

General Government  
715-345-5250  
715-345-5253 FAX

President  
Administrator  
Treasurer  
Clerk  
Community Development Mgr  
Building Inspector  
Assessor  
GIS Manager



**VILLAGE OF PLOVER**  
PO BOX 37, 2400 POST ROAD  
PLOVER, WISCONSIN 54467  
[www.ploverwi.gov](http://www.ploverwi.gov)

Fire Department  
(Non Emergency)  
715-345-5310  
(Emergency) 911

Police Department  
715-345-5255

Street Department  
715-345-5257

WWTP Department  
715-345-5259

Water Department  
715-345-5254

January 7, 2020

Senator Robert Cowles, Chair  
Senator Luther Olsen, Vice Chair  
Senator Howard Marklein  
Senator Mark Miller  
Senator Dave Hansen

RE: AB 567/SB 510

Dear Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of AB 567/SB 510. I am here today representing the Village of Plover and the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Management Team. The Village and the Project Management Team appreciate your consideration of a possible appropriation to the Village of Plover that would be used to implement wetland restoration and watershed enhancements designed to increase the flow of the Little Plover River, which is located in the Village of Plover, Town of Plover, and Town of Stockton in Portage County.

As many know, the Little Plover River became the posterchild for groundwater withdrawal issues beginning in 2005, when portions of the Little Plover River dried up. To its credit, the Plover Village Board understood that the municipal wells were having an impact on the Little Plover River. They directed staff to look at what the Village could do to address the effects the wells were having on the Little Plover River. Initial efforts included altering the municipal wells pumping regimen so that less water was pumped from the wells closest to the river; acquisition of 100 acres of land to create the Little Plover River Conservancy Area; working with Del Monte who acquired 160 acres of land that was taken out of irrigated agriculture production and converted to an infiltration area for their process and cooling water; and, installation of water monitoring equipment on the Little Plover River so that water flows could be measured 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (this equipment was donated by the Wisconsin Rural Water Association).

The Village also recognized the need for additional partnerships if it was to be more successful with efforts to increase Little Plover River flows. In 2017, the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Management Team was formed, and goals were developed to include improving the health of the Little Plover River Watershed. The Project Management Team is comprised of representatives

from the Village of Plover, the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Montgomery Associates, Portage County Land Conservation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It is the first time that the Village is aware of that municipalities, agricultural growers, conservation groups, County government, and the DNR have committed to work together to use science to develop voluntary solutions to increase Little Plover River flows while also improving the health of the Little Plover River Watershed.

The initial successes of the Village and the Project Management Team can be traced to the State Legislature and Governor's approval of the 2017- 2018 State Budget, which provided \$100,000 for Little Plover River efforts. That funding was used to develop and recommend science-based projects that could increase Little Plover River flows and improve the health of the Little Plover River Watershed. Equally important, the funding was used to obtain more than \$3 million in public/private investments for the following projects: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Prairie Restoration Project on the Little Plover River Conservancy Property; Little Plover River Habitat Restoration Project on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource and Little Plover River Conservancy Property; Soik Wetland Restoration Project; Integrated Watershed Management in Central Wisconsin Promotion Project; and, the Little Plover River Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project (through the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Each of these projects was designed to either increase Little Plover River flows or enhance the Little Plover River Watershed. None of these projects would have been possible without the State's investment in in our efforts.

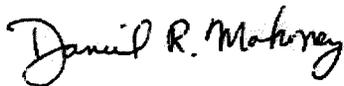
If AB 567/SB 510 is approved the Village and Project Management Team would use the funding as follows:

1. The Village and Project Management Team have demonstrated that it is possible for municipalities, agricultural growers, conservation groups, and the DNR to work together to use science to develop voluntary solutions to address groundwater quantity and quality issues. One of the projects we would undertake with a portion of this funding would be to use the lessons we have learned to create materials such as a video, articles, handouts, etc. that could be used by landowners in the Central Sands Region and throughout the State to guide and develop education and outreach strategies for their watersheds. We propose to develop an iterative landowner education and outreach strategy that would encourage landowner participation in wetland restoration, water conservation and other soil and water management practices to address issues that are occurring in their watersheds outside of Portage County.
2. Encourage Portage County to develop goals, objectives and implementation strategies in other watersheds in Portage County to address groundwater quality and quantity issues. Materials developed for the Central Sands Region and the State would be shared with Portage County.
3. Develop an evaluation program to compare results projected by the Bradbury Groundwater Flow and Optimization Model to actual results achieved. This information will be very important to the Village, the Project Management Team, and the public. Understanding the results of each project will allow the Village and Project Management Team to determine the success of each project and provide indications if additional projects are necessary. Results will be shared with the public to keep them informed of progress toward stated goals and objectives of the Project Management Team.

