

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Spinrad,

I am pleased to support the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department's (Department) application for Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. With awarded funding, the Department, its partners and local landowners propose to implement a holistic habitat restoration project to re-meander and restore several degraded reaches of stream channel on Sucker Creek in the Town of Belgium in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

Recently, the Department and its partners have made significant investments to improve the restoration and ecologic productivity of the Lake Michigan Basin by restoring access to high quality aquatic habitats, which will directly improve sustainability and/or population recovery for remnant desirable, native, and/or threatened or endangered species within and beyond the county borders. It is my understanding that to date, the Department has already removed or remediated 10 fish passage impediment projects and is working with consultants and landowners to remediate an additional 4 fish passage impediment projects to reconnect the majority of Sucker Creek to Lake Michigan.

With awarded Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants funding, the Department aims to improve overall ecological diversity and sustainability of the Sucker Creek watershed by implementing a transformational habitat improvement project. The Department's proposal includes stream re-meandering as well as in-stream and riparian habitat improvements – all in conjunction with wetland and floodplain reconnection and restoration. The Department's proposal is synergistic with recent completed projects and represents a unique opportunity to protect and restore natural wetlands and floodplains, as well as enhance the quality of life for Ozaukee County residents and visitors.

I strongly support collaborative projects that help build environmental resiliency and preserve the ecological health of the Great Lakes region. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the Department's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator