising. In fact, our members “showing up” is weaved into the fabric of our community, and how we advocate for our cause, and each other. Every single one of the initiatives highlighted in the following pages—mentorship programs, youth camps and events, awards, committee meetings, area association tours—requires a person (often, many people) to make a conscious decision to put themselves out there and say “I can and will do this.”

I think I speak for the entirety of the WI Land+Water board and staff in saying I cannot express enough gratitude for the passion and commitment shown by our members, whose efforts make this a wonderful community to be a part of. And if members have not yet “showed up” for county conservation, now is the time, and we welcome your participation!



*Matt Krueger, Executive Director*



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## CONSERVATION STAFFING GETS BOOST IN STATE BUDGET

**BUDGET DELIVERS LARGEST STAFFING INCREASE IN DECADES, THOUGH WORK  
REMAINS TO ENSURE SUSTAINED BASE FUNDING.**

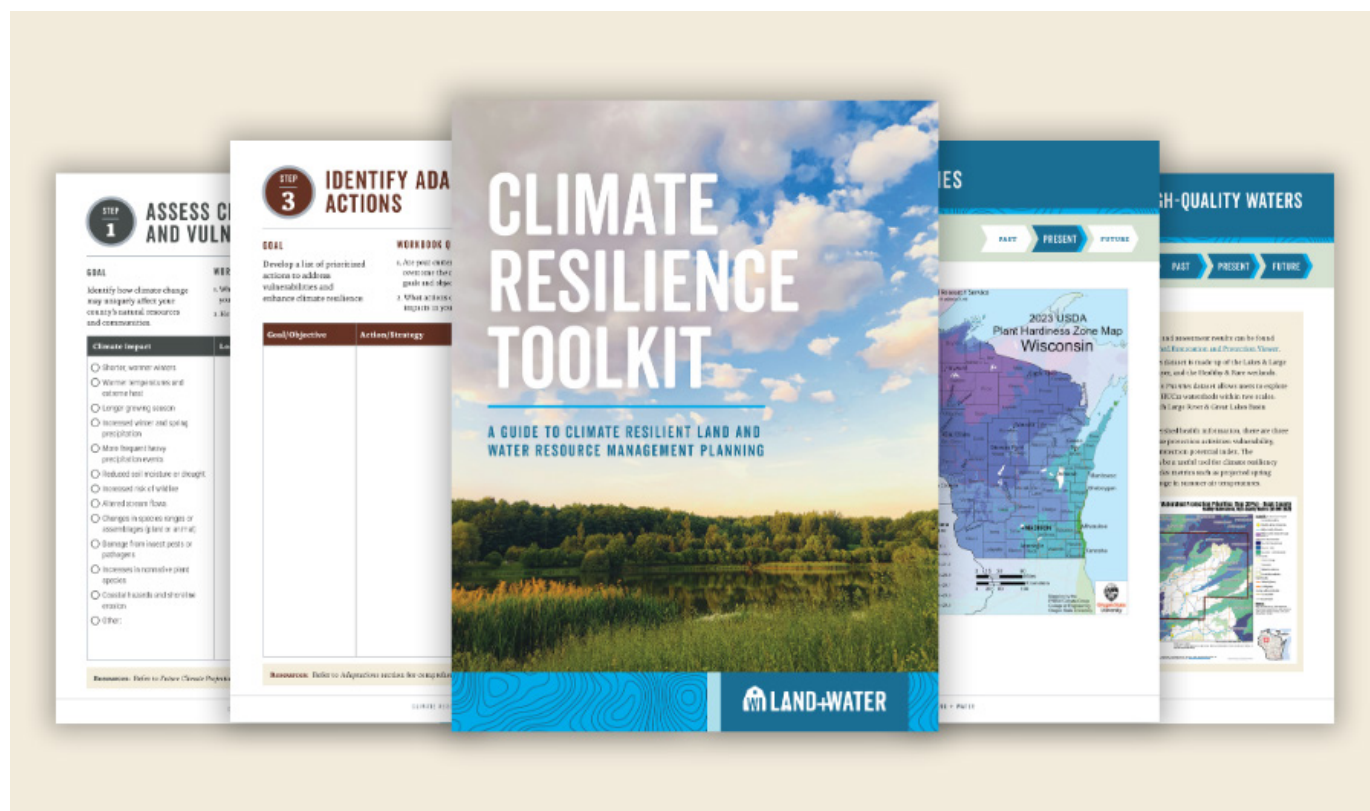
**T**here's welcome good news for county conservation staffing coming from the 2025-27 state biennial budget. The state will provide the largest funding increase we've seen in decades, at \$14,589,500 in 2026 and \$15,362,400 in 2027 (up from 2025 funding levels of \$11,214,400.)

This is a meaningful victory for county conservation in Wisconsin, and one that would not have been possible without the commitment of our members to advocate for our cause, but it comes with a caveat – the increase is provided on a one-time basis for the biennium, with base funding remaining unchanged at \$8,964,100—a level that has not increased since 2018.

Additionally, though the legislative intent was to support the first three conservation staff positions in each county at 100, 70, and 50 percent, respectively (per the funding goal defined in state statute), due to the mismatched timing of budget approval and applications for the subsequent year, funding will cover some, not all, of the state's 50% portion of the third position.

So, work remains to be done to ensure adequate support in future budgets. WI Land+Water will work alongside our members to continue to advocate for sustained, base funding to ensure counties can deliver critical conservation services for current and future generations.





## Wisconsin is 3° Warmer

On average, Wisconsin has become approximately 3° Fahrenheit warmer since the 1950s.

## SETTING RECORDS

The last two decades have been the warmest on record, and the past decade has been the wettest.

