



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

April 7, 2022

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 December 2021 through February of 2022, Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) has continued to host regular meetings of the Allouez Bay Restoration Project Site Team. The December meeting featured a presentation from Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) detailing their Allouez Bay cattail and floristic quality mapping and modeling which is directly informing phase 1 goals and objectives, and a presentation from AGL about the proposed phases of work for the large-scale project and brief summary of proposed goals and objectives for phase 1. The January meeting featured an in-depth presentation from Natural Resources Research Inventory (NRRI) of the first year of data collected by point counts and acoustic recording units in Allouez Bay. Both meetings were well-attended by partners.

AGL has led efforts to draft the scope for phase 1 of the project, which entails the initial control efforts for cattail, reed canary grass, and phragmites. The initial scope draft was reviewed by a team from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and edits were incorporated by AGL with advisement from WDNR and LSRI. The second draft of the scope was submitted to the project team for review after this reporting period in mid-March. WDNR facilitated a meeting with AGL and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in February to begin formal planning for future phases of the project.

AGL and project partners, especially WDNR, worked to increase awareness of the project. In January, Tom Prestby and Dave Grandmaison presented in collaboration with Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) at a “Twin Ports Climate Conversation” webinar. Mr. Prestby and Mr. Grandmaison also presented about the project at the “St. Louis River Summit” just after this reporting period in early March. This material is now available to present in the future.

NRRI analyzed recordings from Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) that were placed within Allouez Bay and communicated the results of these recordings and the results of point count data from Allouez Bay to partners in the January partner meeting. Data are being stored digitally at NRRI. Data does not have sufficient spatial resolution to document species-specific habitat relationships but are valuable for comparing between focal birds and wetland site conditions at larger spatial scales. In the next quarter, NRRI will coordinate and conduct field surveys for spring migration surveys in the Wisconsin portion of the SLRE and breeding season surveys in the Wisconsin portion of the SLRE and Allouez Bay, as well as deploy ARUs in Allouez Bay.



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AGL and NRRI continue to plan the community science aspect of the project by generating objectives. A December meeting served as a brainstorming session and as a result, NRRI generated an adopt-a-block volunteer signup initiative with a sign-up form. After the period of reporting, AGL and NRRI are involved in planning for an International Migratory Bird Day event for the City of Superior.

Just after the reporting period on March 1, AGL and WDNR presented an herbicide application ban waiver request to the Douglas County Land Development Committee. The Committee was resistant to grant the request until further information is presented to them. This has caused a minor project delay as significant time and resources have gone into planning for how to address the committee with further information and persuade them to join this active partnership. Additional effort included edits to the scope that were not anticipated. AGL and WDNR have remained in communication with the Committee and will present further information to this group in May. The project remains on-time at a larger scale.

AGL will complete a final draft of the project scope with partners during the next quarter. AGL will also advertise a Request for Bid (RFB) for phase 1 mapping work including bathymetry and possibly Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) delineation, and possibly for phase 1 design work and permitting during the next quarter. AGL will also coordinate a site team visit, and partner WDNR with the continuation of planning of future phases, including applying for funding in the next quarter.

From December through February, we have spent and are invoicing for a total of **\$33,380.37**

Thank you for your partnership.

Tom Prestby
Wisconsin Conservation Manager
Audubon Great Lakes
National Audubon Society