4. Continue to run/evaluate scenarios through use of the Bradbury Groundwater Flow and Optimization Model to develop additional science-based solutions that will be used to develop additional public/private investments that will increase Little Plover River flows and improve the health of the Little Plover River Watershed. The Project Management team would like to stress that its efforts have barely begun and that there is an understanding that additional projects will be necessary to meet its stated goals and objectives.
5. Use AB 567/SB 510 funding to leverage additional investment for new projects within the watershed. The Village and Project management Team is confident that an additional \$3 million in public/private investments can be leveraged for new projects in the watershed.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express the Village of Plover's support for AB 567/SB 510 which the Village of Plover would use to implement wetland restoration and watershed enhancements designed to increase the flow of the Little Plover River. The increase in Little Plover River flows and improvements to the watershed that have, and are occurring, because of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Prairie Restoration Project, the Little Plover River Habitat Restoration Project, and Soik Restoration Project are a direct result of the initial support provided by the State Legislature to the Village. Great work has occurred, but many additional projects will be necessary for the Project Management Team to attain its goals. Approval of AB 567/SB 510 can provide the foundation for additional private/public partnerships, provide documentation that we are achieving our goals, and provide educational materials to other communities to assist them with their efforts to address groundwater quantity and quality issues.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Mahoney  
Village of Plover Administrator



January 8, 2020

To: Chairman Cowles and Members and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
From: Tracy Hames & Erin O'Brien, Wisconsin Wetlands Association  
Re: Support for Senate Bill 510 – Little Plover River Watershed project

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project (LPRWEP). Wisconsin Wetlands Association **supports** SB510, authorizing WDNR funding to the Village of Plover for continued LPRWEP work. This support, though it may seem small, will be leveraged to help bring in additional funding from other sources. We are confident that the water conservation, habitat, and physical restoration actions being accomplished through LPRWEP will meet our goals of improving the health of the Little Plover River and the quality of life of the surrounding community.

The LPRWEP is a comprehensive public/private initiative to restore health to this Central Wisconsin watershed using voluntary action. Partners represent state and local government, the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, agricultural and conservation organizations, and private landowners. Goals of this voluntary, partnership-based effort involve increasing the flow and aquatic health of the Little Plover River, improving surface and groundwater connections, alleviating storm water-driven flooding, and improving conditions for fish and wildlife habitat and public use. Engaging local residents, conservation organizations, and university students through volunteer work days is another important goal. Wisconsin Wetlands Association is proud to be a partner in this work.

We've accomplished a great deal of work during this first couple of years of implementation. In the 2017-19 Biennial Budget the Wisconsin legislature provided \$100,000 to help jump-start this effort. These funds were critical in allowing the partnership to develop the planning and implementation goals needed to begin the multi-year process of restoring health to the Little Plover River watershed. By leveraging the funds provided by the legislature and partners, what began as an initial \$100,000 investment, quickly grew to over \$3 million.

**Funding Sources to Date:**

Public and private organizations and agencies providing funding include the following:

- All of the LPRWEP partners – Village of Plover, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Portage County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, MARS-EOR Engineering Firm
- State of Wisconsin - Legislative appropriation, Wisconsin Wetlands Conservation Trust, Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Program
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Pittman-Robertson Grant, Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Wetlands Program Development Grant

### **Accomplishments through 2019:**

#### Planning and Guidance

An important initial step in restoring flow to the river and health to the watershed involved conducting the hydrologic analysis needed to establish science-based water conservation and restoration priorities. This work has been completed and is currently guiding the physical actions being taken in the watershed and the targeted water conservation outreach among landowners.

#### Implementation

Most of the actions taken so far occur in the upper two miles of the river channel (40-50% of the total river miles). These include:

- Village of Plover - The Village is taking a leadership role in coordinating the conservation actions in the Little Plover River watershed.
  1. Water Conservation – The Village has adjusted their municipal well management, using a well located away from the river in the drier, summer months to help retain river flow. They are also repairing leakage in their water delivery system. More efficient municipal water delivery is helping conserve river flow.
  2. Village Conservancy Land – The Village has purchased more than 150 acres within and adjacent to the river corridor for restoration. Actions include well decommissioning, floodplain reconnection, and river channel, wetland, grassland, and forest restoration.
  3. Wetland Restoration – In partnership with WDNR’s Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust (In Lieu Fee Mitigation), ditch removal, wetland and grassland restoration, and well decommissioning is restoring 60 acres in the northern portion of a large wetland in the river’s headwaters.
- WDNR LPR Fisheries Area – Actions here include river channel repair and floodplain reconnection, forest and pine/oak barrens rehabilitation, wetland restoration, and brook trout population and habitat use monitoring.
- Private agricultural landowners – Landowners along the river corridor are implementing grazing management and other on-farm conservation practices to help improve groundwater recharge. There is also growing interest among landowners in establishing groundwater recharge basins, and wetland, forest, floodplain, grassland, and channel restoration. We have secured \$250,000 from NRCS to conduct water and soil conservation actions on private land in the Little Plover River watershed.
- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point – UWSP is beginning to look at this area as a natural classroom. They are participating in planning, monitoring, research, long-term management, forest restoration, channel, wetland, and floodplain restoration activities.
- Local conservation organizations – Nine local conservation groups have put in more than 1,000 voluntary work hours so far helping with channel and floodplain restoration.

Highlights of the LPRWEP efforts include a great increase in river flow in the headwaters channels, an immediate narrowing of the river channel and floodplain reconnection in areas where work days have occurred, native plant recolonizing in the floodplain wetland habitats previously choked by brush; and native grass communities emerging in areas where they had

been lost for decades. Habitat improvements will benefit native brook trout, migratory birds, deer, small game, furbearers, and many other species. Long-term management and monitoring plans are being developed to ensure the flow and watershed health benefits persist.

**Future Action:**

Actions planned for the next 2-3 years include expanded channel/wetland restoration and floodplain connection, on-farm conservation to increase groundwater infiltration, pine/oak barrens restoration, invasive tree and brush thinning in wetland areas, and grassland planting.

**Statewide Implications:**

The public/private partnership approach being used by this project is receiving strong interest by others as an example of how communities can come together to cooperatively address the water quality/quantity, watershed, and habitat issues they face. In October 2019, the partnership was awarded a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue and expand this work into other Central Wisconsin communities. Specific work will involve landowner outreach promoting water conservation, creation of a water conservation “ledger” to document the river flow benefits that result from conservation actions, and exporting this voluntary, partnership-based approach in two other communities in Central Wisconsin.

This project utilizes a watershed-based approach to hydrologic restoration. With increasing stress put on our water resources, more and more communities are looking to the partnerships created and the hydrologic restoration methods used here as a model for other parts of the state.

We are excited about this project and feel it is a great example of how we can develop community-based, voluntary solutions to the water challenges we face across the state. We are happy to provide site visits and/or presentations highlighting the work of this project. I’ve included a progress report from last year and some photos of this year’s work to help illustrate these comments. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (608) 250-9971.

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on this very important and exciting collaborative effort.

## Restoration actions occurring along the Little Plover River - 2019



Figure 1. Floodplain wetland site before and after invasive tree and shrub thinning.



Figure 2. UWSP forestry students thinning trees and brush along river corridor.



Figure 3. Brush is piled for rabbit habitat, for burning, or to be bundled for river channel placement.



Figure 4. Bundles are held together with twine.



Figure 5. Brush bundles are placed along banks of the river to promote natural narrowing and deepening of the channel. A narrower and deeper channel helps improve floodplain connectivity, wetland conditions, and native brook trout habitat.



Figure 6. In the first spring after restoration work began, native vegetation is thriving within the floodplain wetlands in areas that have been thinned and where bundles have been placed along the banks of the river channel. Wetland vegetation recolonizing these areas include native ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, and skunk cabbage

# Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Update

Activities Update April 2017 – June 2018



When the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project Team first convened in February, 2017 to discuss projects that would meet the Team's goals, the Village of Plover saw great potential, but our progress has far exceeded Village expectations. With just a little more than 1 year of work under our belts, our Project Team has secured more than \$2.67 million in new investments for the design and implementation of on-the ground river and watershed restoration projects.

Restoring flows to the Little Plover River remains our highest priority. We are also committed to supporting restoration actions that will further improve the fishery, local wildlife habitat, water quality, and quality of life in the Little Plover River Watershed.

We are fortunate to be working with many great collaborators, from our community and beyond, to restore the health of local waters. We are also grateful to have support from the Wisconsin Legislature and other federal, state, local, and private funders, and for the enthusiastic participation of many partners and volunteers.

The work reported on here also builds upon the efforts and investments of many, many others. We are working on lands purchased with support from the state, Portage County, and the Village itself; using data and models produced by regional water experts; trying to address concerns shared and studied by industries, organizations, and individuals alike.