## 17% INCREASE IN PRECIPITATION

Wisconsin has become wetter – average precipitation has increased 17% (about 5 inches) since 1950.



Southern Wisconsin has experienced the highest increase in precipitation



Warming is happening fastest in the winter and at night.

## Extreme Events

are causing immense impacts across the state, and the frequency of those events will generally increase.

## ADVOCATE

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE TOOLKIT

**MANY COUNTIES HAVE BEEN ASKING THE QUESTION:  
HOW DO WE PLAN FOR AN UNCERTAIN CLIMATE FUTURE?**

Wisconsin is experiencing significant climate changes that are impacting communities statewide. Since the 1950s, our state has become approximately 3°F warmer, with precipitation increasing by 17% (about 5 inches). Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, and the last two decades have been the warmest on record, while the past decade has been the wettest.

County conservation departments are on the front lines of responding to the impacts of climate change on our natural resource. “We must shift our thinking from wondering if the next extreme storm event will occur to planning for when it does,” urged Bob Micheel, Monroe County Land Conservation Director.

### **Practical, Wisconsin-Specific**

That shift just got easier. Conservation professionals across the state now have their first comprehensive guide for integrating climate science into local land management decisions—the [Climate Resilience](#)

[Toolkit](#), developed this summer by Wisconsin Land+Water in partnership with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI).

“We didn’t want this to be just another planning document,” explained Jenny Pethan, Climate Program Manager. “It’s a hands-on guide that helps transform complex climate science into actionable strategies for Land and Water Management Plans.” The toolkit offers two entry points: a comprehensive 30-page guide with detailed climate data sources and planning frameworks, or standalone workbook pages for teams ready to dive immediately into climate planning exercises.

It follows a three-step framework: assess local climate vulnerabilities, identify opportunities within existing conservation goals, and select specific actions that fit each county’s unique landscape. Counties can access everything from historical temperature trends to future precipitation projections, plus adaptation strategies for agriculture,

forestry, water resources, wetlands, and wildlife.

### **Toolkit in Action**

Counties are already using the toolkit to update hazard assessments and incorporate resilience strategies into plan revisions. More than 40 conservation professionals attended a recent virtual Lunch and Learn session introducing the toolkit. The [recording of this session](#) is now available in our on-demand training library.

The interactive session walked participants through the tools and resources shared in the guide. “There’s no one-size-fits-all approach to climate resilience,” Pethan noted. “Counties know their areas best, so they can choose the tools and solutions that make the most sense.”

To learn more about the toolkit or to discuss climate planning, visit us online or reach out to [Jenny Pethan](#).

## CONVENE

# MARCH 4-6, 2026 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**JOIN US IN THE WISCONSIN DELLS FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS, YOUTH EDUCATION CONTESTS, AND YOUR FAVORITE CONFERENCE EVENTS.**

Planning is already underway for our biggest event of the year—the 73rd Annual Conference! Mark your calendars for March 4-6, 2026, when we'll gather at the beautiful Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells for what promises to be an outstanding event.

Thanks to the hard work and planning of our staff, the Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) and the Technical Committee, this is shaping up to be another can't-miss event. Each August, these committees come together for a day-long joint brainstorming session to explore ideas for conference session topics and events. This collaborative planning is essential to creating a conference that serves our members' needs.

This year's planning session saw one of the biggest turnouts yet, which helped keep ideas flowing. Matt Hanewall, Technical Committee Chair, highlighted the value of this joint effort. "Bringing together all PIC and Tech Committee members allows us to tap into our diversity as an organization and tap into the diversity of conservation topics across Wisconsin," he said.

Tony Real, PIC Committee Chair, emphasized how the various skillsets and experience levels help shape the conference program. "The ability to bring together a diverse set of skills and experience levels allows us to shape breakouts to a wide range of land and water conservation staff and supervisors," he explained. "We saw one of our

biggest turnouts at our Conference planning session this year which helps keep the conversation going and the ideas flowing."

The goal of this intensive planning is to curate a lineup of 40 breakout sessions that cover the latest best practices, technical developments, and professional growth opportunities for our diverse membership. "Finding out that the sessions taking place are providing the information and education that WI Land+Water members are looking for is the biggest reward," explained Tony.

Both chairs were excited about session ideas that reflect the varied interests of conference attendees. Matt pointed to a practical topic that would benefit everyone working in conservation: a session on property ownership. "What is the difference between LLC, Trust, Corporations & Individuals? Why is it important for cost share paperwork? What documents do we need to see to verify the landownership? I think this topic is relevant to anyone who works in conservation," he noted.

Tony highlighted a session designed to foster dialogue between seasoned and emerging professionals. "I think the Young Conservation Professionals Network has the potential to reflect some pretty diverse perspectives," he said. "Having a panel of experienced conservation professionals from around the state and a group of inquisitive young minds asking questions should create a pretty good discussion."



For both committee chairs, the rewards of planning extend beyond the event itself. “When we come together and collaborate as committees there is an excitement and optimism for not only the conference and sessions, but also from learning and growing from friends and peers,” Matt shared. Tony added that serving on a committee provides valuable networking opportunities. “In addition, membership on a Committee provides an important networking opportunity that I have found very valuable.”

## Soil. Where it all Begins



Other highly anticipated events include the [Conservation Poster and Speaking Contests](#), organized by our Youth Education Committee. “We’re very excited for this year’s poster contest theme, *Soil: Where it All Begins*,” said our Youth Education Director Kim Warkentin.

“Many of our conservation staff and science teachers work with students in the classroom to learn about the topic, so this is a great opportunity for students.”

The Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest also encourages students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to engage with conservation on a deeper level. Students choose and research a local conservation issue, and prepare a speech to educate others on the topic. Speakers compete at the county and area level, and the winners advance to the State level.

