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Parks, Recreation & Forestry

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TO: Wisconsin Point Committee Members

FROM: Linda M Cadotte, Director

DATE: February 3, 2021

RE: **Wisconsin Point Committee Meeting Agenda**
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 5:00 p.m.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

Due to the current COVID-19 Emergency, the Wisconsin Point Committing meeting is available by internet or phone through Zoom. You may access this meeting via the link or phone number below.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243865973>

Or Dial in +1 (312) 626-6799. Please use Meeting ID: 842 4386 5973 and Password: 631389

The Wisconsin Point Committee Mission Statement is: Implementing of the Wisconsin Point Area Management Plan directives, policy development and monitoring.

1. Approval of minutes from July 22, 2020
2. *Evan Larson (UW Platteville):* Restoring Cultural Fire to Pine Woodlands on Wisconsin Point
3. *Gini Breidenbach (Minnesota Land Trust):* Allouez Bay Restoration Concept Plan
4. Allouez Bay March Breeding Bird Habitat Restoration Project
5. Trail Segment Update- Wisconsin Point Road to Lot #1
6. Director's Update
7. Next meeting May 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that a majority of the members of the Common Council may be present at the meeting, and although this may constitute a quorum of the Common Council, the council will not take any action at this meeting.

The City of Superior complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are in need of an accommodation to participate in the public meeting process, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 715-395-7270, or email parks@ci.superior.wi.us by 4:30 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting. The City will attempt to accommodate any request depending on the amount of notice we receive.

In compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws, this agenda was posted: Government Center, Court House, & Public Library, emailed to: Daily Telegram, February 3, 2021

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PREVIEW

Status: Submitted

PI Name: Evan Larson

Proposal Title: Nimaawanji'idimin Giiwitaashkodeng: Reconnecting People, Land, and Forest to Promote Traditional Landuse Practices, Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency, and Indigenous Food Sovereignty

RFP Name: Sea Grant FY 2022-2024 (02/01/2022 - 01/31/2024)

RFP Phase: Pre-Proposal

Keyword: fire, Ishkode, Anishinaabe, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Wisconsin Point, Minnesota Point, tree rings, culturally-modified trees

Project Initiation: 02/01/2022

Project Completion: 01/31/2024

SG PRE-PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

- 3 **Title**
Nimaawanji'idimin Giiwitaashkodegn: Reconnecting People, Land, and Forest to Promote Traditional Landuse Practices, Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency, and Indigenous Food Sovereignty

 - 4 **Principal Investigator & Affiliation (Department and Organization), Percent Effort Committed to Project and Email Address**
Evan Larson, Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 75% effort committed to project (as part of sabbatical leave), larsonev@uwplatt.edu

 - 5 **Co-Principal Investigator(s) & Affiliation (Department and Organization), Percent Effort Committed to Project and Email Address**

 - 6 **Associate Investigator(s) & Affiliation (Department and Organization) and Email Address**
Melonee Montano, Fathom Tribal Fire LLC, fathom.fire@gmail.com
Robin Kimmerer, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, rkimmer@esf.edu

 - 7 **Begin Date**
2/1/2022

 - 8 **End Date**
1/31/2024

 - 9 **Name of Campus Administering Project**
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

 - 10 **Focus Area**
Targeted Focus Area: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Underrepresented Coastal Communities
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11 Specific Program Priority (Only required for base focus areas and non-research education projects)

12 Statement of Problem or Opportunity to be Addressed

Centuries of structural genocide enacted through the tools of settler-colonialism including broken treaties, state and federal policies aimed to disappear extant and vital Indigenous cultures, and extractive perspectives levied toward ecological communities have forced a removal of many Great Lakes Anishinaabeg communities from their ancestral lands, ceremonies, culture, and lifeways. The trauma caused by these actions affects the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, social, and political health of many in these communities and is a root cause of the disparities in education, wealth, and justice evident across Wisconsin, Minnesota, and elsewhere. The violence of these actions affected the settler-colonialist culture, as well, as evidenced by the calls for social justice embodied in the Black Lives Matter movement being met with anger, hate, and racism emboldened by our current politics that struggle to balance an idealized perspective of moral superiority with the reality of economic and social systems founded on injustice that enabled the material wealth of the dominant white culture.

