

Town of Barksdale
Bayfield County, Wisconsin
71115 Ondossagon Rd.
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-3323

January 28, 2010

Re: Letter of Support for Bayfield County's Application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and/or other Federal Agencies for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Funding as part of Funding Opportunity No. EPA-R5-GL2010-1

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in support of Bayfield County's application to the U.S. EPA-GLRI for the funding to address important nonpoint source pollution, wetland monitoring and invasive species and habitat concerns in the Whittlesey Creek and Fish Creek watersheds of the Lake Superior Basin. The county has an excellent record of resolving nonpoint source problems through use of "Slow the Flow" best management practices and engineer designed practices including culvert sizing and installation, fish passage, wetland restoration and shoreline and bank stabilization.

Bayfield County and its partners have assisted the Town and its citizens with numerous conservation projects over the years. Farmers and the Town's natural resources have benefitted from design and cost-share for practices including detention basins, farm road upgrades and culvert replacements, as well as livestock yard improvements, for example. The techniques reduce erosion, sedimentation and nutrient runoff, thereby improving the health of our waterways that are tributaries to Lake Superior. Landowners and our natural resources have benefitted from projects including wetland restorations and reforestation. Recently, the Town has benefitted by partnering with the County to replace several failing culverts. The projects corrected safety concerns, reduced erosion and restored fish passage. Notably, a \$350,000+ project completed during the summer of 2009, has restored fish passage throughout the entire Whittlesey Creek watershed. The effort involved designing an innovative culvert with baffles in order to overcome challenges posed by site conditions. This costly project required the County to collaborate with nine partners who could contribute funding, labor, supplies and/or materials. The Town of Barksdale is extremely appreciative of the County's resource protection efforts and their ability to provide assistance to a Town that covers a large geographic area and has very limited tax-base. As in the past, the Town will partner with the County whenever possible by contributing labor, equipment, supplies, materials and funding.

In summary, the County has an experienced team of professionals from their Land and Water Conservation, Land Records, Tourism, and Zoning Departments leading area conservation efforts. They are trusted fiscal managers. The County also has well established partnerships with regional federal, state and municipal entities, non-governmental organizations such as Trout Unlimited and FishAmerica Foundation, and most importantly, credibility with private landowners where the conservation work needs to occur.

The health of Lake Superior and Chequamegon Bay is central to the culture, economy, and the quality of life in our community and surrounding communities on Lake Superior. The GLRI Grant will allow the county to expand an already successful program of resource protection.

Sincerely,



John Nyara
Supervisor, Barksdale Town Board