Not only will the winning speakers receive a trophy, but the first-place winner in each category will share their speeches at the opening luncheon. “Starting our conference with our student speeches really leaves the audience feeling inspired and motivated,” explained Kim. “These young speakers are really passionate, and that shows in their speeches.”

Conference attendees can also support our youth programs during the event’s Silent Auction. The proceeds help to facilitate youth education programs that happen across the state. The Silent Auction donations provide an opportunity to highlight the diversity of each county. From the coveted Kringle to handmade crafts, there are hundreds of unique items. “It’s always so much fun to see what people donate, and there are always those ‘must-have’ items that can really get the friendly bidding wars going,” said Haillie Passow, Silent Auction Chair. To learn more about the youth education events happening at the conference, reach out to Kim, Haillie or any member of our [Youth Education Committee](#).

Our early bird conference registration will open in December and we encourage everyone to secure their spot early. Last year, our conference was sold out with over 500 attendees, so don’t wait to register. Be on the lookout for more details this winter as we finalize the full agenda. In the meantime, save the date and start planning your trip to the Wisconsin Dells for our 73rd Annual Conference!



CONVENE

# 2026 CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

WE NEED YOUR HELP CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS  
AND PARTNERS THAT GO ABOVE AND BEYOND





Every day across Wisconsin, dedicated individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes to protect our waters, restore habitats, and educate the next generation about conservation. Now it's time to shine a spotlight on these unsung heroes – and we need YOUR help to find them!

The [2026 Conservation Awards nominations](#) are officially open, and we're searching for conservation champions who deserve recognition for their outstanding efforts. From county employees who go above and beyond their daily duties to passionate youth educators who inspire the next

generation, these awards celebrate the people who embody the true spirit of our conservation community.

"There's something truly amazing about recognizing people for their incredible work," says Chris Schlutt, who coordinates the awards program with the Professional Improvement Committee. "Every nomination tells a story of someone who's making a real difference. When we honor these champions, we're not just celebrating their achievements – we're inspiring others to follow their lead and showing communities the incredible impact that dedicated individuals

can have on our natural resources."

### A Cinematic Celebration

Last year, we transformed our Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award into something truly special. Instead of the traditional Conservation Observance Day, winners will now be featured in a professionally produced short film that showcases their farm, highlights their innovative conservation practices, and shares their unique story with audiences across Wisconsin.

"The filming day this summer was absolutely incredible," shares Kristin Teston, Communications Director. "We had an entire





professional crew on site, and we spent the whole day capturing not just what Roger does, but why he does it. Being able to provide our dedicated farmers with a lasting keepsake that preserves their conservation story and legacy – something they and their families can treasure for generations – makes this award truly meaningful. It's a permanent tribute to their hard work and commitment to the land."

Those attending the upcoming County Conservation meeting in October will get an exclusive first look at the 2025 Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award winner video, featuring Roger Bindl of RB Farms from Sauk

County. We'll also host a short Q&A session with our staff and Melissa Schlupp, where we can discuss the exciting shift from hosting Conservation Observance Day to creating these powerful short films.

"We're absolutely thrilled to premiere this video," says Kristin. "It's such a powerful way to showcase not just Roger's incredible work, but the heart and passion behind that drive our members' work. We can't wait for everyone to see it."

The 2025 Conservation Farm Family of the Year video, *Caring for The Land*, will premiere at the [Conserve Sauk Film Festival](#), giving their conservation story

a platform to inspire audiences throughout the state.

#### Our Award Categories

This year, our goal is to have a nomination in each category, so don't let another conservation champion go unrecognized. Whether it's the administrative assistant who keeps everything running smoothly, the farmer implementing innovative practices, or the educator inspiring young minds – every nomination matters. These individuals are making Wisconsin a better place, one conservation project at a time.

Learn more about the categories and nomination dates:



## Outstanding Conservation Employee (Three Categories):

- » **County Conservationist/Administrator/Supervisor**
- » **Technician/Planner/Project Manager/GIS Specialist/Agronomist**
- » **Administrative Assistant**  
(We had ZERO nominations in this category last year! There are amazing administrative assistants throughout Wisconsin's conservation community – let's see lots of nominations this year!)

## Outstanding LCC Member

Recognizing land conservation committee members providing strong leadership

## Friend of Conservation

*Honoring individuals outside our organization making outstanding contributions*

## Conservation Legacy Award

*Celebrating lasting contributions to Wisconsin's conservation community*

## Brad Matson Youth Education Award

*Outstanding Youth Educator, carrying on Brad's legacy of educating our youth about natural resource protection*

## Conservation Farm Family of the Year

*Promoting farm conservation accomplishments and community involvement*

## How to Nominate

Ready to nominate a conservation champion? Find information about each category, nomination materials, and inspiring stories from our 2025 winners, visit [wisconsinlandwater.org/awards](https://wisconsinlandwater.org/awards)

## Important Details

Nomination Deadline:  
December 31, 2025

## Awards Ceremony:

Thursday, March 3, 2026 at our 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference

## Questions?

Contact [Chris Schlutt](#) – she's here to help guide you through the nomination process!



## ENGAGE

# AREA TOURS SHOWCASE CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

**EACH SUMMER AND FALL, OUR AREA ASSOCIATIONS PLAN TOURS THAT SHOWCASE A COUNTY'S RECENT CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND PRACTICES**

Every summer and fall, Wisconsin's eight regional Area Associations open the doors to discovery through their Area Tours. These events aren't just field trips—they're a chance for county leaders, conservation staff, and partners to step out of the office and into the landscape, seeing firsthand how conservation is shaping the future of Wisconsin's farms, waters, and communities.

