



## OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department  
Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal  
Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Members:</b>	Jean Abreu (C), Carol Lukens, Mary Kluz, Jay Coldwell, Christine Daniels, Jesse Kearns, Britnie Remer
<b>Location:</b>	Maple Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.</b>

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the June 5, 2025, meeting minutes
4. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports
  - a. Sustainability Manager – Carrie
    - Chair Abreu is talking with SEEC applicants and will be forwarding her recommendations to the Mayor
    - SolSmart discussion – Application/SolSmart solar statement - September
    - Focus on Energy – August presentation Home Energy Rebate program and free [energy saving packs](#)
    - Wausau Sustainability Awards – background and application form
  - b. Media and Public Education – Christine/Jean
    - Future radio spots - July repurposed art
    - Newsletter – SEEC will have one full page in one of the newsletters, ½ page infographic and 1-2 paragraphs.  
Deadlines:
      - Friday, August 15 fall
      - Friday, November 14 winter
  - c. Elected Official Education – Jesse
    - Topics for Council – support letter for City solar project (to accompany signed petition)
      - Tuesday, September 2 – Wausau Water Works 11:00 a.m.
      - Thursday, September 11 – Infrastructure and Facilities 5:15 p.m.
      - Tuesday, September 23 – Common Council 6:30 p.m.
  - d. Working w/Departments – Carrie/Mary
    - Police and Fire Department meetings (Jean, Christine, and Jay)
    - Department Director meeting summary
    - How do we want to move forward with this initiative? (CIP planning review)
  - e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc –
    - OEI Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) energy planning grant - fall
  - f. Farmers Market and Food Stop – Jay
    - UW Extension Meeting Notes
5. Next meeting date: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
6. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. **No action will be taken by any such groups.**

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261- 6622 or [ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us) to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request

be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Community Development Department at (715) 261-6680.

**This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 05/29/2025**

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at [clerk@wausauwi.gov](mailto:clerk@wausauwi.gov) with "SEEC comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

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MINUTES  
June 5, 2025

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Mark Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Christine Daniels, and Britnie Remer

Others Present: Mayor Doug Diny, Eric Lindman, Andrew Lynch, Carrie Edmondson, Monette Bebow-Reinhart, and Dan Zinsmeister, Elise Couillard and Matthew Ploeger from Couillard Solar Foundation attended virtually for presentation.

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Abreu called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the group did introductions.

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**2. Public Comment**

Monette Bebow Reinhart stated that she is dealing with invasives in her yard and would like more information about this.

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**3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2025, and May 1, 2025, Meetings**

Chair Abreu noted a name misspelled on the April minutes. *Jay/Mary motion/second – approved with modifications unanimously.*

Chair Abreu noted a correction on who prepared media and public education in the May minutes. *Carol/Mark motion/second – approved with modifications unanimously.*

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**4. City solar project update and grant presentation**

Elise Couillard and Matthew Ploeger presented on funding opportunities and options available with the Couillard Foundation. They reviewed various options including adding community solar to the water utility solar project. They presented two funding scenarios and discussed other projects they had completed in Wisconsin. The group asked for clarification on tax sponsorship and community solar options. They then discussed the best strategy for the Committee. Public Works Director Eric Lindman said he would follow up with this group and consider this along with other funding options. The Committee decided to prepare a letter of support for the project to get in front of various committees and Council in late summer/fall as the budget process unfolds.

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**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports**

- a. Sustainability Manager – Carrie/Andy –
  - i. Met with Lisa Nowak about the creation of a dedicated sustainability position. The most significant items to address are where it would be housed and how it would be funded. Carrie stated that different models are being explored.
  - ii. The SolSmart program to make solar accessible through permitting and planning was discussed. The Committee was in support of the program and the item will remain on the agenda and likely begin in the fall.

- b. Media and Public Education – Christine, Jean –
  - i. Carol and Jean did the May radio spot on pesticide use. Mary noted that she saw Slow Mow May in Wausau City Pages. Slow Mow May is in the newsletter, but the pesticide article was removed due to space limitations. It will be repurposed for fall.
  - ii. Future Radio Spots – Christine noted that Tuesday June 24 is the radio show. Solar would be a good topic and she would do that spot. Mary noted that repurposing art would be a good topic for July.

Jesse Kearns left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- c. Elected Official Education – Jesse –
  - i. Topics for Council: Stated that solar would be a good topic. Andy noted that through summer there is one City Council meeting per month. Jay noted that the Committee’s letter of support for the City solar project should come out this month. The group agreed it would be advantageous to present the letter to the CIP Committee and City Council in person.
- d. Working w/Departments – Carrie, Mary – Carrie presented notes on meetings with Randy Fifrick, Development Director and Arran Hersey, Metro Ride Director and noted there is in invite out for availability with the Police Department. Once all department meetings have been completed, the Committee will receive the notes from all meetings.
- e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc – No new report.
- f. Farmers Market and Food Stop – Jay – He is exploring the idea of a survey to find how much local food people are eating in various food categories with the goal of increasing that percentage. Carrie stated that she has begun conversations with UW Extension and that she would connect with Jay with information around this topic.

**6. Updates – Rise up art shirt activity**

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Mary stated that Rise Up will be holding an art activity on the 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> possibly on the 400 block and some shirts will include the SEEC seasonal slogans. Shirts will be repurposed into flags. Slow your mow (spring), don’t be so salty (winter), leave your leaves (fall), and prioritize pollinators (summer) will be the slogans used.

Christine inquired about someone who had applied for the SEEC.

**6. Next meeting date: July 3 (confirm quorum)**

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Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, If the Thursday following is not available, Carrie will poll the group on an alternative meeting date.

**7. Adjourn**

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*Mary/Christine motion/second - approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:41 p.m.*

# IRA HOME ENERGY REBATES



Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) are designed to help you save energy and reduce costs.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Getting started is as simple as 1-2-3!

1

**Complete Income Qualification.** Determine your eligibility based on your household income. All homeowners qualify for the HOMES program, while HEAR is specifically available to low- and moderate-income households. Rebate amounts may vary depending on household income.

2

**Select your IRA Registered Contractor.** IRA Registered Contractors manage the entire process and serve as your guide throughout. They handle complex tasks, such as completing forms, obtaining approvals, and ensuring all requirements are met.

3

**Begin Your Project.** Take the first step toward a more energy-efficient home and start saving on energy costs today!

## HOME EFFICIENCY REBATE (HOMES)

The Home Efficiency Rebate Program will provide rebates to reduce the cost of energy-saving, whole-home improvements in existing single-family and multifamily buildings.

## AVAILABLE UPGRADES

- ENERGY STAR® certified heating, cooling, and water heating equipment.
- ENERGY STAR certified appliances, doors, windows, and ventilation fans.
- Insulation and air sealing installation.

## ELIGIBILITY AND POTENTIAL SAVINGS

All homeowners are eligible for the HOMES program. After your required home energy assessment, you will learn how much energy your house currently uses and identify opportunities to achieve savings over 20%. Households qualify for rebates based on how much energy they're expected to save and their household income. The more energy you save, the higher the rebates available.

## LEARN MORE

Visit [focusenergy.com/ira-homes](https://focusenergy.com/ira-homes) for full program details.



## HOME ELECTRIFICATION AND APPLIANCE REBATE (HEAR)

The HEAR program offers rebates to households installing heat pumps and other energy-efficient electric equipment, supporting home electrification efforts. These rebates are designed to help low- and moderate-income households save energy and reduce costs for upgrades made to their primary residence. In most cases, a home assessment is not required, and eligible equipment can be purchased through participating local IRA Registered Contractors.

### CURRENTLY AVAILABLE UPGRADES

- ENERGY STAR electric equipment including:
  - Heat pump water heater.
  - Heat pump for space heating.
- Insulation, air sealing, ventilation.
- Electrical load service center (electrical panel).
- Electrical wiring.



### ELIGIBILITY AND POTENTIAL SAVINGS

This program will be available to Wisconsin residents in single-family homes and multifamily buildings, earning 150% of Area Median Income (AMI) or less. A single household can receive up to \$14,000 total in rebate dollars from this program. Project maximums are based on project cost and income level.

### LEARN MORE

Visit [focusonenergy.com/ira-hear](https://focusonenergy.com/ira-hear) for full program details.



### OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

IRA Home Energy Rebates are just one of many ways to save on your home energy projects. You may also qualify for additional programs like FOCUS ON ENERGY® rebates and discounts, the Weatherization Assistance Program, and tax credits. As a bonus, many of these benefits can be combined with IRA Home Energy Rebates to maximize your savings. Start exploring your eligibility today at [focusonenergy.com/get-started](https://focusonenergy.com/get-started).

#### REDUCING ENERGY WASTE ACROSS WISCONSIN

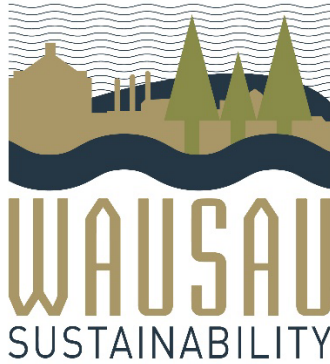
Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment.

Funding for the Wisconsin IRA Home Energy Rebate programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy pursuant to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. While the Focus on Energy program is the implementor for the IRA Home Energy Rebate programs, the programs are funded and managed as separate programs and not included in the Focus portfolio.

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Updated 020425





## Wausau Sustainability Awards Application

*The Wausau Sustainability Awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that are committed to creating a more sustainable and energy-smart Wausau. These awards are also meant to share examples of sustainability initiatives and projects with residents, businesses, community groups, and nonprofits and encourage similar projects.*

*Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.*

### 1. Your contact information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility (circle one):      Self-nominating      Nominating another

### 2. Nominee's contact information:

Name of individual, business or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Website of nominee (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. How would you best describe the nominee:

- Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation** – Efforts to reduce energy consumption or increase the use of renewables, including transportation demand management. Consideration is given to the level of investment, documented reduction/generation of energy, reach of the effort and/or greenhouse gas emissions.

If you have questions about Wausau Sustainability Awards contact Carrie Edmondson at [carrie.edmondson@wausauwi.gov](mailto:carrie.edmondson@wausauwi.gov) or 715-261-6009.

- **Environmental Education** – Programs and projects that effectively teach both children and adults how to learn about their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care of it.
- **Resource Conservation, Preservation or Stewardship** – Individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate their commitment to the improvement of the Wausau community by conserving, preserving, replanting or restoring the natural environment, improving water quality or reclaiming the urban environment either directly through programs and actions or indirectly through innovative products or practices. This also could include innovations in waste management, recycling or composting.
- **Green Site and/or Building Design** – The design, development, construction, or renovation of buildings and sites in ways that set an example and/or exceed standard energy efficiency, incorporate low impact design, preserve natural site features and resources, use of green infrastructure stormwater management BMPs, create healthy indoor conditions, etc.
- **Health, Food and Agriculture** – Individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate commitment to producing, using, or promoting local, sustainable, healthy food, or increasing access to healthy food for underserved populations.
- **Student Leadership** – An individual student, school group or community youth group that demonstrates excellence in a sustainability effort.
- **City Staff** - Staff that goes beyond job duties to improve sustainability for City policies, programs, or operations.
- **Other** – If you have a sustainable project that doesn't fit one of the above categories, please suggest another category: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Describe the nomination in 150 words or less. Be sure to include if the project/initiative served an underserved population and any partnerships formed as a result of the project/initiative.**

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America the Beautiful Challenge  
**2023 LETTERS OF SUPPORT  
BEST PRACTICES**



**NFWF**

# INTRODUCTION TO NFWF'S AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE

## Summary

The America the Beautiful Challenge is a public-private grant program for locally-led restoration and conservation projects that invest in restoring fish and wildlife habitat function, enhancing community and ecosystem resilience, ensuring equitable access, contributing to workforce development, expanding corridors and connectivity, and building collaborative conservation.

The America the Beautiful Challenge coordinates funding from multiple Federal agencies and private philanthropy into one competitive grant program. This streamlines the application process, enabling larger, more impactful cross-boundary projects, while making it easier for states, Tribes, territories, local groups, non-governmental organizations, and others to apply for multiple funds with one application. This one-stop-shop solicitation is the result of financial contributions from the Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Defense, as well as private philanthropy.

## Program Goals

The America the Beautiful Challenge will seek to advance conservation and restoration projects that are consistent with the principles outlined in the [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report](#) and that focus on at least one of the following core areas of need:

- Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds
- Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes
- Improving ecosystem and community resilience to coastal flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats
- Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

## PROGRAM STAFF



Rachel Dawson  
Program Director, National Programs  
rachel.dawson@nfwf.org



Sydney Godbey  
Manager, National Programs  
sydney.godbey@nfwf.org



Blake Gardiner  
Coordinator, National Programs  
blake.gardiner@nfwf.org

# BEST PRACTICES FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT

While Letters of Support (LOS) are not a required component or upload in NFWF's Easygrants system for the pre or full proposal, they are a great opportunity to demonstrate commitment from significant partners, full project impact beyond NFWF funding, and communicate project importance to reviewers. This document is intended to be a resource for building a strong and organized set of letters of support. If submitting multiple proposals, please indicate priorities if any. To ensure timely inclusion with a proposal package, letters of support should *not* be mailed directly to NFWF.

## WHO SHOULD PROVIDE LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- Any organization providing in-kind or cash match contributions towards the match amount listed in the proposal
- Significant project partners
- Landowners or site managers if project location has been decided and implementation will occur on a site that the applicant does not own
- Community-level partners (municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders)
- Local, state or federal government agencies if involved in project design review or other participation

## WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A LETTER OF SUPPORT

All letters of support should include the Easygrants five-digit proposal number, the project title, and the name of the applicant organization. Letters should be written on the letterhead of the organization providing the LOS.

For LOS indicating matching contributions, the following should be included:

- Amount to be contributed
- Type of contribution (in-kind/cash)
  - If in-kind, an indication of how the in-kind amount was decided or calculated
  - If based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will the contribution amount still be provided?
- When the contribution will be made
- Confirmation that the contribution has not been used to meet any other federal program match or cost share requirements

For LOS indicating significant partnership, commitment of location for implementation, agency involvement, etc. a variety of the following can be included:

- Integral connection between organization writing letter and the project goals and objectives
- Interest or commitment to implementation on land
- Additional benefits that the project will provide to organization's mission
- Commitment to maintenance after project end date if applicable

## HOW TO BEST ORGANIZE AND UPLOAD LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**SEND PARTNERS A TEMPLATE.** One sure-fire way to ensure that all the information you need is included in a letter of support is to send a template with your request for the letter. Make sure to give partners a deadline, with some time built in for you to organize and upload the letters, of when you'll need the final copy.

**COVER PAGE.** Once all letters of support have been collected, a cover page listing all letters of support being submitted should be compiled. The cover page can be organized how you please, but the list should be in order of the letters of support to follow. Groupings/categorizing by partner role (match contribution letter, monitoring partners, partners who are part of formal collaborative, etc.) are encouraged. A sample of a cover page for letters of support be found in the examples section.

**ONE DOCUMENT.** Using Adobe Acrobat or another PDF-merging tool, combine the cover page and all letters of support into one, single PDF document. This way, you will only need to upload one document as "Letters of Support" into Easygrants under the Uploads page.

## LETTER OF SUPPORT EXAMPLES – COVER PAGE



### APPLICANT ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD

The following letters of support have been provided for NFWF Proposal #12345, “Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agriculture Conservation in the River Basin.”

#### **Matching Contributions**

- Good Proposal University
- Center for Community Volunteer Events
- River Township
- State Department of Agriculture

#### **Significant Partners**

- Landowner – Elmer O’Shawn
- Stream Conservation Collaborative



**GOOD  
PROPOSAL  
UNIVERSITY**

March 9, 2023

Rachel Dawson  
Program Director, National Programs  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson,

This letter is an acknowledgement of my commitment to participate in the project entitled “Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agricultural Conservation in the Calumet River Basin” (#12345).

My role as a project team leader will be to perform metabolism characterization of streams by placing sensors and supervising a graduate student and *Applicant Organization* staff in data downloading. I will also contribute to study design and data analysis, report and manuscript writing, and outreach. I will contribute an additional 80 hours to the project during the summers of 2024 and 2025, with an estimated total value of \$14,805 in-kind match (loaded personnel rate of \$185.06 per hour). Hours will be documented and provided to the *Applicant Organization* on a quarterly basis.

The Good Proposal University’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs have agreed to contribute an additional \$5,000 in match to this effort in hours of administrative time (40 hours of loaded personnel rate of \$125 per hour).

I will also be applying for one-fourth reassign time for one semester during this grant. Faculty may be given reassigned time, from their teaching workload, for research activity. If reassign time is granted, one-fourth of my salary and benefits for one semester will be applied as match (~\$18,000). This would bring the total Good Proposal University match to approximately \$38,000. This will be the only use of these funds as match.

I look forward working with the *Applicant Organization* team on this important study to advance our collective understanding of river resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oiselle Bird".

Oiselle Bird, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences

## CENTER FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EVENTS



March 8, 2023

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agricultural Conservation in the Calumet River Basin, #12345

Dear Ms. Dawson:

The Center for Community Volunteer Events' Youth Conservation Corps Program (YCC) supports *Applicant Organization* proposal. The YCC Program is a high-quality summer job program for young people age 14-21, engaging approximately 80 young people statewide in meaningful outdoor conservation work and environmental education/awareness activities. Through their service, members gain skills, confidence, and see first-hand the benefit hard work makes in providing a lasting impact for public lands and communities.

The YCC is committed to helping *Applicant Organization* with this project by providing teams of local teens working within our Summer Internship Program to aid in the summer maintenance, and installation of some of the outdoor natural spaces and rain gardens. This assistance will provide an in-kind match value of \$3,600 (12 interns working 20 hours on the project between May and September 2022 at the internship rate of \$15/hour), used exclusively for this project's match requirement. The YCC has been a regular partner with *Applicant Organization* since 2015. Through our partnership, our program has assisted in the regular summer maintenance, and special project work for over seven project sites implemented by *Applicant Organization*.

The YCC Program and Center for Community Volunteer Events support *Applicant Organization's* efforts to bring meaningful experiences with the natural world to their audience. It is our belief that they are not only teaching youth the importance of outdoor natural areas, but they are also fostering the growth of the next generation of conservationists within the community. The YCC recommends NFWF fund *Applicant Organization's* proposal.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding our support, please contact Reign Storm, YCC Program Manager at [reign.storm@ccve.com](mailto:reign.storm@ccve.com) or (101) 202-0000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryn Hill', written in a cursive style.

Bryn Hill  
Executive Director  
Center for Community Volunteer Events



**RIVER TOWNSHIP**  
Environmental Advisory Council

March 6, 2023

Ms. Rachel Dawson  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20025

Dear Ms. Dawson,

It is our understanding that *Applicant Organization*, in partnership with River School District, is applying for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, America the Beautiful Challenge grant (#12345) including a project at the Tributary Elementary School in the Fast Run Watershed. The River Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) would like to express its support for this important community project, which will be accessible to so many young students and families. The EAC has previously coordinated with *Applicant Organization* to synergize our efforts for community outreach and education about stormwater runoff and water quality in the Fast Run Watershed across River Township. We are excited to continue this collaborative work.

The proposed riparian buffer planting, rain garden, and bioswale will provide much needed stormwater controls along Fast Run headwaters, which currently sees significant flash flooding. This project directly supports and enhances the local work of the River EAC.

During the implementation phase of this project (Summer 2024), the River EAC members will work with the project partners to support community outreach and education, as well as provide volunteer recruitment and promotion assistance for public planting days. We estimate this in-kind time to be valued at \$1,680 (80hrs. @ 21/hr.) and only counted for this project, if funded.

We believe the proposed project meets the criteria for funding eligibility established by NFWF and would enhance water quality and habitat in the Fast Run Watershed. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with *Applicant Organization* staff on this important community-based stormwater management project.

Sincerely,

Forrest Treeman, Chair  
River Township  
Environmental Advisory Council



Rachel Dawson  
Program Director, National Programs  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson,

The State Department of Agriculture (DoA) supports *Applicant Organization's* 2023 application for funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's America the Beautiful Challenge to assist landowners in implementing best management practices and enhancing wildlife habitat within Lake County. This letter of support is for project #12345, "Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agricultural Conservation in the Calumet River Basin."