Human communities are not the only ones to bear the weight of this history. Broken relationships among people, land, and the community of life historically maintained through Indigenous land stewardship are also apparent. Coastal red pine communities around the Great Lakes illustrate the combined effects of these events. Diminished through widespread logging, coastal development, and ecological succession driven by practices of fire suppression, the few lingering legacy stands of open-grown red pine found at places like Wisconsin and Minnesota Point are linked to Anishinaabe lifeways and identity. Ethnographic context coupled with a growing network of tree-ring-based fire history records clearly link Ishkode and the engagement with fire as an active member of the more-than-human community to the maintenance of these pine barren communities. The legacies of these fires are still evident in the arching trunks of old-growth red pine trees that carry fire scars at their bases, but the forests around them have changed. Exclusion of Indigenous values, perspectives, and participation in the management of these coastal communities has reduced the resiliency and biodiversity of coastal ecosystems, with dire impacts on the Anishinaabeg inherently connected to these landscapes.

13 Overall Project Goal, Objectives and/or Hypothesis to be Tested

Our overall goal is to better understand the role of people and Indigenous fire stewardship in the establishment and maintenance of coastal pine communities in the Great Lakes Region. This will be accomplished through engagement with Anishinaabeg communities to gather oral histories and traditional knowledge together with historical records and tree-ring data to enhance understanding of the socio-ecological history of coastal pine forest communities on the lands currently referred to as Wisconsin Point and Minnesota Point. In so doing, we hope to build awareness of the importance of these places to Great Lakes Anishinaabeg communities and cultivate the necessary relationships and motivations to return cultural fire to these lands through collaborative action among tribal, city, and state partners. Such actions will honor the Treaty Rights governing access to these Ceded Lands and offer an important gathering point from which to advance the process of healing. To achieve this goal, our specific objectives are to:

1. develop an ethnographic compendium of Native Experiential Knowledge (NEK; also referred to as Traditional Ecological Knowledge), oral histories, and stories connected to the lands now referred to as Wisconsin and Minnesota Point, with particular attention given to the themes of community gatherings to harvest blueberries and Indigenous fire stewardship;
 2. reconstruct a multi-century history of low-severity surface fire activity on Wisconsin and Minnesota Points based on the growth rings of remnant fire-scarred red pine trees and stumps;
 3. exactly date the creation of culturally-modified trees on both sites through tree-ring analysis to enable comparison of the timing of their creation to past surface fire events;
 4. integrate the ethnographic compendium and tree-ring data through a series of participatory workshops to co-produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) around fire stewardship that outlines the required steps to reintroduce cultural fire to Wisconsin and Minnesota Points in a good way;
 5. co-create a dual-language illustrated children's book (English and Anishinaabemowin) about the relationships among people, fire, pines, and blueberries in collaboration with members of the Indigenous communities engaged through the community workshops to broadly disseminate the results of this work to a non-scientific audience.
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14 Approach

Semi-structured interviews with tribal community members will be led by Melonee Montano, Traditional Ecological Knowledge Specialist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and owner of Fathom Tribal Fire LLC, to gather oral histories and Traditional Knowledge about the Wisconsin and Minnesota Point landforms, the importance of these places as gathering locations during annual blueberry harvests, and how people interacted with the land and community of life there through Indigenous fire stewardship. In parallel, we will share tree-ring research from the region to explore how analyses of fire-scarred stumps and culturally-modified trees (CMT) could contribute to this project with the intent of developing a respectful sampling protocol to create a tree ring-based history of fire and CMTs on both sites. Preliminary research in 2016 dated four fire-scarred red pine stumps that recorded seven low-severity surface fire events at Minnesota Point from 1759–1868. Eight CMTs documented on Minnesota Point in 2016 and 16 more CMTs inventoried on Wisconsin Point in 2020 create the possibility of dating the scars on these trees to potentially provide quantitative links between Anishinaabe presence and this fire activity. The tree-ring research will be conducted as a mentored research experience for undergraduate students recruited from area universities and tribal colleges and hosted by the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (LSNERR). Collaboration with community members will guide the integration of the interview results and tree-ring data to prepare the fire stewardship MOU.

