



National Audubon Society, Inc, #13 – 1624102
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10014

January 10, 2023

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 September through November of 2022, Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) has continued regular communication with the Allouez Bay Restoration Project Site Team, including an October in-person meeting with the full team and multiple meetings with key team members regarding project planning. The October meeting focused on presenting the finalized scope and receiving feedback from partners, communicating other project updates to partners, and strategizing communications with key stakeholders going forward, especially Douglas County. The meeting resulted in the formation of a subcommittee tasked with improving outreach to Douglas County and other local stakeholders, and in November, project updates were presented to the Douglas County Land Conservation Committee, the Douglas County Land Development Committee, and the Wisconsin Point Committee by members of this subcommittee. A field trip to the project site, led by WDNR, was conducted with Douglas County and City of Superior officials, including the Mayor of Superior and thought to be a major success and step forward in communications.

In early October, Wisconsin Conservation Manager Tom Prestby and Senior Wetland Conservation Manager Andy Hinickle joined WDNR and MLT to assess and evaluate a restoration project at Grassy Point in Duluth, MN where similar methods to what are proposed in this project were used. The group discussed lessons learned, such as doing some restoration in the public eye if possible, and options for the placement of excavation spoils.

During this reporting period, Barr Engineering (Barr) conducted a bathymetry assessment in the shallower areas of Allouez Bay, and merged their data with USACE data from the deeper areas of Allouez Bay. Therefore, we now have a detailed figure and shapefile containing current bathymetry information for Allouez Bay, which will inform the scoping of future phases of this project, and other projects. Barr also conducted an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) evaluation for the wetland complex in Allouez Bay. During the first portion of the assessment, officials from WDNR, Douglas County, and City of Superior were present. During the second portion in which the wetland was analyzed in detail, WDNR and AGL members were present. Barr communicated with AGL and WDNR during regular calls and prepared numerous drafts of figures and multiple drafts of a memo communicating the findings of the OHWM determination. The memo and figures were submitted to Kyle McLaughlin, WDNR NR Program Coordinator after this reporting period in early January 2023. Once accepted, the OHWM determination will aid the permitting process for Phase 1 construction later in 2023. The cost of this task will be slightly higher than originally anticipated because of the detail in the second field survey that was added to the scope and multiple rounds of figure and memo drafts which were not in the scope but deemed important enough to add to this deliverable.

NRRI conducted the final fall migration surveys in the St. Louis River Estuary in Q4, which completes field work for this phase of the project and this contract. They used species-specific finders that were built in 2022 to detect focal species from Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) that were installed in Allouez Bay. NRRI also entered all data from 2022 and error-checked the data. Data from the entire project period was error-checked. NRRI will

complete the final report and communicate the data to the Allouez Bay Restoration Project Site Team in Q1 of 2023.

AGL continued to assist WDNR in drafting a budget and pre-proposal for GLRI funding beginning in August 2023. The current contract between WDNR and AGL was extended to expire on August 31, 2023, instead of January 31, 2023. The no-cost extension was approved by EPA in December 2022. This allows AGL to continue to manage the project before the second GLRI contract is awarded, and affords more time to hire a contractor to deliver design and permitting for phase 1 restoration. As described in previous reports, these deliverables were delayed due to unforeseen significant delays during scoping, due to revision of methods after concern from project Partners and landowners (Douglas County). The extension also affords AGL more time to complete the data visualization tool for the St. Louis River Estuary.

Tom Prestby was interviewed by The North 103.3FM based in Duluth, MN on their “Green Visions” segment, discussing the restoration benefits of the project and how interested people can become involved. AGL continues to edit a video that will feature sound bites from partners and footage from the August 2022 project visit. This piece will be a promotional and educational short video.

In Q1 of 2023, AGL will continue to work with WDNR to advance partner relationships for the project and secure funding for the execution of phase 1 construction and phase 2 planning. A RFB for design and construction of phase one has been drafted after this reporting period, and will be circulated to contractors early in Q1 of 2023. A contractor will be hired and work on these deliverables will begin in Q1.

From June through August, we have spent and are invoicing for a total of **\$50,956.98**

Thank you for your partnership.

Tom Prestby

Wisconsin Conservation Manager
Audubon Great Lakes
National Audubon Society