Through the years, DoA and *Applicant Organization* have worked together closely to achieve the common goal of completing management plans and implementation of agriculture best management practices to further water quality objectives. Additionally, the DoA's Partners for Habitat Program (PHP) is a voluntary program that assists private landowners in restoring and enhancing their property for wildlife. PHP is actively collaborating with *Applicant Organization* at several work sites throughout Lake County, including private and public lands. *Applicant Organization* also had several cooperative agreements with PHP in the past as well, including eradicating non-native, invasive reed canary grass on private lands throughout the northern part of the state. Most significantly, the *Applicant Organization* received a Developing Chartreuser grant for state funds at the beginning of 2023 to complement this specific project. The grant awarded \$200,000 towards a conservation easement on which the *Applicant Organization* will complete buffer and stream restoration practices. We are committing to counting this Developing Chartreuser grant as match for this project and will not count it towards other federal or non-federal awards.

Additional funding through NFWF's America the Beautiful Challenge will be a welcome resource to achieve the shared goals of *Applicant Organization* and DoA by expanding the opportunities to achieve this work on the ground. We strongly encourage NFWF to support the 2023 grant proposal. Questions can be directed to Dove Pájaro via email at [Dove\\_Pajaro@state-doa.gov](mailto:Dove_Pajaro@state-doa.gov).

Thank you for your consideration,

Garrett Garnet  
Partners for Habitat Program Director  
State Department of Agriculture

March 2, 2023

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20025

To Whom It May Concern:

I own and operate a vegetable farm and forested property in Lake County. I am a third-generation farmer who has grown up coming to Lake County to visit my grandparents farm where they made quality brooms out of native switchgrass, among other things. My father was an avid birdwatcher and visited the *Applicant Organization's* Centers frequently; he enjoyed exploring the woodlands across the street for birds.

I first started speaking with *Applicant Organization* about farmland practices in 2016, when I challenged a speaker to taste my hottest pepper at an outreach event at the local brewery. From there, we met on the farm and discussed programs to put my fallow land into beneficial habitat for the bees. I recognize the importance of managing your land and got involved with NRCS programs for cover crops and forest management soon after that.

Though we never completed the pollinator habitat, due to difficulties with organic site preparation, I have always had the thought in mind. I intend to pursue *Applicant Organization's* Great Waters and Land Grant to put some of my fallow field acreage into native warm season grasses and wildflowers to benefit the native bees in the area and the bees that I keep on the farm. It is my understanding that this opportunity will be partially funded by the proposal 12345 for Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agricultural Conservation in the Calumet River Basin.

I encourage the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support this project as well, as it would bring much needed assistance to this small county for farmers like me, who just want to give back to the wildlife, but need some assistance to do so. Please accept this letter of support on my behalf.

ELMAR O'SHAWN



March 7, 2023

Rachel Dawson  
National Programs Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth Street NW Suite 1100  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Stream Conservation Collaborative (SCC) stating our support and intent to collaborate with *Applicant Organization* on their project "Stream Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Agriculture Conservation in the Calumet River Basin" (#12345) for which they are applying to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) America the Beautiful Challenge.

The *Applicant Organization* is a core member of the Stream Conservation Collaborative and, in coordination with other member organizations, the Collaborative have worked together for several years supporting the planning and implementation of stream conservation projects funded by the State's conservation programs. Throughout the Fast Run Watershed, SCC staff provides technical assistance to stream conservation planners and offers a diverse suite of publications detailing stream habitat assessment, planning, implementation, on-farm trails, and research efforts. SCC intends to support with *Applicant Organization* in addressing habitat enhancements in Lake County by providing technical assistance in instream and riparian restoration project planning.

This grant is essential for furthering the impact of SCC and increase on-the-ground stream conservation outcomes. The SCC will continue to conduct outreach to landowners, which will benefit this project's engagement goals. The SCC endorses this project as it will further our goals of restoring and protecting the Fast Run streams, as well as adding value to the investment from our SCC Fund. We hope that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will approve this grant application and support the work of our partners at the *Applicant Organization*. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlin Minnow", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marlin Minnow  
Coordinator, Stream Conservation Collaborative

# Department Director Meetings with SEEC

Jamie Polley, Parks Director

Eric Lindman, DPW/Utility Director

Randy Fifrlick, Development Director

Arran Hersey, Transit Director

Matt Barnes, Police Chief

Jeremy Kopp, Fire Chief

From: Sustainability Committee  
Re: Survey on GHG Challenges and Opportunities

**Questions:**

- At your professional conferences or through continuing education, is there any discussion/preparation in your industry due to climate change?
  - *Electric equipment instead of gas. Testing mowers and smaller equipmenmt. Field painter is electric and saving a lot of \$. Looking at areas to not mow. Trail lighting is LED. Conf coursework on sustainable communities.*

**Additional Notes:**

- Would like to replace Ice Bldg in future. Could explore for green mechanicals and energy.
- Adapting to making snow. Water use and sewer.
- Have installed rain sensors, actuators on decorative fountains.
- Hanging baskets are self-watering. Napa,CA replaced baskets with community art. Baskets could be a future budget cut.
- Use a lot of natural sprays. Limit use of Round Up.
- No policy in place on any kind of chemical use.
- Newsletter items: Goats. Goat-a-palooza. Types of sprays the do use.
- Dept grows all plants in greenhouse. Extras are given away for free.
- Tree replanting to replace Ash is done carefully and considered. Leaf compost site in Parks wooded areas potential.
- Need help knowing what the threshold for change over with regards to gas engine vs electric.
- Lack of staffing to maintain new infrastructure.
- Athletic Park field turf infill is **olive pits** not crushed rubber.
- Two parking lots. Riverside and Sylvan. Really bad shape. Alternatives to asphalt?
- Could we add options to code that could be alternatives to asphalt on parking lots and driveways?
- (Stormwater credit to homeowner/developer when using permeable paver?)
  - Andy's notes: found out that permeable pavers require yearly maintenance in order to perform well. Gaps fill up with sediment. Really not a great alternative.
- Irrigate from well. Dig well within City.
- Bring Jamie in when reviewing development landscaping in ROW.

SEEC & Directors Meeting - Sept 24

DPW

Eric, Allen, Solomon, Dustin

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Winter weather has been variable. Ice storms are more expensive. Has new equipment to not use salt. Use less salt/sand...add on costs.

EV – technicians must be certified and new hazards. Impacts the design of buildings. Grid to DPW not adequate.

Charging stations located on private sites.

Solomon – propane for light - medium duty vehicles. Local company would install fueling stations on DPW site. Propane fuel is steady price. Hybrid police were supply constrained. Parking are hybrids. EV again comes around to maintenance and charging.

Foundry – wanted 24 fast charging WPS was not able to supply enough power. Unknown capacity to add more, and what demand is.

Solar Array – makes sense because of the payback. Wastewater stores methane for electric turbines and future biosolids dryer.

Cmte could be a cheerleader for DPW. Need a full list of all good city projects to promote.

Policy on building standards? Yes. Keep it broad.

Policy on development that charging stations should be included for the private sector to do.

Tracking salt use. Not increasing budget is a win.

Eric is curious about charging stations. City wants to minimize things to maintain which makes a good

Advantage is City has electrical department.

Training needed to handle EV and new training.

\$ for upfront capital costs. Need lifecycle analysis.

Solar – approve budget – Design in 2025 with construction in 2026.

## Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) Director Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

**Randy Ffirick, Development Director**

At your professional conferences or through continuing education, is there any discussion/preparation in your industry due to climate change?

- Supply chain issues/business retention has come up. We are somewhat lucky that Wisconsin is a climate haven and from a tourism standpoint this may allow us to attract more visitors.

What challenges do you foresee to providing City services due to changes in our environment/climate/extreme weather?

- Emergency preparedness is something that the City continues to strive to address. Alternative energy sources such as solar and geothermal create more independence. The City has invested significantly with the integration of PFAS removal systems. The City is in the best position to remediate brownfield sites (v. the private sector that often doesn't have the time or resources to handle brownfield clean-up). However, this is costly and time intensive and it is sometimes difficult to generate City support for these complicated projects.
- Drinking water treatment facility solar array project has stalled – likely due to funding and prioritization.
- Large scale solar array projects may not always be highest and best use of the land. Rooftop solar can maximize development opportunities.

Are there other actions, not specifically energy-related, that you'd like to pursue that fall under sustainability?

- Land use and transportation planning (e.g. bringing large scale multi-family housing to downtown) reduce automobile use and create integration between live/work/play, this maximizes efficiencies in multiple ways.
- Brownfield site clean-up continues to be a high concern. WDNR is slow to work with, site clean-up is expensive and time intensive, and it is often difficult to get buy-in for expensive projects that have a long time horizon.
- Specifically with food systems planning, he mentioned that UW-Extension may be a good partner. We also discussed the potential with a dedicated sustainability staff person and an overarching sustainability plan. Point source pollution reduction continues to be the most effective way to reduce phosphorus from farm fields.

Is there a specific action that SEEC could advocate for?

- Support for brownfield site clean-up (to get properties back on the tax rolls).

Economic drivers include – residential infill, technology based businesses, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) Director Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.**

**Arran Hersey, Transit Director**

At your professional conferences or through continuing education, is there any discussion/preparation in your industry due to climate change?

- Emissions and alternative fuel vehicles including hybrid, electric, and hydrogen fuel cell (FCEB) buses. Electric buses do not hold charge well in a cold climate. Hydrogen seems to have the most promise at this time and is being used more widely in Europe. The City of Las Vegas just purchased two for \$3 million. A regular diesel gas bus costs about 620k. Therefore, costs would need to come down to make this a reality for Wausau. He noted there are two plants (one in Madison and one in Milwaukee) that are working to refine the hydrogen fuel technology. Jay mentioned that Madison has a solar project powering hydrogen buses, more information [here](#).
- He is currently replacing ten 2009-2011 diesel buses with new diesel buses. Metro Ride has 26 diesel fuel buses and 4 paratransit buses.
- He is looking into a rideshare model that would travel to some of the larger employers in the area.
- Additionally Metro Ride is undergoing a feasibility study to determine if the current facility or an alternative location can best meet demand. He has concern that the current facility may not well accommodate future alternative fuel vehicle fueling/servicing needs. The existing building is also located within the 100 year floodplain which becomes more costly.

What challenges do you foresee to providing City services due to changes in our environment/climate/extreme weather?

- With more extreme cold or hot temperatures, the concern is to prevent people from waiting outdoors and get them into buses. This creates more idling time.

What is your interest in lowering the energy demand or using alternative energy in your department?

- It would be advantageous in a new facility to integrate solar. This could be something that the SEEC could express support for.

Are there other actions, not specifically energy-related, that you'd like to pursue that fall under sustainability?

- Continuing to look at existing routes and ensure that they are providing the best service and contain the highest ridership.
- Promotion to get people to use public transportation/ride the bus. A more forward facing phone app would help with accessibility. Google Maps does have a transit option when mapping your route. A PSA explaining how to use this could be beneficial.

- This may include expanding service lines or providing service on weekends.
- Have also considering providing bus passes to those that have financial need.

## Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) Director Meeting Notes

**Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.**

**Matt Barnes, Police Chief and Melinda Pauls, Patrol Captain**

At your professional conferences or through continuing education, is there any discussion/preparation in your industry due to climate change?

- No

What challenges do you foresee to providing City services due to changes in our environment/climate/extreme weather?

- Not specifically related to environment/extreme weather, but Chief Barnes talked about how the PD is addressing the unhoused.
- There is a need for transportation services for the public including the unhoused and there is a loss of federal funding for buses. EV buses are not practical in Wisconsin winters and this is sometimes required to receive funding.
- As of 6/1/2025, the Wausau PD began operation of the year-round homeless shelter at First United Methodist Church in Wausau. Ideally, he would like to see this transition to private or non-profit sector ownership with a funding transition likely.
  - There are four transitional housing options in Wausau, Bridge Street Mission, The Gospel TLC, The Women's Community, and The Hagar House. STP housing for men exiting prison exist but no parallel program exists for women. The Salvation Army can accommodate up to three families.
- The homeless encampments have been broken up, but he felt the only way he could break these up is if people were told they had somewhere else to go.

Are there other actions, not specifically energy-related, that you'd like to pursue that fall under sustainability?

- PD has owned hybrid vehicles (he felt the fuel savings was likely a wash with the increased vehicle cost) and he is open to other options. He does not feel that electric vehicles would provide the reliability that PD needs.
- Camera/data storage expenses have increased over the past several years.
- They did look at incorporating green initiatives into their evidence storage building that was constructed in the industrial park 6-7 years ago, but it did not cost out.
- He thought some smaller EV options could be done in the future such as electric bikes and UTVs.

Is there a specific action that SEEC could advocate for?

- He felt that it would be good for SEEC to review projects that are being considered under the CIP process.
- He thought the SEEC could advocate for the unhoused population and the need for a shelter that operates and is funded in a sustainable manner by recognizing the solution as a five-year financial commitment to achieve financial independence.

- Policy that addresses the unhoused being brought into the City of Wausau because of the vast services available here.
- Looking ahead with planning and perhaps capital funding foresight which will address aging buildings (PD building has AC/boiler that had 20 year lifespan and now after 25 years are in need of replacement).

## Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee (SEEC) Director Meeting Notes

**Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.**

**Jeremy Kopp, Fire Chief**

He noted that process is a significant factor with City government, learning to go through committee, City Council etc. He noted that it would be beneficial for the SEEC to identify which committee would make the most sense for their goals and initiatives.

At your professional conferences or through continuing education, is there any discussion/preparation in your industry due to climate change?

- No
- Note – the positions within the department have changed substantially over the past couple decades now include dive team rescue, HAZMAT, paramedic, etc.

What challenges do you foresee to providing City services due to changes in our environment/climate/extreme weather?

- Fire vehicles need to keep running in all weather due to the instruments and essential equipment that must stay charged.
- The use of foam has been substantially reduced over the past several years.
- PFAS free gear that still meets NFP standards has been purchased, and firefighters have a second set as laundering is quite extensive.

Are there other actions, not specifically energy-related, that you'd like to pursue that fall under sustainability?

- He has recently worked to fill a high number of vacancies; partnership has been essential to this, and they have partnered with NTC to help meet this need in addition to one on one training opportunities.
- He believes strategic planning and succession planning are both essential and lead to increased resiliency.
- A new facility is needed (and would hopefully be much more energy efficient).
- One recent success is the creation of a community care paramedic position. This has significantly reduced the number of 911 calls, as this individual works directly with the highest users of 911. This is a partnership between Fire Department/Aspirus/Community Foundation. 911 calls from these users have gone down 66%! Many other communities want to model after this.

Is there a specific action that SEEC could advocate for?

- CIP planning process is changing to a five year process which is a good way to look at capital goals over time.
- Much of the equipment is quite expensive, for example five AED machines will be needed in the next five years at \$160,000 per year.
- New facility is top priority that SEEC could advocate for (joint-memo?)

We also got an awesome tour!

## **Notes from UW Extension Meetings**

### **Meeting with Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator UW Extension**

#### Backyard Gardeners

- Would make a connection with Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator who provides resources and technical assistance for backyard gardeners

#### Food Stop

- Farmers like to focus on what they do best, which is growing. Food stops often need an administrative partner such as a non-profit

#### Farmer's Market

- The Wednesday/Saturday Farmer's Market in Wausau has undergone some administrative changes, it is possible they would like the SEEC to help with promotion/marketing.
- A permanent structure at a permanent location may be something the City would want to support. Outlined in the South Riverfront Plan (attached).

#### Community Gardens

- Positive thing for the community, this also requires an administrative component.

### **Meeting with Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator UW Extension**

Would be willing to conduct free 12 session course (in-person or virtual) for City of Wausau residents to teach best practices for backyard gardeners.

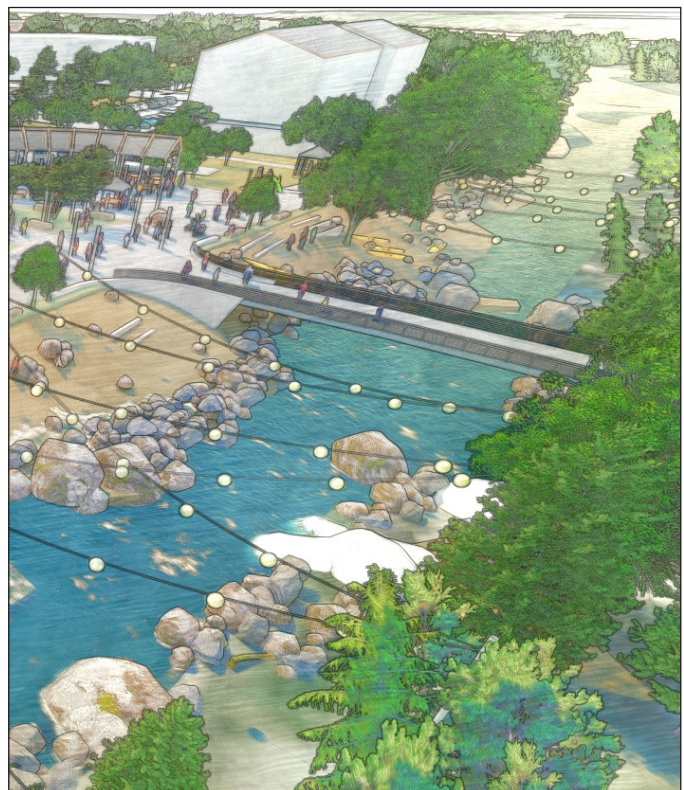
**6. Outdoor Farm Market + Plaza.** A U-shaped outdoor vendor market provides a unique venue for the farmer’s market and other vendor events. The farmer’s market and adjacent outdoor stall space along the Boardwalk can accommodate up to 80+ vendors. The structure will provide shade and shelter for a variety of user groups to enjoy the waterfront year-round. The structure will frame a round outdoor public plaza on the River Edge Boardwalk adjacent the kayak course. The public plaza will create a sticky pedestrian environment and encourage social activity among visitors to the waterfront. While not large enough to host bigger outdoor concerts like the 400 block, the plaza will feel more intimate and provide a variety of seating opportunities to support smaller concerts, kayak and farmer’s market related events.

**7. Public Market.** A year-round indoor public market is envisioned as part of the farmer’s market/outdoor plaza development. The market building, which could repurpose the old “Mill Building” or take design inspiration from it, would link River Drive to the waterfront along a strong pedestrian axis that connects the riverfront to downtown via an elevated pedestrian walkway west of River Drive just south of the Whitewater Music Hall. The market could include space for farm market vendors, food vendors, and possibly a limited commercial establishment catering to the outdoor recreation market. The facility and adjacent outdoor plaza may also provide a unique venue for smaller weddings and other special events.

**8. Pedestrian Bridge – Kayak Course.** The planned pedestrian bridge will connect both sides of the kayak course, providing accessibility to viewing areas and connectivity between the river and proposed development sites. The bridge will also serve as a viewing area for whitewater events and will likely become a destination on the riverfront.



BELOW: A formalized boardwalk includes lighting, vendor space, and expanded public viewing areas adjacent the whitewater course.

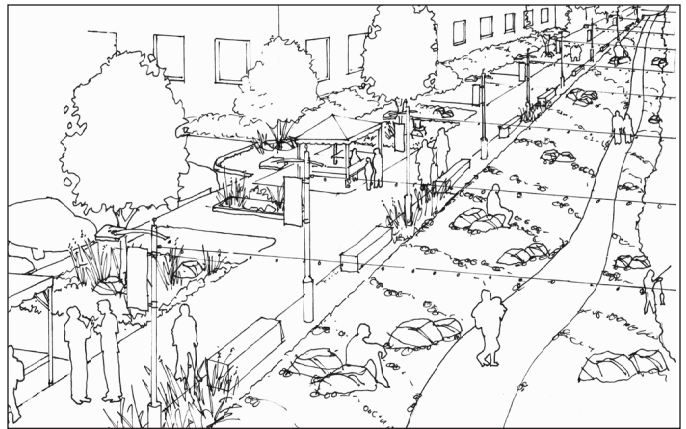




ABOVE: The proposed farmer's market and Wausau Whitewater enhancements will enhance Wausau's livability while attracting visitors and new residents to the area.



**9. Boardwalk.** This plan envisions a widened River Edge trail through the more intensively developed portion of riverfront adjacent the kayak course at the site of the current County-owned buildings. The boardwalk would continue to function as a multi-use trail, but would widen to accommodate larger event crowds, while also providing space fronting the riverfront for pop-up vendor stalls. String lights, stone seating, waterfront views, views of Rib Mountain, and proximity to the outdoor plaza and pedestrian bridge would create an iconic destination for both visitors and residents year-round.



**10. Hotel.** This plan identifies a prime hotel location at the north end of the study area. However, according to current figures there may not be sufficient market demand to warrant development. If, after the property is assembled for future redevelopment, there is still not sufficient market demand, this site would be desirable for higher density residential or mixed-use development as well.





*These perspectives are intended to serve as preliminary concepts for illustration only. Future site planning will incorporate the needs of Wasau Whitewater Corporation.*

