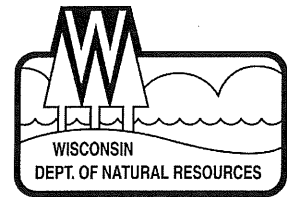


State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
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August 6, 2019

Mr. Guy Smith
Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
9480 W. Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Dear Mr. Smith;

We are very excited to provide confirmation that funding is available for the Area of Concern (AOC) Program Supervisor position at Milwaukee County Parks. A significant portion of identified management actions, across several beneficial use impairments within the Milwaukee Estuary AOC, are located on Milwaukee County property and/or require a significant level of management from County staff for successful management action/project identification, planning, and implementation. The hiring of this new staff person will help significantly in Milwaukee's goal of becoming a priority AOC and the anticipated ramp up of project implementation between now and 2024.

Regarding the funding for this position, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has submitted a formal request to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) to include the first year of the position funding as part of the Little Menomonee River Corridor Habitat Restoration project. **WDNR has approximately \$1,970,000 of federal funds currently available to be awarded to the County for this project which includes funding for County staff.** An additional funding request was recently accepted by EPA and will add to the County's budget for this project to ensure adequate funding for the first year of this position (position costs estimated to be ~\$100,000 to \$125,000). The additional funds are anticipated to be available by October 2019. The project team is also seeking supplemental funds from the Fund for Lake Michigan.

WDNR is strongly committed to ensuring the County has the support needed to continue working on AOC projects and has been working closely with EPA to provide longer term funding for this position. WDNR has formally requested additional funds from EPA for future years. It is anticipated that additional funds for year 2 and beyond will be available starting April 2020.

Sincerely



Stephen G. Galarneau, Director
Office of Great Waters - *Great Lakes & Mississippi River*
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc:

Jen Francis, CPRP, LEED AP - Deputy Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Rebecca Fedak - Lake Michigan Field Supervisor, WDNR