

October 10, 2022

David Grandmaison  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
715-817-8510

Re: Quarterly Report and Invoice – Allouez Bay Marsh Bird Conservation Design

Dear Mr. Grandmaison:

From June through August of 2022, Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) has continued regular communication with the Allouez Bay Restoration Project Site Team, including a June meeting with the full team and multiple meetings with key team members regarding project planning. The June focused on collecting the feedback of partners as we moved to all mechanical methodology for the phase 1 scope, after some partners and community members had expressed concern about the use of herbicide. After this feedback was collected, AGL worked with WDNR to draft a budget and pre-proposal for GLRI funding beginning in 2023.

Also in June, Wisconsin Conservation Manager Tom Prestby and Senior Wetland Conservation Manager Andy Hinckle traveled to the project site for a field visit with WDNR to inform recommendations for management to be discussed during the June partner meeting and to visit and evaluate the potential for restoration at additional sites in the estuary. These sites, including sites on the Nemadji River, the east side of Wisconsin Point Road, and other areas in the estuary will be considered for monitoring and future restoration during the next phase of GLRI funding for the project.

The Phase 1 scope was finalized during this period, after being revised to incorporate planned changes in methodology. AGL and WDNR revised the scope and the project team was afforded a month to provide suggested edits and comments. Only very minor comments were received and incorporated. The finalized scope will be used to begin the permitting and design processes in Q4 of 2022.

Barr Engineering was hired to conduct bathymetry and Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) surveys in Allouez Bay. During this reporting period, Barr developed a project scope and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for the project, which AGL and WDNR provided revisions to, and agreed to. Barr communicated with AGL and WDNR during regular calls and prepared for field work which was conducted early during Q4. AGL and WDNR worked with WDNR Quality Specialist Donalea Dinsmore to provide an addendum to the existing project QAPP, detailing the work which Barr would conduct.

NRRI retrieved the Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) that were installed in the same locations as in 2021. Data is being stored digitally at NRRI and will be summarized in Q4. One ARU was mounted on a tree that fell into the water, so the amount of data that will be retrievable from this ARU is unknown. After this reporting period, NRRI conducted St. Louis River Estuary fall migration point counts in September. NRRI will complete point counts, summarize data, and communicate data to the partner team in Q4.

AGL orchestrated a major political outreach event in August, when US Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI) and staff visited the project at Wisconsin Point. Most project partners were in attendance and AGL received positive feedback on the event from several partners. The visit focused on the broad goals of the project as well as publicly thanking Senator Baldwin for supporting GLRI funding. The event was covered by Wisconsin Public



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Radio, NBC Duluth, and CBS Duluth. AGL staff and project partners gave interviews to these outlets, enhancing outreach for the project. A videographer from National Audubon Society collected video and interviews and is currently constructing outreach material with the video. In July, AGL put out a media advisory about community science needs in the SLRE, and interviewed with reporters from the Cloquet Pine Journal, CBS Duluth, and Minnesota Public Radio who published stories advertising the community science outreach effort in the St Louis River Estuary to local community members.

AGL will work with WDNR to interpret Barr Engineering's bathymetry and OHWM delineation deliverables and communicate the results to partners during the next quarter. AGL will continue to coordinate the planning of phase 1 of the project with the restoration project site team, and hire a design contractor for phase 1 restoration. AGL will also work with NRRRI to obtain the full survey results. Finally, AGL will work with WDNR in securing GLRI funding for the execution of phase 1 construction and planning for phase 2.

From June through August, we have spent and are invoicing for a total of **\$55,092.51**

Thank you for your partnership.

*Tom Prestby*

Wisconsin Conservation Manager  
Audubon Great Lakes  
National Audubon Society