



National Audubon Society, Inc, #13 – 1624102
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10014

October 6, 2021

David Grandmaison
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
715-817-8510

Re: Quarterly Report and Invoice – Allouez Bay Marsh Bird Conservation Design

Dear Mr. Grandmaison:

From July – August of 2021 Audubon has continued to host regular monthly meetings of the Allouez Bay Marsh Bird Restoration Project Site Team, including an August site visit. Project team partners from Audubon, WDNR, NRRI, and MLT met to discuss project goals and deadlines and to review the Quality Assurance Plan (QAPP) and those partners and additional partners from UW-Superior, Douglas County, NIACS, UW Sea Grant, FOLSR, and Chequamegon Audubon Society toured bird survey locations and possible restoration locations in Allouez Bay with kayaks. Current habitat conditions including cattail presence and density, diverse hemi-marsh near creek mouths, and successful wild rice restoration were observed in approximately the eastern half of the bay.

NRRI collected the three Audio Recording Units (ARUs) that were established at Allouez Bay in May. NRRI will analyze the recordings by developing species-specific finders with software during the following quarter. NRRI conducted two rounds of monitoring for fall migrant birds at eight locations within the St Louis River Estuary in August and outside of the reporting period in September 2021. NRRI plans to conduct a third round of monitoring and enter and report bird and vegetation data from 2021 during the following quarter.

Audubon has led efforts to finalize the QAPP by hosting meetings with WDNR and NRRI where edits including objectives, analysis, and quality control were discussed. The QAPP has undergone its initial review by WDNR and corresponding edits have occurred. We anticipate the QAPP will be formally approved in October.

After the reporting period in In September, Duluth Audubon Society and NRRI hosted bird walks with FOLSR attended by nearly 20 people. FOLSR hosted a garbage cleanup event corresponding with a Wisconsin Society for Ornithology field trip where nearly 500lbs of garbage was collected. Audubon and NRRI advertised areas that they identified as data gaps and advertised them on social media and in person to promote eBirding by birdwatchers. The community science aspect of the project is growing and interest in this project is strong.

Audubon Great Lakes Wisconsin Conservation Manager Tom Prestby began work in August and is transitioning into a project management role. Audubon will develop the project scope with partners during the next quarter. Climate adaptation workshops with NIACS and project partners are scheduled to inform scope discussions.

From July – August, we have spent and are invoicing for a total of **\$4,485.03**

Thank you for your partnership.

Tom Prestby
Wisconsin Conservation Manager
Audubon Great Lakes