



OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Room Tax Commission
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Michael Marens (C) Tim VanDeYacht
Tom Neal Lindsey Lewitske
Carol Lukens

1 Discussion and possible action.

- a. Consider Room Tax funding request for Domtar Dam Modernization for \$25,000.

2 Adjournment.

Michael Martens, Chair

NOTICE POSTED AT CITY HALL (407 GRANT STREET) AND
TRANSMITTED TO THE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED NEWSPAPER

DATE: 06/17/2026
TIME: 4:00 PM
POSTED BY: Kody Hart



This meeting may be viewed on
YouTube and Channel 981 on Cable TV

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City of Wausau
(715) 261-6500 | clerk@wausauwi.gov
wausauwi.gov



Room Tax Funding Request for the Modernization of Rothschild Dam

Overview

Domtar has initiated a request for financial assistance to help modernize the Rothschild Dam. To secure the necessary funding, appeals have been made to several local entities, including the Cities of Wausau and Schofield, the Villages of Rib Mountain and Rothschild, and Marathon County.

Proposed Funding Sources

The Mayor has proposed the use of Room Tax funds to provide a \$25,000 contribution toward the project. This contribution, along with funds from other participating municipalities, will fulfill the matching funds requirement set by the Alexander Foundation for its contribution.

Justification for Room Tax Fund Utilization

The Village of Rib Mountain has justified the use of room tax tourism funds for this purpose, emphasizing that Lake Wausau is a significant tourism asset. The lake offers opportunities for boating, fishing, bird watching, and water ski shows, which enhance the region's appeal to visitors.

Financial Projection

An updated financial projection of available funds is attached for review.

From: [Doug Diny](#)
To: [MaryAnne Groat](#)
Subject: FW: City of Wausau Financial Support for Domtar Rothschild Dam Project
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026 2:50:27 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

MaryAnne,

The suggestion is \$25,000. Room tax?



Doug Diny

Mayor
City of Wausau
715-261-6800
doug.diny@wausauwi.gov
407 Grant St
Wausau WI 54403

From: Faucett, Dave <Dave.Faucett@domtar.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Mayor's Office <mayor@wausauwi.gov>; Doug Diny <Doug.Diny@wausauwi.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Wausau Financial Support for Domtar Rothschild Dam Project

You don't often get email from dave.faucett@domtar.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Mayor Diny, hope this finds you well!!

Like to take one more run at any possible way we can evaluate or formulate a financial contribution, directly or indirectly, from the City of Wausau towards the Dam Project. If each local community contributes, it lowers the individual ask for all. And even at that, relatively speaking, we are not seeking a major contribution, anything in the \$50,000 range would be incredibly helpful towards achieving the matching grant. As I stated previously, we have a matching grant opportunity that is really too good to be true and would be unfortunate to not take advantage of. Despite the State of Wisconsin Grant, the Project Costs are still very significant and impactful upon Domtar. So anything the community can do to help contribute would be beneficial to all.

The City of Schofield has stepped up and contributed, and I am still optimistic between the City of Wausau, Village of Rib Mountain, Village of Rothschild, and Marathon County we can generate enough to achieve the match of \$125,000.



David Faucett | General Manager

Rothschild Mill

T: 715.355.6363 C: 715.212.4432

200 North Grand Avenue, Rothschild, WI 54474

domtar.com

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From: Faucett, Dave

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 10:02 AM

To: Mayor Doug Diny <mayor@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Doug Diny <doug.diny@wausauwi.gov>

Subject: City of Wausau Financial Support for Domtar Rothschild Dam Project

Good morning Mayor Diny, wanted to follow up on the letter dated September 5, 2025 regarding the Rothschild Dam Modernization Project. As we have discussed and in support of the state level support Domtar has received, Domtar is seeking local financial support for the Rothschild Dam Project. The Judd S. Alexander Foundation has approved a matching grant up to \$125,000 that is contingent upon surrounding municipality support by the end of 2025. I am looking to collaborate with any City level discussions on how to contribute (direct financial support or any form of in kind contribution) to help Domtar take advantage of this matching grant in support of this mutually beneficial community project. Any suggestions or recommendations from you on how to help make that happen? I would like to discuss more in person or via phone call if possible.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration!



David Faucett | General Manager

Rothschild Mill

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2026 ROOM TAX

	<u>ROOM TAX COMMISSION</u>
Carryover from Prior Year	701,900
Room Tax Revenue 2026 PROJECTION	606,000
Room Tax Retained by Hotels	10,501
Available	<u>1,297,398</u>
ROOM TAX COMMISSION AWARDS:	
CVB	420,053
IRONBULL events	20,000
Grand Theater	30,000
4th of July	10,000
Wings over Wausau	20,000
Sports Authority - World Corn Hole Tournament	14,500
Chalkfest	2,500
Alice Partnership in Agriculture	5,000
Trail Development	398,678
Riverlife Piers	6,900
Taste and Glow	20,000
Bull Fall Bluesfest	20,000
Venture Cup	10,000
Hmong Festival	20,000
Water-Filled Bollards	7,644
Slyvan Hill Trail Development	<u>25,000</u>
Total Allocated	<u>1,030,275</u>
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION	267,123

From: [Gaylene Rhoden](#)
To: [Doug Diny](#)
Subject: RE: Domtar Dam
Date: Friday, June 5, 2026 1:01:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

See below from our Tourism Commission meeting last year:

Discussion and Action on Funding Support for Domtar Project

Administrator Rhoden presented a request for funding from Domtar for support of modernization of the Rothschild Dam. The request came through a stipulation to the Judd S. Alexander Foundation. The Village of Rib Mountain is not the only community being asked to contribute; the cities of Wausau, Village of Rothschild, and Marathon County are also being asked to contribute \$25,000 each.

Administrator Rhoden explained that the funding could be justified from the tourism fund because Lake Wausau serves as a tourism asset (bird watching, ice fishing, water ski shows, Great Pinery, Heritage Waterway, etc.). Domtar indicated that the village could use staff time and attorney's input on the road use agreement as in-kind contribution, estimated at approximately \$5,000. Kurt Schoen, the street park director, has been attending meetings every other week regarding Domtar.

The commission discussed concerns about road damage from the Domtar project and how to ensure that any contribution would help protect the village's interests regarding road repairs. After discussion, the commission determined that they could support the project with conditions regarding road issues.

Motion by Schaefer/Sillars to allow a grant of \$25,000 from tourism funds, with the stipulation that the grant will not be released until all road issues regarding the use of the roads on the Domtar project have been resolved, amounts from the grant can be used to rectify road issues at the village's discretion, and administrative costs relating to the dam project shall be taken from the \$25,000 request. Questioned and carried 5/0.

From: Doug Diny <Doug.Diny@wausauwi.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Gaylene Rhoden <GRhoden@ribmountainwi.gov>
Subject: Domtar Dam

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Gaylene,

With my finance director out, we've gotten behind getting this funding on the agenda. Can you update me on what Rib Mountain decided to do for the matching fund ask from Domtar to support the dam reconstruction?



Doug Diny

Mayor
City of Wausau
715-261-6800
doug.diny@wausauwi.gov
407 Grant St
Wausau WI 54403

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