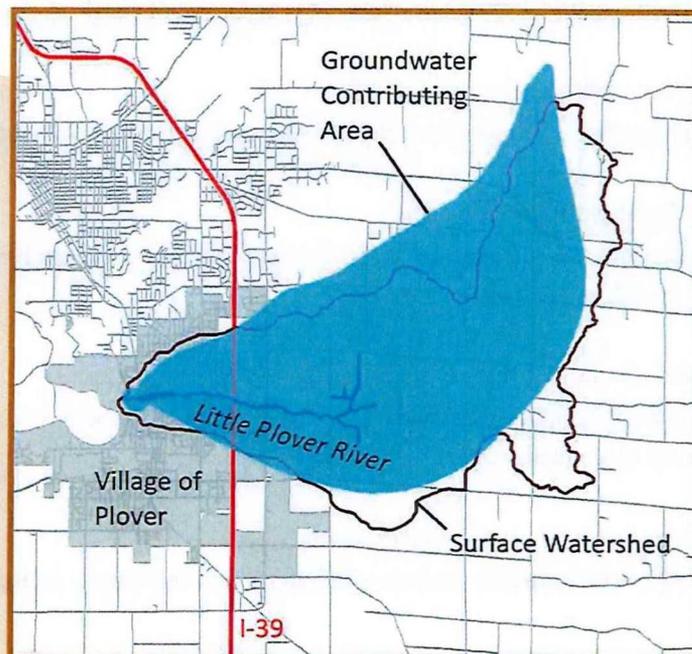
As we prepare to break ground on the first of these projects, I am pleased to share the details of our progress and information on how you can get involved.

Sincerely,

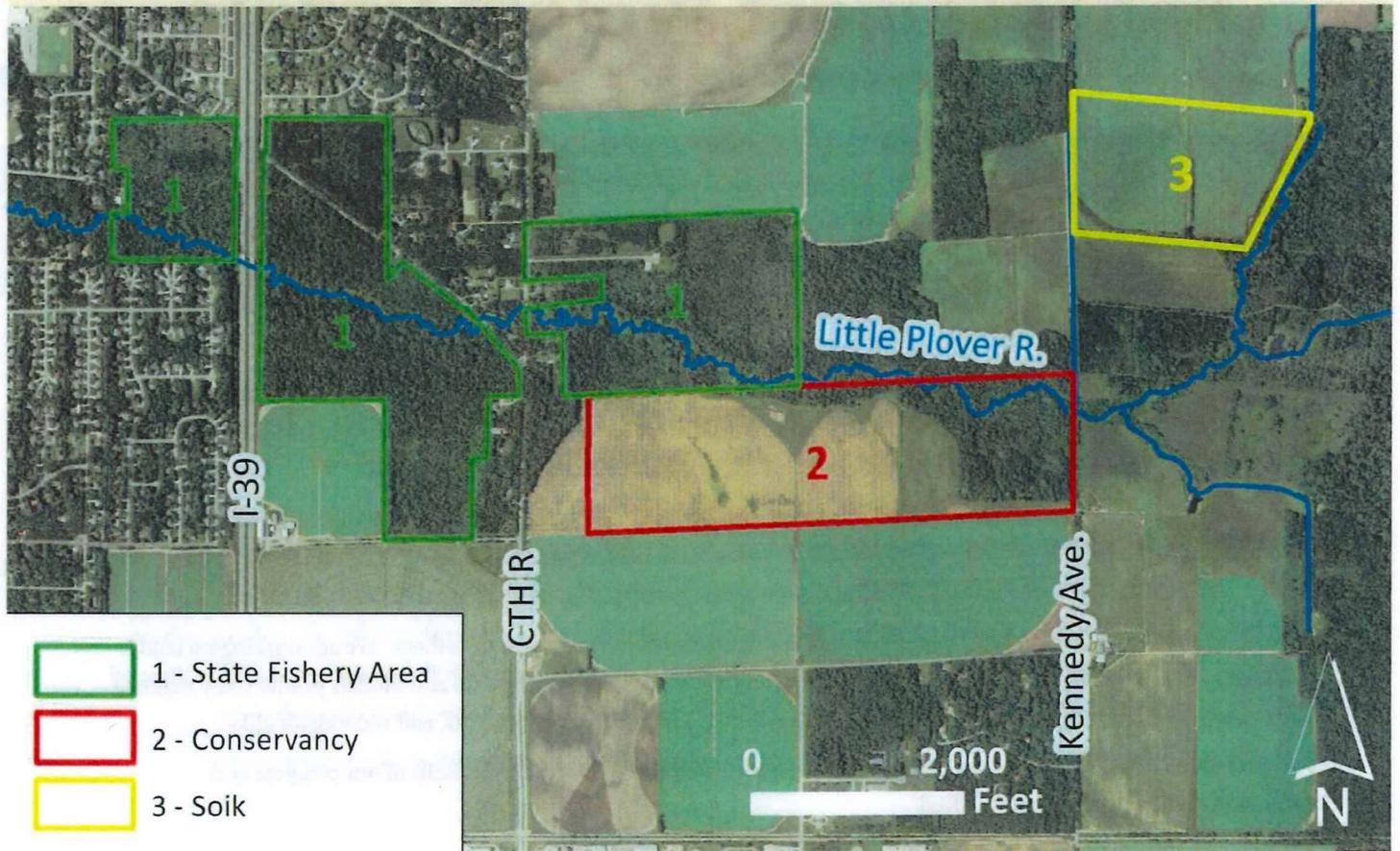
Dan Mahoney  
Administrator, Village of Plover