Dissemination of this work will be achieved through scientific publication and outreach and interpretive materials developed in partnership with the LSNERR for display in the Lake Superior Estuarium. The illustrated children's book mentioned above was outlined through a previous effort (<http://archsynth.org/people,-fire,-and-pines-.html>) and will be revised in collaboration with Robin Kimmerer, reviewed by participating Elders and community members, and collaboratively translated into Anishinaabemowin by fluent speakers engaged through the project. This book will be illustrated by artist Moira Villiard, a Fond du Lac direct descendant of mixed settler and Indigenous heritage, published by Black Bears and Blueberries Press, an Indigenous-owned non-profit based in Duluth, and incorporated into the LSNERR Rivers2Lake curriculum.

15 Potential Impacts

The integration of NEK and tree-ring data will illustrate the interconnections of people, fire, and the community of life at the culturally- and ecologically-significant convergence of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River while promoting Treaty Rights on the Ceded Lands of the Anishinaabeg. This effort will follow best practices and advance multiple goals outlined in the Traditional & Local Knowledge Sea Grant vision document to help advance a watershed moment in how we envision our relationship to each other and the land. The illustrated children's book will celebrate the power of stories to help people re-imagine the relationships among people and our more-than-human relatives and more clearly recognize ourselves as an integral part of the history and dynamics of systems like the red pine woodlands on Wisconsin and Minnesota Points. The fire stewardship MOU will weave cultural, ecological, and safety knowledge and considerations to offer a collaborative path forward that promotes justice through re-engagement with traditional practices at a culturally-significant place to rejuvenate a key Indigenous food resource. The outcomes of this work will promote access to coastal resources and traditional practices intimately linked with the health and resilience of fire-dependent coastal ecosystems and the Anishinaabeg who suffered declines following European colonization of the Great Lakes Region.

The specific users of the fire stewardship MOU include the City of Superior, the City of Duluth, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Areas Program, who collectively oversee management of Wisconsin and Minnesota Points. These partners were consulted in the development of this proposal and are committed to supporting this work. The tribal communities engaged through this work will be served through collective action that promotes recognition of the human connections to not just the physical landscape, but to the fundamental dynamics of the socio-ecological systems thereon. The ideal outcome of this work is a gathering of new partnerships around the culturally-significant and healing spirit of fire that restores connections to place and models how this approach could be employed throughout the Great Lakes Region to promote Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Underrepresented Coastal Communities.

16 Approximate Year 1 Annual Budget Request

\$119,513

17

Year 1 Annual Budget Justification

a) Salaries

\$27,500; including \$21,500 for 1.2 summer month and 1.6 academic year salary (to back-fill for a 1-year sabbatical leave) for Evan Larson; \$3,000 each for two undergraduate research fellowships for students recruited from existing educational networks between LSNERR and UW-Superior, Fond du Lac Tribal Community College, Lac Courte Oreille Community College, and University of Minnesota Duluth; these students will participate in some of the of community workshops and focus primarily on conducting the tree-ring sampling and analyses for the project; LSNERR has offered access to laboratory space to host Larson and the student researchers.

b) Fringe benefits

\$10,095; fringe rate applied of 45% for faculty and 7% for students during FY2022–23

c) Equipment

No equipment requested

d) Supplies

\$200 for tree-ring sampling and analysis supplies

e) Field travel

\$5,000; Robin Kimmerer, acclaimed author, celebrated storyteller, and expert on the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science, has committed to participating in many of the community workshops and collaborating on the development of the English version of the illustrated children's book; while not requesting compensation, Robin has asked for her travel to be covered to enable her full participation in the project; the requested funds will cover travel for Larson and Kimmerer to participate in community workshops and engage project partners

f) Publications

\$1000 first installment with Black Bears and Blueberries Press (<http://www.blackbearsandblueberries.com/>) to begin process of layout and publication of the illustrated children's book

g) Other costs including printing, mailing, workshops, contracts/subawards

i. Consultant Services: \$38,000

NOTE: Much of the work proposed here is dependent on relationships. These relationships take time to build and a deep understanding of the appropriate and respectful protocols with which to engage others, especially Elders and those whose information, memories, and wisdom we would ask to share. The budget for Consultants in this proposal is higher than that for a typically Sea Grant research proposal but is structured to engage members of the Indigenous communities that stand most to benefit from this work. The specific consultants listed below are based on my personal relationships that have developed through a shared interest and engagement with the fundamental motivations for this work. The consultant costs listed below provide the most likely pathway for this project to be conducted successfully and to reach the greatest potential impact on the communities involved as we see it. We appreciate your consideration of the unique aspects of the work described above when reviewing the proposed budget.