An Area Tour is hosted by one county within an Area Association, and it brings together participants from across the region. The format is simple but effective: gather in the morning for coffee and conversation, then load up on a bus to spend the day visiting local conservation sites. By the end of the day, attendees have seen projects in action, met the people behind them, and shared a meal and conversations that strengthen professional connections.

The projects highlighted are as diverse as the land itself. A tour might include a reclaimed mine site, a restored wetland, or a family farm experimenting with new conservation practices. The host county selects sites that show how they're addressing local challenges—whether it's improving soil health, protecting drinking water, or balancing working lands with wildlife habitat. Presenters range from landowners to county conservationists and agency partners, giving participants a complete picture of how conservation happens on the ground.

For example, Jefferson County's Southern Area Tour showcased a wetland restoration, a pasture-based farm, and even a biorefinery working to shrink

its environmental footprint. In Chippewa County, the West Central Area Tour explored topics from nitrogen research to mine reclamation. The North Central Area Tour in Lincoln County brought participants to a cranberry bog, a reclaimed mine, and a wetland project more than a decade in the making. Washington County's Southeast Area Tour highlighted streambank restoration, prairie strips, and an innovative rotary parlor milking system. And the Lake Winnebago Area Tour gave a full picture of Flyte Family Farms, where organic acreage, fruit crops, and livestock all intersect.

Each tour also includes a midday break for lunch—often showcasing a local restaurant. A major goal of the area tours is to keep the registration fees affordable, usually between \$10 and \$25, ensuring these educational tours remain accessible to all.

What makes Area Tours special is the perspective they offer: conservation is no longer an abstract idea or a line in a report—it's something you can stand in, walk through, and talk about with the people making it happen. Participants return home with new ideas, deeper connections, and a stronger sense of what's possible in their own counties.

With eight Areas across the state—Southern, West Central, North Central, Southeastern, Lake Winnebago, Lake Michigan, Northwestern, Western—these tours ensure that every corner of Wisconsin has the opportunity to both showcase its conservation successes and learn from others.









## CONNECT WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION

Get engaged with your Area by attending an upcoming meeting or tour. Learn more at [wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/area-associations](https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/area-associations)











[VIEW THE EVENT  
PHOTO GALLERY](#)



## EDUCATE

# SUMMER CAMP CONNECTIONS

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY, WE'RE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS.**

This summer, our conservation camps connected middle and high school students with nature and career opportunities through hands-on learning experiences. Campers engaged in real conservation projects, including groundwater monitoring near the Wisconsin River at Upham Woods in Sauk County and habitat restoration at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Iron County.

Middle school participants learned species identification, built survival shelters, and competed in fire-starting challenges while developing confidence and independence. High school campers worked directly with natural resource professionals in wildlife management, habitat restoration, water quality assessment, and forestry, gaining exposure to potential career paths in conservation.

A growing scholarship network ensured broad participation across Wisconsin's communities. The Brad Matson Memorial

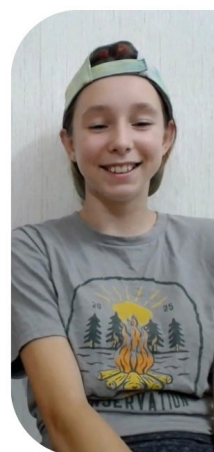
Conservation Camp Scholarship, established to provide financial support to students interested in attending our Middle or High School Conservation Camps. Many of our county land and water conservation departments also provide camp scholarships for students to attend our MS and HS camps. They either cover half or the full cost of camps. For counties that offer camp scholarships please [check our website for a list of counties](#) and how to apply.

We are fortunate that other partner organizations see the value in sending students to our conservation camps that they also offer camp scholarships. Fond du Lac Audubon Society has been offering scholarships for students to attend both camps for years. Transcendent Technologies offers a full scholarship for a student to attend our Middle School camp and new this year, SCOPE (Sawyer County Outdoor Projects & Education) provided scholarships for both of our camps.

**LAUREN  
MCGUIRE**



**AMELIA  
LINGREN**







## HAYATO HIGH SCHOOL CAMPER

At this camp one of the things I remember is canoeing. The reason I remember this is because I got to tip the canoe, go to many places, and it was my first time canoeing. Before I canoed, I was excited to try it. After I tried canoeing it was more fun than I thought it would be. When we went canoeing the second time, we were able to bring our fishing rods to the turtle flambeau flowage where we learned about wild rice, and how willow trees helped prevent the erosion of the islands for the time being.

On the last day of camp, we went to a native American reservation. We learned about the history of their people and how they were treated before the peace treaties. After we listened to the people talk about their history we split into two groups. The first group went to their fish hatchery where they raised musky, brown trout, and bass. When we finished there, we went to one of their old boarding schools.

## DELANEY DARTON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPER

DNR Conservation Warden Derek Hansen talked to us about his job and showed us his truck which had a lot of extra buttons and very loud sirens. He also showed us the items in his vest, like guns and tasers. His talk was one of my favorite parts of camp. We were able to ask him questions afterwards. We ended the day with a campfire and yummy s'mores. We also sang some songs and did some funny skits.

The next day was very busy. We did groundwater research in the morning. We collected samples of groundwater and then did pH tests. Next, we hiked North Shore Trail. It was long and rocky. On that trail we got to see lots of amazing sandstone structures and lots of plants and wildlife. Our hike was also a favorite part of camp for me.

After lunch, we had another outdoor skills activity which was outdoor survival. We learned how to logically think in a life or death situation in the wild. We made our own fires with only sparks, things we found in nature, and cotton balls. I was surprised at how quickly our small group was able to successfully start our fire.





