

Monthly Wisconsin Lake Org Chats

Monthly chats, tentative topics include...

- Organizational Capacity (January)
- Communicating Effectively Using Email (February)
- Annual Meetings (March)
- Budgets & Priorities (April)
- Finances (May)
- Committees (June)
- Lake District Boundaries (July)
- Membership (August)
- Insurance (September)
- Grants (October)
- Countywide Orgs
- Succession Planning

Goal: Introduce important & timely topics to the lake organization community in Wisconsin in a fun and engaging way while pointing the way to additional resources.



Episode 10: Grants

Eric Olson, Director
Extension Lakes,
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Sara Windjue, Leadership and Capacity Development Specialist
Extension Lakes,
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Peter Jensen, Eagle Spring Lake Management District,
Waukesha County

Dave Quady, Sand Lake Association,
Rusk County

Beckie Gaskill, Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) Grant workshop coordinator



Extension Lakes
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

DNR Surface Water Grants

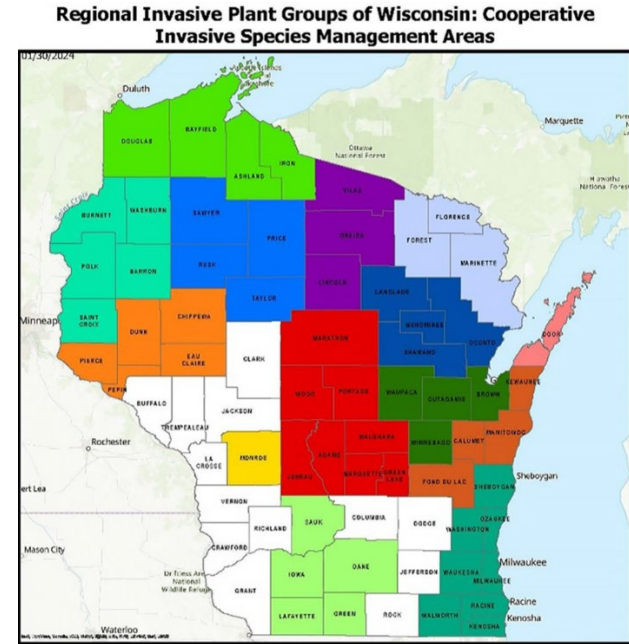
- **Education and Planning Grants**
 - Surface Water Education
 - AIS Planning
 - Lakes and Rivers Planning
 - Comprehensive Planning
 - County Lake Grants
- **AIS Prevention and Management Grants**
 - AIS Prevention
 - AIS Population Management
 - Early Detection & Response
 - AIS Research & Demonstration
- **Surface Water Restoration and Management Grants**
 - Healthy Lakes and Rivers (rolling)
 - Surface Water Restoration
 - Management Plan Implementation
 - Ordinance Development
 - Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition
 - Wetland Restoration Incentives



Over \$6 million annually!

Additional Grant Making Agencies

- Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds)
- Natural Resources Foundation
- Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs)
- County Land+Water Department
- Local Community Foundations
- Federal Grants
- Special Use/Purpose Grants



Unconventional Partners

- Local businesses (especially new ones)
- School groups: FFA, FBLA, Booster club, sports teams, HS science classes
- Service organizations: Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Smaller local non-profits: Audubon chapters, fishing clubs, sportsperson organizations
- Larger non-profits: Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Midwest Glacial Lakes Habitat Partnership

Telling Your Story

- You know the story, but they don't!
- Keep your audience in mind- what stories are they interested in?
- Remain on track - don't beef it up
- Be specific and to the point
- Have a reviewer check your work



Grants that Work

Forest Fest from Trees for Tomorrow wrote to Lumberjack: “Forest Fest, a community outreach event, will introduce students, families & other attendees to all the forest has to offer and **enhance our natural resources** by creating awareness for forestry, sustainability, conservation, and the positive impacts of outdoor, hands-on education...”

The application also gave bullet points to outcomes with “promoting a higher standard of living and improving quality of life” bolded.

The Prairie Enthusiasts wrote to Besadny: “The Prairie Enthusiasts acquired Mukwonago River Oak Barrens in June 2025. This 61-acre site is arguably the best example of sand barrens habitat in Waukesha County, and especially rare for Southeast Wisconsin.”

They were looking for funds to help restore these communities.

Cash Flow Considerations

- Reimbursement
- Working Capital
- Reimbursement Time Lags
- Loan or Financing Requirements



Match and Other Requirements

- Match Percentages
 - Base rate calculation
- Clarify Eligible vs. Non-eligible costs
 - Sales Tax Exclusions
 - Mileage and vehicle rates
 - Insurance
 - Financing costs
 - Administration costs
 - Equipment costs
 - Volunteer rates
- Timelines
- Complementing grants



Recordkeeping, Closeout, Audits

- You must have a good recordkeeping system
- Closeout promptly
- Do you need a financial audit?
 - Formal
 - Informal
- Programmatic/Compliance Audits
- Record retention requirements

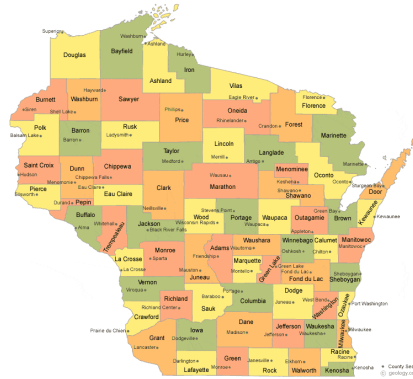


Resources to Help

- Use AI to help you write
- Reach out to granting agencies
- Research grantors by looking at their IRS Form 990 to see what they have funded in the past
- Build relationships with your County Land+Water office
- Reach out to your membership or lake community to find out who might have experience with grants and who might be interested in helping or coordinating grant writing
- Consider partnering with another organization who has someone with the bandwidth to take on writing the grant application

Coming next month...

Countywide Lakes and River Organizations



Please let us know what you think of these monthly lake org video chats. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for your time.

[Monthly Lake Organization Video Chats](#)

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>



Extension Lakes
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point