i.a. TEK Interview and Community Meetings:

\$30,000 to Fathom Tribal Fire LLC (<https://www.fathomtribalfire.com/>) to cover effort, travel, and logistics for outreach, relationship building activities, and interviews with members of tribal communities engaged as partners through this work to gather and organize Indigenous Knowledge related to Wisconsin and Minnesota Points and traditional uses of fire. Fathom Tribal Fire LLC is an Indigenous Woman-owned and operated business that specializes in gathering and disseminating Traditional Knowledge and wildland fire operations and planning. This company is operated by Melonee Montano, who is also an employee and the TEK expert with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). The nature of this work is better aligned with Fathom Tribal Fire LLC than GLIFWC and an arrangement will be made to balance Melonee's time dedicated to this project and her GLIFWC duties. GLIFWC will assist with the dissemination of the results. Previous collaboration with Melonee and her partner Damon Panek assisted the blending of tree-ring data and traditional knowledge as part of the People, Fire, and Pines project (http://archsynth.org/files/Coalition-for-Archaeological-Synthesis-Newsletter_Volume-3-2-.pdf) funded by the Coalition for Archeological Synthesis (<http://archsynth.org/index.html>).

i.b Graphic Design;

\$8,000 to Moira Villiard (<https://www.artbymoira.com/>) for the creation of 16 illustrations to be used in the Children's book.

Moira is a visual artist whose work engages issues of equity, justice, sustainability, and acknowledgement of Indigenous land, culture, and history. She is a direct descendant of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, grew up on the Fond du Lac Reservation, and is a young and rising professional artist based in Duluth, Minnesota. She was previously commissioned on Sea Grant-funded research to create a series of illustrations about Mahnomen (wild rice; <https://artmoira.wixsite.com/mahnomen-illustratio>), one of which led me to contact her about potentially illustrating the proposed children's book (the work titled "Before Endings and Beginnings").

ii. Workshops

\$5,000 to cover travel costs, food, and lodging for members of Indigenous communities engaged through interviews and workshops

h) Indirect costs

\$32,718 based on an indirect cost rate of 40%

18

Approximate Year 2 Annual Budget Request

\$119,825

19

Year 2 Annual Budget Justification

a) Salaries

\$21,500 for 1.5 summer months and 1.6 academic year salary (includes partial back-fill for sabbatical leave) for Evan Larson

b) Fringe benefits

\$12,400; fringe rate applied of 48% for faculty and 8% for students during FY 2023–24

c) Equipment

No equipment requested

d) Supplies

No supplies requested

e) Field travel

\$5,000 requested to cover travel for Larson and Kimmerer to participate in community workshops and engage project partners

f) Publications

\$12,000 to Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing for layout and first printing of 1000 copies of a 40-page hardcopy book with JS Print Group, also based in Duluth, MN

g) Other costs including printing, mailing, workshops, contracts/subawards

i. Consultant Services: \$27,499

i.a. TEK Interview and Community Meetings (Fathom Tribal Fire LLC):

\$19,999 to cover costs associated with additional interviews, as well as for leading community-based workshops to collaboratively develop the Fire Stewardship plan for Wisconsin and Minnesota Points and to guide the collaborative review of the English language version of the children's book and its translation into Anishinaabemowin

i.b. Graphic Design (Moira Villiard);

\$7,500 for the creation of 15 illustrations to be used in the Children's book

ii. Workshops

\$4,000 to cover travel costs, food, and lodging for interview and workshop participants;

h) Indirect costs

\$33,093 based on an indirect cost rate of 40%

INVESTIGATOR CV UPLOAD

Response 1

- 1 Investigator CV Upload (Mandatory for lead PI, others optional)
CV Larson.pdf
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Response 2

- 1 Investigator CV Upload (Mandatory for lead PI, others optional)
CV Montano.pdf
-

Response 3

- 1 Investigator CV Upload (Mandatory for lead PI, others optional)
CV Kimmerer.pdf
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St. Louis River Landscape Conservation Design

Allouez Bay Level 2 Analysis (Restoration Concept Plan) Process

1/15/2021

The process and timeline for develop a concept plan for restoration of Allouez Bay is described below.