## DEVYN SEIDL MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPER

One of my favorite things I learned was how to build a survival fire after it rained with only damp things and flint & steel. I had a great learning experience where they taught us about the effects of phosphorus in the water. If there is too much of it, the phosphorus will harm our waters, but little of it doesn't do anything bad. They showed us a diagram of real places and what would happen if the debris, chemicals, or phosphorus got into the water.

Another thing I really enjoyed was building the shelters with my new friends. My favorite part overall was the campfires that we had where we got to sing, play in skits, and eat s'mores and pudgy pies. It was fun and we got to hang out with people from all over Wisconsin. I also enjoyed the night games, for hours we played ghost in the graveyard with the whole camp, even some of the counselors joined in. We got to run around and hide until the whistle was blown and then we had to try and make it to the safe spot without getting tagged. We also did archery, I even got a bullseye which was very exciting.

I would definitely recommend going to camp to all of my friends and other people in my school. I really want to go again next year and have another fun experience. I had a great time at camp and all the adults were very kind.

## LIESEL SURALSKI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPER

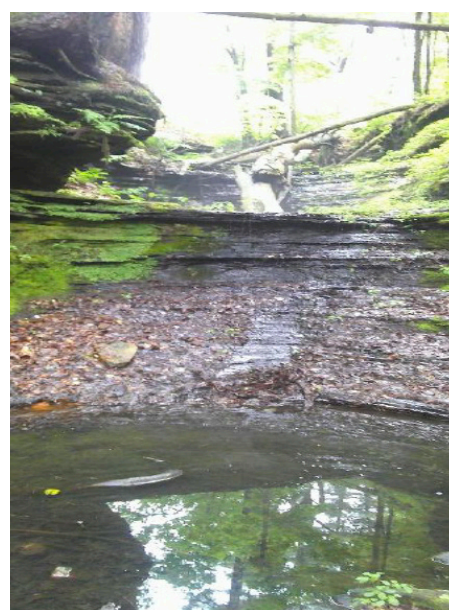
I went to the Middle School Land and Water Conservation Camp in June and had a lot of fun.

I enjoyed the water carnival the most. It was fun because we got to do all sorts of water related things without having to pass or take the swim test!

I also really liked the hike and being able to go up and see the cave. I took a lot of pictures of the bluffs and the water. Below I put my favorite picture of my whole trip. It was so beautiful.

The food was amazing. The counselors were also very nice and they made us feel safe and like we were at home even far away from home. I was a little homesick the first time, but my new friends and my counselors really helped me.

I had a very nice time and will definitely be coming back!













EDUCATE

# NCF-ENVIROTHON TAKES STUDENTS TO NEW HEIGHTS

HEAR FROM THE NEXT GENERATION OF CON-  
SERVATION LEADERS ABOUT WHAT MAKES  
THIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE MEMORABLE

The Cedarburg High School Envirothon team, representing Wisconsin for the second consecutive year, traveled to Alberta, Canada, for the [NCF-Envirothon Annual International Competition](#). This multi-day event tests students' knowledge in areas like Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, and Wildlife.

Team Wisconsin's week was packed with immersive learning and activities. They began with a full day of field training, learning directly from local natural resource professionals. The following day involved rigorous field testing across the subject areas. A highlight of their trip was an educational excursion to Banff National Park, where they took in breathtaking views from a gondola, explored the town, and saw birds of prey up close during an evening social. The competition culminated in the team spending a full day preparing and delivering an oral presentation on this year's current issue, "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change". This experience not only tested their knowledge but also forged lasting memories and strengthened their passion for environmental stewardship. Meet the team and read more about their adventures.





## KATIE SCHLICHT TEACHER

The CHS Envirothon Team had an amazing time at NCF-Envirothon Nationals in Alberta. Students were able to learn from experts in the fields of Natural Resources as well as meet peers from all over who are just as passionate as they are about the environment. A stand out memory for myself and the team was visiting Banff National Park on the educational fun day and seeing birds of prey up close at the dinner hosted that evening.

Reflecting on this opportunity has put into perspective the value of teamwork, preparation, and dedication to environmental stewardship our Envirothon Team has to achieve their back to back wins at the state competition. As the team's advisor, I have witnessed each team members' journey from the early stages of preparing for the competition and discovering the limitless amount of information they could learn to the culmination of all their hard work by getting to experience two national competitions. I have been blown away by the team's dedication to becoming environmental stewards and their drive to one day become leaders in sustainability and conservation.

One thing that I love about Envirothon is that it is not an individual event, it takes a collective effort from every team member to be successful. Students are learning valuable skills in working together such as how to communicate effectively, share responsibilities, and trust each others' strengths. Collaboration is an important skill for their future careers, especially if it involves solving environmental issues. I feel as though being a part of Envirothon students are set up for success in whatever they choose to pursue in the future.

In addition to learning key skills students also have the opportunity to network with local professionals such as the WI DNR, land trusts, land & water management groups, and conservation stewards. Any of these professionals could have an impact on choosing a future career path or jumpstarting a life-long love of nature.



I am truly grateful to WI Envirothon for all their support in helping the CHS Envirothon Team participate at State and Nationals these past two years. I know the team has made lasting memories and will forever be positively impacted by their experience at Envirothon. I could not have asked for better students to mentor over the past two years and I hope more students are inspired to join the team. As a teacher and mentor I have gotten to live out my dream of sharing my passion and love of the environment with students and I could not be more thankful for this opportunity.



## HAYLIE WETSTEN COLLEGE FRESHMAN

I'm going into my freshman year of college at UW-Stevens Point and majoring in Wildlife Ecology, hopefully to work in the national park service one day! My favorite thing I learned while in Canada was about the caribou migration and the many species that are impacted, especially wolves. They also talked a lot about the caribou and other deer-like species' antler shapes and how to tell them apart on the training day, and I think that knowledge will stick with me for a long, long time. All in all: thanks for everything, Envirothon. I'll have a huge leg up in my classes this fall, and I've gotten to do so many things as part of this program that other kids my age could only dream of, and I am so thankful for that.



