**WDNR Office of Great Waters 2017 GLRI Focus Area 3 Grant Application: Project 1 of 5**

***Project Title:* Nine Key Element Plan Development in Upper Fox River Basin**

***LaMP:* Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) 2008**

***Project Applicant:*** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Office of the Great Waters

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***Project Managers:*** Keith Marquardt, Fox Wolf TMDL Project Manager, Water Quality Bureau

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***Project Location:***

The Nine Key Element Plans (9 Key Element Plan) will be developed within the Upper Fox River basin (specifically, a portion of HUC 12 040302030303 Pipe Creek; all of HUC 12 040302030302 Taycheedah Creek; and all of HUC 12 040302030301 De Neveu Creek watersheds), which is located in northeast Wisconsin. See attached map.

***Problem Statement:***

The Lakewide Management Annex (Annex 2) of the Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol of 2012 affirmed and refined the Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) program, which had been established in an earlier Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1978 Agreement as amended in 1987). The LAMP is intended to address “…environmental stressors that adversely affect the Waters of the Great Lakes which are best addressed on a lakewide scale through an ecosystem approach.”

The *Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) 2008* is the most recent published LAMP document for Lake Michigan (it is scheduled to be updated in 2019). The document includes a discussion of Nonpoint Source Pollution (pg. 7-9) as “the most important remaining uncontrolled source of water pollution and provides for a coordinated effort to reduce polluted runoff from a variety of sources.” Resource managers working in the Lake Michigan Basin continue to identify runoff pollution as a key stressor to the Lake Michigan ecosystem.

9 Key Element Plans are important for creating that “coordinated effort to reduce polluted runoff from a variety of sources” as they provide detailed information about the feasible management measures that can be implemented to address sources of phosphorus and sediment within a watershed. The plans provide the basis for the many partners working in the area to coordinate their efforts and ensure that the most effective best management practices are selected and implemented in the appropriate locations.

These 9 Key Element Plans contribute to meeting the 2008 LaMP goal “To restore and protect the integrity of the Lake Michigan ecosystem through collaborative, place-based partnerships.” Subgoals that are met by the plan include the following:

3. “Can we swim in the water?”

6. “Are land use, recreation, and economic activities sustainable and supportive of a healthy ecosystem?”

7. “Are sediment, air, land, and water sources or pathways of contamination that affect the integrity of the ecosystem?”

10. “Is collaborative ecosystem management the basis for decision-making in the Lake Michigan basin?”

Development of 9 Key Element Plans in the Upper Fox River Basin is identified as a necessary action for the implementation of the Upper Fox Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); however, funding for the development of the 9 Key Element Plan is limited.

In addition, to date, 9 Key Element Plans for the Upper Fox Basin sub-watersheds have not been completed. County Land & Water Conservation Departments typically prepare the 9 Key Element Plans however, none of the Counties located within the Upper Fox have experience with 9 Key Element plan preparation. Having Counties familiarize themselves and gain experience with 9 Key Element Plan preparation is key to implementation and implementation funding opportunities. Wisconsin DNR staff will be available to assist County staff and will use this opportunity to build County capacity for the preparation of additional 9 Key Element Plans.

***Proposed Work:***

Fond du Lac County Land & Water Conservation Department staff will prepare two 9 Key Element Plans that are consistent with EPA Guidance and the Upper Fox River TMDL. One of the watersheds contains both an urban portion and rural portion; while one watershed is primarily rural. The project will involve collecting inventory data from the field for nonpoint source pollution control, as well as collecting and utilizing existing data to develop the 9 Key Element Plans. The 9 Key Element Plans, when completed, will be sent to EPA’s Nonpoint Source Program (Section 319 of Clean Water Act) staff for review and approval. Once approved, the goal is to utilize the plans to guide project implementation and obtain funding for implementation.

***Collaboration with Partners:***

This project builds on existing partnerships between WDNR and the counties in the Upper Fox River watershed, and would also include recruiting municipalities so that efficiencies can be obtained while developing the urban portion of the plans.

***Timetable:***

Project duration: August 15, 2017 through December 31, 2019

9 Key Element Plan - Upper Fox River (HUC 12 040302030302 Taycheedah Creek; HUC 12 040302030301 De Neveu Creek; and portion of HUC 12 040302030303 Pipe Creek)

August 2017 – April 2018: Collect, organize, and assess existing data for watersheds and identify additional data needs

April – July 2018: collect additional data via meetings with landowners and field inventory

July – October 2018: data analyses

October – December 2018: prepare draft plan

December 2018 – January 2019: public comment period (if necessary)

March 2019: submit draft to WDNR for review

May 2019: final draft submittal to EPA

May 2019 – December 2019: EPA 9 Key plan review and grant close-out

Quarterly reporting will be due on: October 15, January 15, April 15 and July 15 of each year of the grant.

***Deliverables***:

Two 9 Key Element Plans located within the Upper Fox River basin that are consistent with EPA Guidance and the Upper Fox River TMDL. The 9 Key Element Plans may be in final draft version, since the time necessary for EPA review and approval is variable and creates uncertainty for the date by which a final document may be delivered. The 9 Key Element Plans will provide the sources of sediment and total phosphorus (detailed field inventory), recommended best management practices to address the sediment and total phosphorus loads, schedule of implementation (if funded), information and education activities, tracking and monitoring of implementation, and the estimated budget to complete these activities. 9 Key Element Plan development is a collaborative effort between county land and water conservation departments, landowners, municipalities, and the WDNR.

***Project Budget:***

Budget Table:

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Year August 15, 2017 - December 31, 2019** |
| Personnel/Salaries | 0 |
| Fringe Benefits (25%) | 0 |
| Travel (5,000 miles @ $0.555/mile) | 0 |
| Equipment | 0 |
| Supplies | 0 |
| Contractual: | 0 |
| Other Costs | $50,000.00 |
| Total Direct Charges | $50,000.00 |
| Indirect Charges (14.92%) | 0 |
| **Total Cost** | $50,000.00 |
|  |  |

***Budget Detail:***

All project costs are accounted for as a pass-through item with Fond du Lac County.

***Project Location Map***

