

Process for GLRI funding and Letters of Support:

If you are planning to apply for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds (GLRI) from any of the granting agencies, you are strongly encouraged to share your project idea with [DNR Regional Great Lakes staff](#). Staff will work with partner groups as best they can in developing projects. Regional staff should forward copies of the proposal to [Kim Walz](#) in the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) for tracking and coordination with other technical staff in OGL that can assist in project development and review. WDNR would like to help secure GLRI funds for Wisconsin and looks forward to collaborating with other agencies, universities, colleges, local units of government, NGOs and other partners to develop projects.

Projects in an Area of Concern (AOC) should go through the AOC coordinator and, where available, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC – sometimes referred to as a Public Advisory Committee - PAC). (Please see the OGL website for your local Great Lakes staff contact information). The AOC Coordinator, in collaboration with the CAC and/or other local stakeholders, will review the project for its alignment with AOC goals and targets as established in the most recent Stage 2 Remedial Action Plan Update. Once the AOC coordinator concurs with the project and endorses it, send to Kim Walz for a letter of support. Even if there is no letter of support requested or needed, please send a copy of the project proposal to Kim for tracking of GLRI projects by the Office of the Great Lakes.

If a project proposal was already sent into a granting agency because of an earlier deadline (i.e. FWS grants, CMP Acquisition Grants), we request that a copy of the application be sent to Kim Walz for tracking purposes. Our ability to report all Great Lakes projects in Wisconsin helps us to tell the GLRI story in Wisconsin and demonstrate what we are accomplishing with these resources.

Letters of support will be provided from OGL to funding agencies for specific projects that support the WI Great Lakes Restoration & Protection Strategy and GLRI, but we need to know about the project and have time (a minimum of two weeks before the deadline is required) to write the support letters. **Letters of support from WDNR should only come from the Office of the Great Lakes.** Where there is no AOC partnership (i.e. CAC or PAC) to endorse a project that requires an AOC partnership endorsement, the letters will be sent by the Office of the Great Lakes for the AOC.

OGL will compile a list of projects from the Great Lakes Basin to post on our website to help build partnerships and build off of projects that move us toward the goals of Wisconsin's Great Lakes Strategy.

It is our goal to bring as much funding as we can to Wisconsin to restore and protect our treasured Great Lakes.

Letters of Support Guidance Criteria

Letters of support for GLRI projects will come from OGL. We will need the following information and a minimum of 2 weeks time to review the project and prepare the letter. In most cases, our staff should be working with the applicant long before this 2-week time frame so DNR is engaged with the project.

A draft proposal clearly defining the project should include:

- Goals
- Objectives
- Identified specific measurable outcomes
- How it relates to progress in the AOCs, BUI delisting, WI GL Strategy, or other relevant plans
- Detailed budget describing how the funds will be spent (e.g., staffing, contracts, supplies, indirect cost, etc.). The budget clearly identifies appropriate funding sources and match requirements for the grant.
- Time frame (1 year, 2 years, etc), duration of project and milestones

Letters of support will be based on the following criteria:

1. Project write up identifies partners and involved appropriate stakeholders in the project development, including DNR or other regulatory and oversight agencies (FWS, NOAA and GLFC). Identify specifically which DNR or Agency staff they have worked with: fisheries, wildlife, wetlands, water reg., etc. This can be copies of emails, meeting notes, or other communications.
2. If the project includes or even alludes to Department assistance, we will need to verify that the work commitment has been approved by the Program Management (Region & Central Office). Verification via email or other correspondence from the supervisor that staff can work on this project fulfills this criterion.
3. Project write up identifies permits or other approvals needed to complete the project.
4. Project write up has buy in/support from local governments, applicable AOC groups, and others. Documentation can include the Letter of Support, emails, meeting notes, or other records showing support.
5. Project applicant has the ability and expertise to complete the project. The applicant has a proven track record for completing projects as approved. For the actual application a copy of a resume or CV should be included.
6. Project does not conflict with any existing projects/plans/regulations or actions by others.
7. Project demonstrates sound planning and implementation of the project proposal and had input by appropriate partners, local governments and regulatory agencies.
8. Project budget is reasonable and appropriate for the level of work. Match contributions are clearly stated and certified by the matching source.
9. Project clear states which funding source they are applying for and need a support letter.

Regional staff will be asked to help draft the letter of support, providing the project-specific details. Examples of previous letters of support will be available to use as a guide.