## PROJECT GOALS

- Increase the flow and improve the aquatic health of the Little Plover River.
- Implement voluntary water management projects that improve the health of the Little Plover River Watershed.
- Improve and expand fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities and access.



# BREAKING GROUND



## Little Plover River Fishery Area (#1)

Channel improvements, riparian forest management, pine and oak forest management.

## Little Plover River Conservancy (#2)

Wetland and prairie restoration, channel improvement, and riparian forest management.

## Soik Property Restoration (#3)

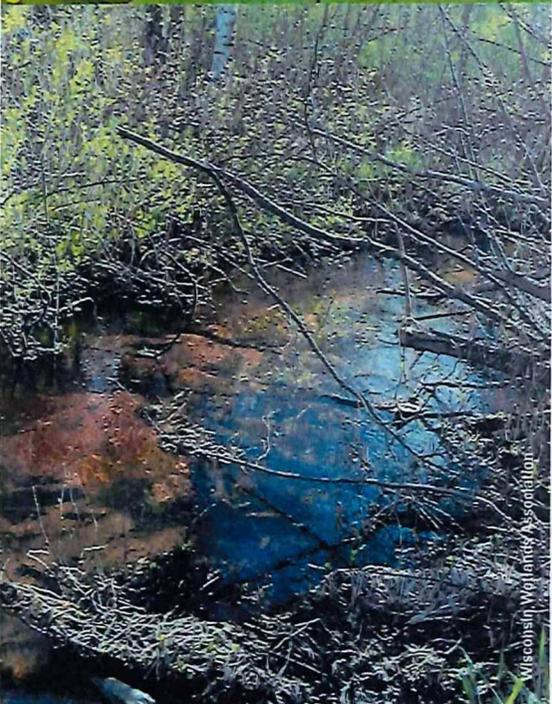
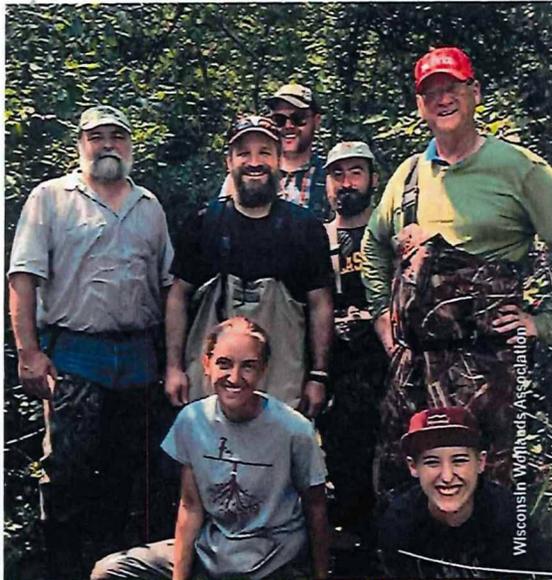
Purchase and retirement of ~60 acres of irrigated farmland in a headwaters area of the LPR, decommissioning of a high capacity well, wetland and prairie restoration.

## NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project (not shown)

Numerous voluntary on-farm soil and water conservation practices within the project area (see map pg 1). Locations and practices to be determined.

## Watershed Restoration Action Plan (not shown)

Applied modeling to help evaluate and design viable solutions to increase flow in the Little Plover River.