## JULIETTE SCHAEFER SENIOR

I'm currently a senior in high school and in college I plan to study law and eventually go into law school. This experience has taught me so much regarding the environment, which is something I have always been passionate about. I was not only given the opportunity to discuss this passion with other students my age, but I was also able to learn more about the environment! My favorite nature fact that I learned during Envirothon was during our current issue section when we discussed how during the fires in Alberta last year, they called in the native people of the land to help communicate with the fire. I thought this was very interesting and it allowed me to learn how they had a deep connection with the land around them.

## TESS WAEGE SENIOR

I'm a senior in high school this year. In college, I am currently planning to major in education, specifically chemistry. I have learned a lot from this trip but the most interesting thing I learned was about the indigenous background of the land. I was interested in how that also plays into how people nowadays use the same land with respect towards those communities.



From left to right: Tess Waege, Mya Donnell, Natalie Reitz, Juliette Schaefer, Haylie Westen.



## NATALIE REITZ COLLEGE FRESHMAN

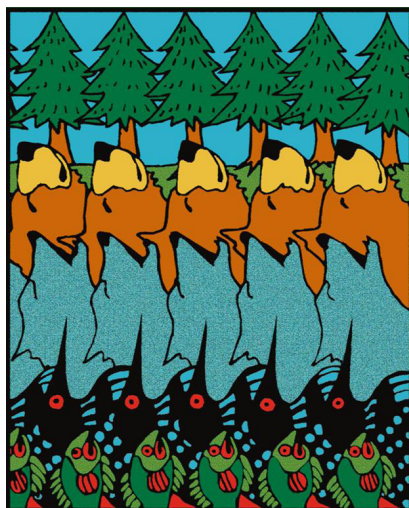
Hello! I will be going into my first year of college at University of Wisconsin Green Bay and I'm going to be majoring in Communications. My favorite wildlife fact that pertains to Canada is that they have the largest moose population in the world! Also since they're herbivores they can eat about 50 pounds of vegetation in only one day! I learned this while talking with North Carolina's Envirothon team on the road trip to Banff national park. I had so much fun and really enjoyed all the lovely sites in Canada and all I got to learn with Envirothon!

## MYA DONNELL SENIOR

I will be a high school senior next year. In college, I plan to major in Environmental Science, Ecology, or another similar major. This competition has taught me so much and I am so glad I had the opportunity to go! The most interesting thing I learned was that wildlife ecologists in Alberta use barbed wire in wildlife corridors to collect hair from certain animals, and that they can use DNA analysis of the hair in order to find out many different kinds of information about the animals that are using the wildlife corridors.



# 2026 WISCONSIN ENVIROTHON



**WISCONSIN ENVIROTHON**

**APRIL 10, 2026  
LIONS CAMP | ROSHOLT, WI**

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Wisconsin Envirothon, the state's ultimate environmental science challenge for middle and high school students. Founded in 1988, this annual event combines hands-on outdoor learning with rigorous academic competition. Student teams will test their knowledge in Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, and Wildlife, while guided by natural resource professionals and educators. Participants will also tackle a current environmental issue in a team presentation, developing crucial leadership and communication skills. Join us for a day of environmental exploration, team-building, and the chance to represent Wisconsin at the NCF-Envirothon. Don't miss this opportunity to mentor the next generation of conservation professionals. Learn more about starting an team, becoming a volunteer, or sponsoring the event at [wisconsinlandwater.org/envirothon](https://wisconsinlandwater.org/envirothon).





EDUCATE

# THE POWER OF MENTOR COHORTS

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BUILDING COMMUNITY AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE NURTURES  
NEW AND EXPERIENCED CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS





When newer staff step into the world of conservation, the learning curve can be steep. Technical skills, program requirements, and community expectations all converge at once. That's where the Wisconsin Land+Water Mentor Program comes in. But instead of relying only on traditional one-on-one pairings, a new cohort model is taking shape: pairing one experienced conservationist with a small group of newer staff who learn together, share challenges, and build statewide connections.

The first of these cohort teams was asked to share their perspectives and experiences as part of this unique experience. Current members include:

- Ketty Clow, Environmental Engineer, Chippewa County
- Amber Cannon, Conservation Engineering Tech, Fond du Lac County
- Alexis Faul, Conservation Engineering Tech, Fond du Lac County
- Kyle Andreae, Engineering Technician, Wood County
- Caden Erickson, Land Conservation Technician, Pepin County

- Cole Koffron, Conservation Specialist, Burnett County
- Kaitlyn Bochniak, Conservation Technician, Calumet County
- Kelsey Hagan, Conservation Technician, Calumet County
- Sierra Sly, Chippewa County

Original members that have moved on to different jobs outside the public sector:

- Ethan Homann, Land Conservation Technician, Pepin County
- Alanna Muller, Calumet County

### Learning Together

Cohort members describe their monthly meetings as opportunities to set goals, share updates, and tackle real-world conservation issues. "With people joining from all over the state, we agreed to meet monthly," said Amber Cannon. "These meetings are a chance to bring up questions, highlight projects, and share ideas that might help others. Personally, I've had the chance to meet with Ketty several times while she helped me learn CAD. Our office is very new, and I



had never even opened CAD before starting this job. Her guidance has been incredibly valuable, and the growth I've experienced in my second year—thanks to the program—has been so much greater than in my first."