Preparation of Draft Concept with Natural Resources Community (Minnesota Land Trust)

1. Organizational Meeting – late January/early February 2021
 - a. Describe LCD project and Allouez Bay opportunity
 - b. Describe objectives and intended outcome of process
 - c. Share Spirit Lake Concept Plan as example
 - d. Discuss available data
 - e. Ask for commitments for analysis and write up of existing data
2. “What We Know” Meeting – late February/early March 2021
 - a. Presentations from partners on data analysis and findings
 - b. Group discussion on overall condition and agency priorities
3. “What Do We Want” Meeting – April 2021
 - a. Identify priorities spatially
 - b. Identify potential conflicts, compromises, etc.
 - c. Discuss and agree on draft concept plan
4. Develop Draft Concept Plan graphical depiction and document

Seek Input from Community Interests for Inclusion in Draft Concept Plan (Lake Superior Reserve)

5. Lake Superior Reserve hosts on-site community input sessions that solicit information on (June-July 2021)
 - a. Historic ecological conditions, especially related to fishing, hunting, birding, trapping and cultural uses of plants,
 - b. Current ecological conditions and recreational/subsistence activities on Allouez Bay and
 - c. Ecological restoration efforts that support future recreational and subsistence activities.
6. Discuss and Refine Draft Concept Plan Meeting – July 2021
 - a. Discuss any desired revisions based on community input

Finalize Concept Based on Community and Natural Resources Input (Minnesota Land Trust and Lake Superior Reserve)

7. Presentation of Final Concept Meeting – August 2021
 - a. Present initial concepts, and revisions or alternatives based on input received
 - b. Discuss issues, opportunities, and next steps
8. Final Concept Plan to be shared with LCD work products and other venues

W St. Louis River Estuary ~ Allouez Bay Breeding Marsh Bird Restoration

Purpose: Restore and enhance coastal wetlands in the St. Louis River estuary to improve habitat for Great Lakes breeding marsh birds. (Audubon priority location)

Goals & Deliverables:

- Scope/Design 120 acre hemi-marsh restoration to improve habitat structure diversity for marsh breeding birds in Allouez Bay.
- Complete avian baseline surveys in WI to inform development of LCD estuary wide bird plan/objectives and additional habitat protection/restoration projects.

Request: \$450,000

Timeline: March 2021 – December 2022 (Phase 1)

Key Partners: Great Lakes Audubon, UMD-NRRI, Allouez Bay Project Team will be formed with local partners



Coastal Systems Team FA4 Criteria	WI FA4 FY21 SLR Estuary Allouez Bay Breeding Marsh Bird Restoration
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GLRI Action Plan III Accomplishments

- 4.1.1 - 120 acres of coastal wetland restored (Phase 2)
- 4.2.1 – Marsh breeding birds benefited (target)

Area of Uncertainty Addressed
(Knowledge Gained/Innovation Transferred)

- Fill WI avian data gap to inform estuary wide LCD bird planning
- Evaluate marsh bird use of wild rice planted interspersion
- Potential for beneficial use of dredge material

Resilient Design Elements

- Elements determined during project scope/design.
- Considerations: water level fluctuations, restoration techniques – cattail cutting/mat removal, restoration with dredge material, wild rice seeding

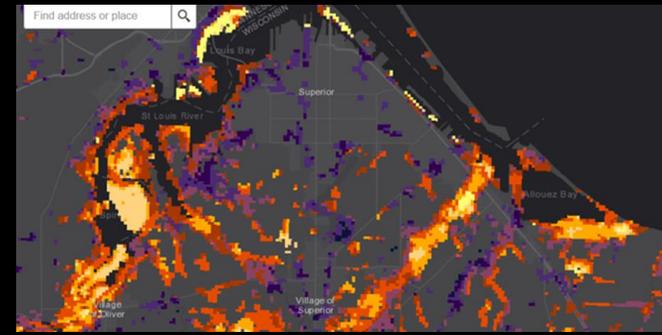
Leverage Other Funding

- Audubon GL Waterbirds Initiative
- USFWS LCD for SLR estuary (MN Land Trust leading)
- WDNR Drone Imagery, Analysis, Species Experts

GLRI AP III Priorities

- Breeding marsh birds, coastal wetlands,
- Potential wild rice, shorebirds, walleye

Audubon's Priority Colonies for Great Lakes Waterbirds



A. Map of bird point-count locations with the St. Louis River Estuary (n= 107) that have been conducted from 2011- 2018. The red circles represent a 500 m buffer to help visualize scale.