# INVESTMENTS

## GRANTS AND OTHER AWARDS:

Natural Resource  
Conservation Service  
Regional Conservation  
Partnership Program  
\$295,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/  
Wisconsin DNR  
Pittman Robertson Grant via  
Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund  
\$228,988

State of Wisconsin  
Legislative Appropriation  
\$100,000

Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable  
Growers Association  
\$64,400

Wisconsin DNR  
Wisconsin Wetlands  
Conservation Trust  
\$1,450,790

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Partners for Wildlife Program  
\$14,500

**Total: \$2,155,678**

## IN-KIND MATCH

Several of the grants we have secured require the applicant to commit matching funds and will require more work than the awards actually support. The following entities and organizations have generously agreed to donate valuable time and talent to ensure we have the resources needed to meet these requirements and complete these ambitious projects.

Montgomery Associates:  
Resource Solutions, LLC  
Portage County  
University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point  
Village of Plover

Wisconsin Potato and  
Vegetable Growers  
Association  
Wisconsin Wetlands  
Association  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

**Total: \$524,000**

**Total Grants and Awards + Match**

**= > \$2.6 million  
investment**

\* The dollars reported here reflect commitments secured through accepted grants and signed agreements for work that will be completed over the course of the next few years.

# MOVING FORWARD IN COLLABORATION

## Watershed Restoration Action Plan

Fixing a river takes a watershed approach. With support from the Wisconsin Legislature and others, we've launched an applied science project to develop a collaborative groundwater management plan. We're also out in the community working with producers, the university, and local conservation groups to design and implement new projects.

## Farmer engagement

With seed money from NRCS and the WPVGA, we're working with producers to implement additional soil and water conservation practices across the project area and to help showcase innovative practices already in place. Watch soon for more news about field walks and demonstrations projects.



David Palme

## Work days

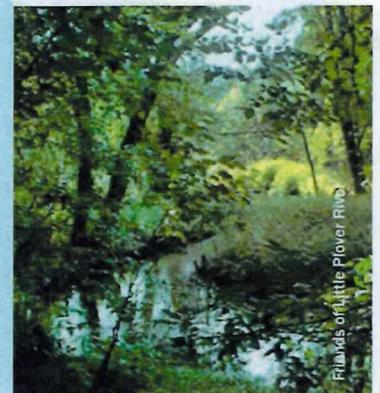
We will host the first of many River Management Work Days this fall in collaboration with local conservation organizations. Dr. Kyle Herrman (UWSP - Kyle.Herrman@uwsp.edu) and Jerry Knuth (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation - knuth0628@sbcglobal.net) will coordinate logistics with student and community groups, respectively. Many hands make light work – please join us!

## UW Stevens Point

A healthy river and productive fishery needs more than just flow. We've convened a team of fishery, floodplain, and forestry experts from UW Stevens Point to help design and implement restoration and management practices to improve channel structure and reconnect the river to its historic floodplain.

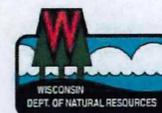


NRCS



Friends of the Plover River

## PROJECT TEAM



## Restoration actions occurring along the Little Plover River - 2019



Figure 1. Floodplain wetland site before and after invasive tree and shrub thinning.



Figure 2. UWSP forestry students thinning trees and brush along river corridor.



Figure 3. Brush is piled for rabbit habitat, for burning, or to be bundled for river channel placement.

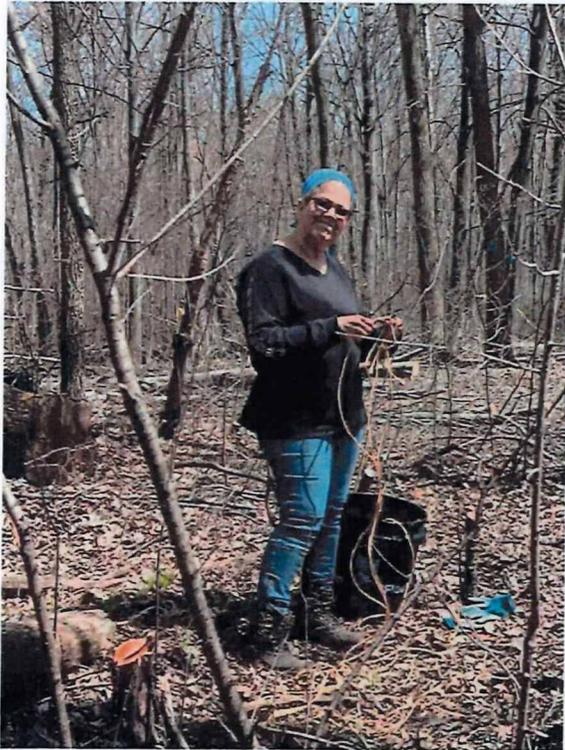


Figure 4. Bundles are held together with twine.