Alexis Faul added that the group sets practical monthly goals. "Topics could be anything from learning a new design spreadsheet to sharing a challenge with a recent project, she explained. "One constant is updating each other on what's happening in our counties. We've learned a lot from each other because of the different land uses and conservation practices across the state." She pointed to one breakthrough moment that resonated as an early career professional. "Ketty helped me connect soil test pits to waste storage facility design. That conversation—and the follow-up training—gave me the confidence to review a permit application for a local ordinance."

For Kyle Andreae, the value has been in both technical support and peer learning. "One example was when I was working through a particularly bad violation of the county's animal waste ordinance. Ketty helped guide me through the enforcement process. The program has also connected me with the land and water technical committee, which has given me valuable insight into emerging issues. On top of that, I've been able to assist others in the group with solar design computations, so it's been a two-way street of sharing knowledge."

“

*Joining a cohort group or finding a one-on-one mentor is an investment in your conservation career. Never turn down the opportunity to keep learning and expanding your network.*

### Connections Across the State

Beyond the technical skills, members emphasized the value of building relationships and finding community. "My first WI Land+Water Annual Conference was right after I joined the cohort," recalled Alexis. "It was great to have a mini community at the conference through our group. Ketty also encouraged me to join the Tech Committee, so I'm starting to expand my network beyond trainings and field days."

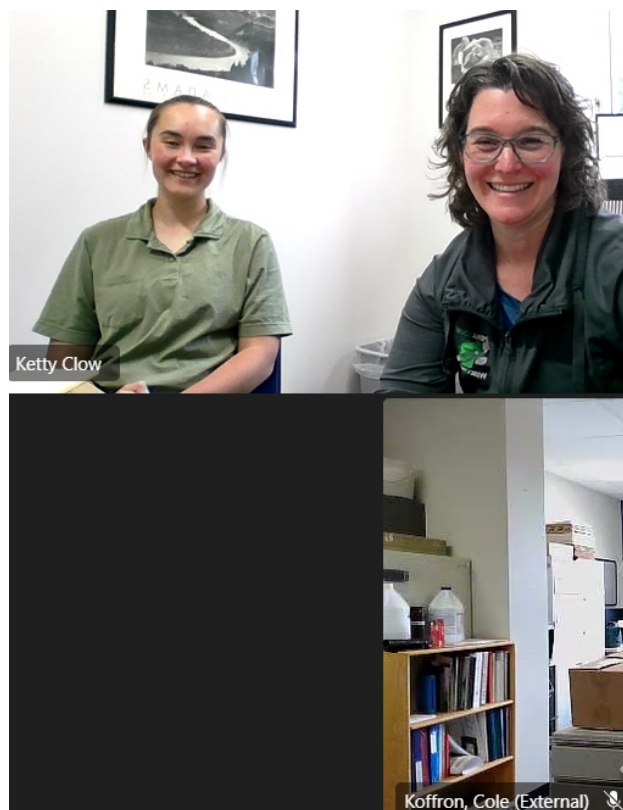
Amber agreed: "This program has been a great way to connect with other conservation professionals across the state. I don't think I would have gotten to know them nearly as well without this group."

### Advice for Future Mentees

The message from mentees was consistent: don't wait. "I truly wish I had joined sooner," said Amber. Alexis added, "Joining a cohort group or finding a one-on-one mentor is an investment in your conservation career. Never turn down the opportunity to keep learning and expanding your network." Kyle advised new participants to come with curiosity: "Just keep an open mind—every group will be different in experience and expertise, and that's what makes it valuable."

### A Mentor's Perspective

For mentor Ketty Clow, leading a cohort is about more than teaching technical skills. "I just wanted to





be the kind of mentor I wish I had when I was starting out—someone who's there to help, listen, and share what they've learned," she said. The benefits go both ways: "I've found that I learn just as much from them as they do from me. It's a reminder of how far I've come, and it makes me feel like I'm contributing to conservation in a meaningful way."

Ketty encourages other experienced professionals to consider stepping into a mentoring role: "This is your chance to leave a lasting legacy in conservation. You don't have to know everything—the rewards far outweigh the effort."

### Looking Ahead

The real goal, Ketty explains, is for today's mentees to become tomorrow's mentors. By starting with strong support, new conservation professionals gain the confidence and skills to grow into leaders themselves.

The cohort approach is proving to be more than just a mentoring format—it's a way of building a community of practice across Wisconsin, ensuring conservation knowledge and leadership carry forward to the next generation.





[wisconsinlandwater.org](http://wisconsinlandwater.org)

[info@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlandwater.org)

(608) 441-2677





**Wood County Economic Development  
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Phone: 715-421-8466

## **Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Application Instructions & Grant Information**

The Wood County CEED (Conservation, Education, and Economic Development) Committee and the Board of Supervisors have made available a limited amount of economic development funds to be awarded each year to projects or proposals that seek to enhance the economic vitality of Wood County. This includes projects or proposals to encourage business growth and development, promote tourism and recreational opportunities, develop workforce retention or attraction strategies, and more.

**To be successful, proposals** should be clear and concise with a detailed description of the project's scope, program, or activity, timeline, and 1:1 match funding. A successful proposal will -

1. **Align to REDI Plan Goals:** Wood County's economic development strategy ([The Rural Economic Development Initiative \(REDI\) Plan](#)) outlines strategic goals in key focus areas. Proposals should align with one of these strategic goals -
  - Supporting **Entrepreneurship**
  - Offering collaborative **Economic Development Networking**
  - Ensuring robust **Technology Infrastructure**
  - Addressing **Housing** needs throughout the County
  - Engaging in solutions for **Child Care** Accessibility & Affordability
  - Supporting **Asset-Based Branding & Tourism**
  - Developing combined county-wide **Recreational Mapping** to increase use and attract tourism
2. **Provide an ROI to Wood County:** Proposals should provide a detailed ROI (Return on Investment) description for the funds invested.
3. **Be Completed in One Year:** These economic development grant funds are not ongoing. Successful proposals will have a clear timeline and be completed within the 2025 calendar year.
4. **Include a 1:1 Match:** Proposals should include at least a 1:1 match. The match can be monetary or in-kind contributions. A description of the match must be included in the application.

**Who Can Apply?** Applications are welcome from local municipalities or units of government, non-profit/community organizations, or project-based teams. Proposals should have a Wood County focus.

**Funds Available & Grant Size:** A total of \$400,000 is available in this fund for the 2025 grant cycle. There is no cap in place for these requests, but keep in mind there is a **1:1 match preference** and scoring will be based, in part, on the match details.

**What we do not generally fund:** Annual campaigns, Operating expenses or losses, Debt retirement, Endowments, Direct support of individuals, Lobbying, Sectarian causes

**Process:** All applications are due by 4:30pm on Friday, July 5, 2024. Applications are reviewed in August, approved by the County Board in November and grantees will be notified following approval of the County budget. Note that funds will not be released until a project results report is presented to the CEED Committee.

**Questions/More Information:** Contact Jason or Victoria in Wood County Planning & Zoning with questions. 715-421-8466, [jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov), [victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov).



Wood County Economic Development  
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## 2025 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request

**Proposal Title:** City of Marshfield Braem Park Softball Diamond

**Applicant Organization:** City of Marshfield Parks and Recreation

**Website:** <https://www.ci.marshfield.wi.us/>

**Mailing Address:** 211 E. 2nd Street

**Street Address:** (if different)

**Contact Name & Title:** Justin Casperson, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Phone:** 715-384-4642

**Email:** [justin.casperson@ci.marshfield.wi.us](mailto:justin.casperson@ci.marshfield.wi.us)

### Proposal Narrative

**1. REDI Alignment (select one)** General Economic Development

If selected other, please describe:

**2. Please provide a summary of your proposal.** Explain how it is consistent with and supports the Wood County REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Plan.

The City of Marshfield Braem Park softball field project includes moving the existing ball field to the southwest, replacing the infield material, adding new fencing, dugouts, bases, bleachers, field lights, sidewalks, grading, seeding, and site restoration. The field is part of an overall larger park renovation project that includes new pickleball courts, pavilion, playground, and parking lot. The field is used daily by schools, clubs, and tournaments all spring and summer long. The field is used 4-5 times per night with mostly double-header games and 3-4 tournaments per summer. The project will support the Wood County REDI plan by increasing quality of life in the area and attracting out-of-town visitors, which will improve the local economy.

**3. Have you received funds through this grant in the past? (if yes, check box)** ☒

**Have you applied in the past? (if yes, check box)** ☒

If yes, in which years did you receive funds and in which years did you apply?

The City of Marshfield applied in 2024 and received funds in 2024.



**Wood County Economic Development  
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**4. Describe the timeline for this proposal. Note this grant requires the funding recipient to complete work on the proposal/project within one calendar year (2025).**

Design: 2024 (Complete)  
Bid Process: 2025 January - March  
Construction: 2025 August - September  
Completion: 2025 October

**5. Explain how this proposal will provide a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County. Please be as specific as possible. E.g. The housing incentive we offered with County Economic Development funds will lead to an annual tax levy increase of \$X.**

Currently, there is a shortage of softball fields in Marshfield. The Braem Park softball field is in bad shape and needs improvement. A new field with lights will attract local and regional games and tournaments, bringing in teams, players, families and coaches. More visitors means more revenue for hotels, restaurants, gas stations and local businesses. More business leads to more job growth and increased spending. Hosting successful games and tournaments at nice facilities, makes Marshfield a destination for future events and visitors. The new field will allow local groups and clubs to host larger events, attracting more visitors. This new field will compliment the new fields at the High School, which is only two blocks away. This makes the close distance between them more attractive for event planners and tournament directors. The major ROI is from increased tourism and spending.

**6. Describe the match for this proposal. Note that a 1:1 match is preferred. E.g. For a \$5,000 grant award, the grantee must provide \$5,000 of in-kind or financial match. The match must occur within the calendar year (2025) the funds are awarded for.**

The City of Marshfield committed \$175,000 toward the project in 2024 and is committing another \$100,000 toward the project in 2025.

The grant request is for \$100,000. The City is fulfilling their obligation to match monies 1:1, by committing \$275,000 toward the project.





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**Funding Considerations/Request Summary**

(provide separate spreadsheet/budget if needed)

Budget Summary		Budget Detail	
Total Organization Budget	\$ 495,000	Revenue/Income	
Total Proposal Cost	\$ 375,000	City of Marshfield	\$ 275,000
Total Amount Requested	\$ 100,000	Wood Cty CEED	\$ 100,000
Total Match *	\$ 100,000	Total Revenue/Income	\$ 375,000
* Please provide a match explanation in question 6.		Expenses	
		Design A&E Costs	\$ 25,000
		Construction	\$ 350,000
			\$
		Total Expense	\$ 375,000

**Project Reporting Requirement**

As a reporting requirement of receiving an Economic Development Grant, a one-page summary project report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee. **This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2025.** Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

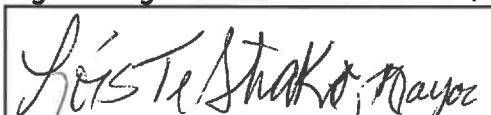
**Signatures**

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

**Applicant**

	Justin Casperson	7/1/24
Signature	Printed Name	Date

**Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair**

	Lois TeStrake	7-2-24
Signature	Printed Name	Date