Figure 5. Brush bundles are placed along banks of the river to promote natural narrowing and deepening of the channel. A narrower and deeper channel helps improve floodplain connectivity, wetland conditions, and native brook trout habitat.



Figure 6. In the first spring after restoration work began, native vegetation is thriving within the floodplain wetlands in areas that have been thinned and where bundles have been placed along the banks of the river channel. Wetland vegetation recolonizing these areas include native ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, and skunk cabbage.

# Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project

## What is the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project (LPRWEP)?

The LPRWEP is a multiparty collaboration convened by the Village of Plover to improve the health of the Little Plover River and the quality of life of the surrounding community. The LPRWEP aims to use best available data and voluntary conservation actions to achieve the following goals:

**Increase the flow and improve the aquatic health of the Little Plover River.**

**Improve surface and groundwater connections and water retention across the Little Plover River Watershed.**

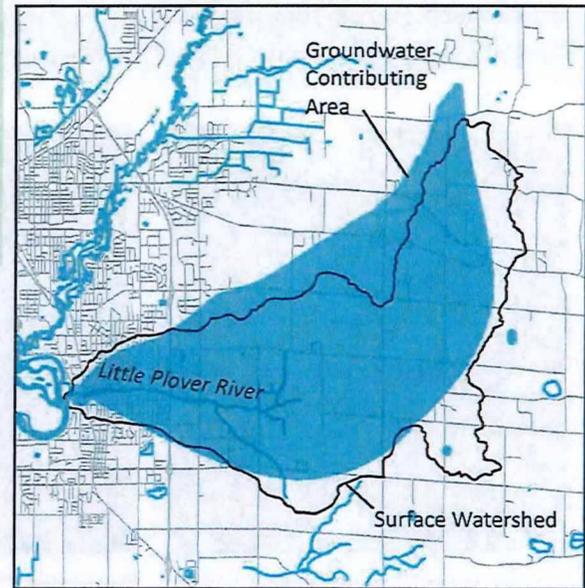
**Alleviate storm water-driven flooding.**

**Improve and expand fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities and access.**

### The LPRWEP is organized around these three principles:

1. Restoring the health of the river requires an array of on-the-ground practices and voluntary landowner participation.
2. A balanced approach will maintain opportunities for urban development and meet the needs of municipal, agricultural, industrial, and private water users.
3. Monitoring is essential to improve our understanding of local hydrology and the effectiveness of installed practices.

LPRWEP Area of Focus



### Project Area and Approach

Improving the health of the Little Plover River requires shifts in how we use and manage both surface and groundwater, and the re-establishment of healthy interactions between the two. To ensure project activities address resource concerns across the entire hydrologic system, the Project Area includes the Village of Plover, the entire Little Plover River Watershed, and the river's groundwater contributing area as identified in recent studies. The extended project area opens the door to a broader range of partners and practices.

### Project Team

The Village of Plover developed the LPRWEP plan in collaboration with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Montgomery Associates is supporting the project with hydrologic and ecologic fieldwork and analysis.

These groups, along with staff from the Portage County Land Conservation Department and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, represent the core team of project advisors. Each group was strategically selected to address one or more critical project need.



## Planned and Proposed Activities

The project will use a combination of protection, restoration, and management activities.

Potential activities include:

**Water conservation and management** such as well removal, reduced pumping, repair of leaky infrastructure, improved infiltration, and other activities to reduce water usage.

**Large-scale projects** such as wetland restoration, drainage management, and other practices designed to enhance groundwater recharge and improve connectivity between the river, wetlands, and groundwater.

**On-farm conservation practices** such as cover crops, buffers, precision nutrient application, and other practices to retain soil, reduce runoff, increase infiltration, and improve water quality.



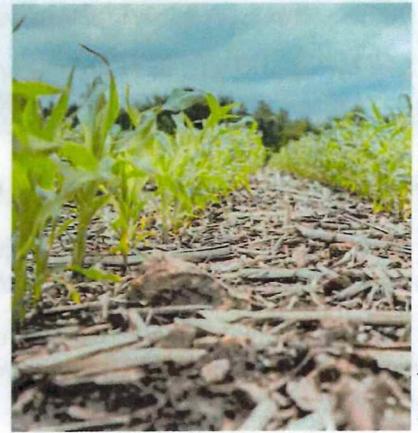
Friends of the Little Plover River

The project aims to maintain and improve the flow of the Little Plover River.



Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Restoration of wetlands like these help improve the health and quality of the Little Plover River.



Natural Resources Conservation Service - WI

No-till farming can increase water infiltration and improve soil health.

## Project Timeline

Project implementation began in July 2017 with the identification of several potential demonstration sites. Site design and fundraising for the restoration of these parcels has begun, with an analysis to evaluate the benefits of additional potential water conservation and restoration opportunities also underway. Implementation of on-farm conservation practices is expected to begin summer 2018. Outreach to promote voluntary participation by landowners, monitoring to evaluate conservation outcomes, and communications to export lessons learned will be ongoing throughout the project.

## How Will Activities Be Selected?

The Project Team will rely on a combination of modeling, site visits, and best professional judgment to identify and prioritize the best opportunities to meet project goals. Landowner interest and the availability of cost share and technical support will also influence the types and locations of projects implemented.

## How can you help?

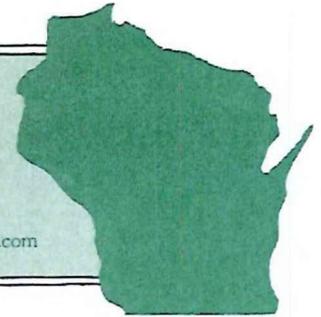
Community and stakeholder engagement is critical to the success of this project. Members of the Project Team are meeting with community leaders, landowners, technical experts, and other stakeholders this summer and fall to talk about project goals, answer questions, and discuss opportunities for you or your group's involvement.

**Your participation is welcome!** Direct inquiries, ideas, and requests for meetings about the LPRWEP to the Village of Plover Administrator, Dan Mahoney at: [Dmahoney@ploverwi.gov](mailto:Dmahoney@ploverwi.gov) / (715) 345-5250.

# Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 327 • Antigo, Wisconsin 54409-0327

Telephone: 715/623-7683 • Fax: 715/623-3176 • e-mail: [wpvga@wisconsinpotatoes.com](mailto:wpvga@wisconsinpotatoes.com) • web: [www.wisconsinpotatoes.com](http://www.wisconsinpotatoes.com)



January 8, 2020

TO: Chairman Cowles and Members - Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

FROM: Tamas Houlihan, Executive Director, WPVGA

RE: **Support for Senate Bill 510 –Little Plover River Watershed Project**

Dear Chairman Cowles and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 510, legislation that would provide \$100,000 to the Village of Plover in Portage County for the purpose of implementing wetland restoration and watershed enhancement designed to increase the flow of the Little Plover River. The Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) strongly **supports** this legislation.

The funding provided in this legislation will support the next phase of the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project (LPRWEP). The LPRWEP is a multi-party collaborative project by the Village of Plover, the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Montgomery & Associates, Wisconsin DNR, UW-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and others to improve the health of the Little Plover River (LPR).

The LPRWEP is an example of local partners coming together to engage in voluntary conservation actions to:

- Increase the flow and improve the aquatic health of the LPR;
- Improve surface and groundwater connections and water retention across the LPR watershed;
- Alleviate stormwater-driven flooding; and
- Improve and expand fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities and access.

The 2017-2019 Biennial Budget Bill provided \$100,000 to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to use to provide a grant to the Village of Plover for the purpose of employing an engineering firm to design solutions to increase flow in the Little Plover River. This engineering work is complete and the wetland restoration project that will further support the goals of the LPRWEP has been designed.

Senate Bill 510 will provide an additional \$100,000 to the Village of Plover through the DNR to continue our work addressing the health of the Little Plover River watershed. We ask that you support SB 510 and further support this groundbreaking example of local stakeholders working together to succeed at restoring one of Wisconsin's surface water resources.



612 W. Main Street, #200  
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 256-0827  
[www.lwwwi.org](http://www.lwwwi.org)



January 8, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Re: Support for SB 510 / AB 567

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin supports SB 510 /AB 567 based on our positions supporting identification and protection of areas of critical concern, including wetlands.

We believe that water quality and quantity standards need to be addressed in terms of whole basin management and the hydrologic cycle. That is, management not just of the water itself, but of the land and watersheds which drain to wetlands, aquifer, meteoric groundwater, river, lake or other body of water, whether it is naturally occurring or constructed, and wherever it is located. Water management is therefore accomplished as management of all parts of an integrated system within basin boundaries and of any water which may move into or out of that system.

SB 510 / AB 567 is an appropriation of \$100,000 to the village of Plover for wetland restoration and watershed enhancement on the Little Plover River in Portage County. This is needed for management and protection of our water resources.