

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
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Phone: (608) 266-2343

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: February 5, 2019

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on February 5, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Friday, February 22, 2019**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



February 4, 2019

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707-7882

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

FEB 05 2019
J. Finance

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to the Village of Little Chute for development of the Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector. The proposed grant award of \$639,000.00 is 19% of the estimated project cost.

The Village of Little Chute is developing a 1,160-foot-long accessible boardwalk over the Fox River to connect to the regional 13-mile Loop the Locks Trail. Loop the Locks Trail is a partnership among Outagamie County and five of the Fox Cities: Appleton, Combined Locks, Kaukauna, Kimberly, and Little Chute. The proposed boardwalk will connect Little Chute and Kaukauna as part of the regional trail. In addition to trail-based activities, the boardwalk will provide opportunities for nature viewing, fishing and canoe/kayak access.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

pc
Preston D. Cole
Secretary

DATE: February 4, 2019

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT
GREATER THAN \$250,000: VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE**

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$639,000.00 to the Village of Little Chute for the development of the Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Village of Little Chute

Project Name: Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector

Grant Sub-programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks; Urban Rivers

County: Outagamie

Location: Loop the Locks Trail is a 13-mile regional trail being developed in partnership among Outagamie County and five Fox Cities: Appleton, Combined Locks, Kaukauna, Kimberly, and Little Chute. The regional Trail has received significant exposure in the media and has extensive public support. The Fox River Connector will fill a significant gap in the regional Loop the Locks Trail system by connecting the Village of Little Chute and City of Kaukauna across the Fox River.

Project Description: The Connector will be a ~¼ mile paved bike/pedestrian bridge over the Fox River designed to provide sufficient room for people to fish from the bridge without impeding bike/pedestrian trail users (14' wide). The Connector will be easily accessible from three public parking areas. The Connector is a public-private partnership among the Village, City, Outagamie County, Canadian National Railroad, and several private organizations.

Project Goals: The project supports goals of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the following local/regional plans:

- Village of Little Chute Parks & Recreations Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020
- Village of Little Chute Comprehensive Plan 2016-2036
- City of Kaukauna Comprehensive Plan 2013-2033
- Outagamie County Park Needs Study 2015
- East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Action Plan 2008

Public Uses: The Connector will be accessible to the public from sunrise to sunset, 7 days per week, year-round. The Connector will provide accessible fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities, biking, walking and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

Ownership & Management: The Village of Little Chute owns Heesakker Park and holds an easement from the City of Kaukauna for Island Park. The City of Kaukauna is executing a long-term lease agreement with Canadian National/Wisconsin Central Ltd. for the southeastern bridge terminus. Kaukauna has received written approval from the railroad and is drafting the final lease agreement (as of January 2019). The Village and the City will operate and maintain the project jointly.

Timetable: On March 19, 2018, the Department approved the City’s application for a permit under Section 30.12(3m), Wis. Stats. No comments were received during the public notice period. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2019, with estimated completion by the end of the year.

Project Partners: In addition to the Village of Little Chute and City of Kaukauna, the Connector project also enjoys support from the private sector.

- Village of Little Chute: Construction management and ongoing operation/maintenance
- City of Kaukauna: Project planning and pre-engineering
- Outagamie County: Grant assistance for engineering and construction
- Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP): Grant assistance for engineering and construction
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Grant assistance for engineering and construction
- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON): Grant assistance for engineering and construction
- Canadian National/Wisconsin Central Ltd.: Easement for southern bridge terminus
- Donations from The Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival, Fox Cities Community Foundation, Private Donor from Little Chute, Fox Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau and Fox Cities Greenways.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Village of Little Chute | \$ 297,500.00 |
| City of Kaukauna | \$ 297,500.00 |
| Proposed DNR Stewardship Grant | \$ 639,000.00 |
| Federal LAWCON Grant | \$ 484,000.00 |
| Federal RTP Grant | \$ 14,182.00 |
| Outagamie County Grant | \$ 600,000.00 |
| <u>Private Donations</u> | <u>\$ 1,023,154.00</u> |
| Project Total | \$ 3,355,336.00 |

The Village has secured their required matching funds.

III. RECOMMENDED:

Terry Bay
Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

1/31/19
Date

Douglas Haag
Douglas Haag, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

2-1-19
Date

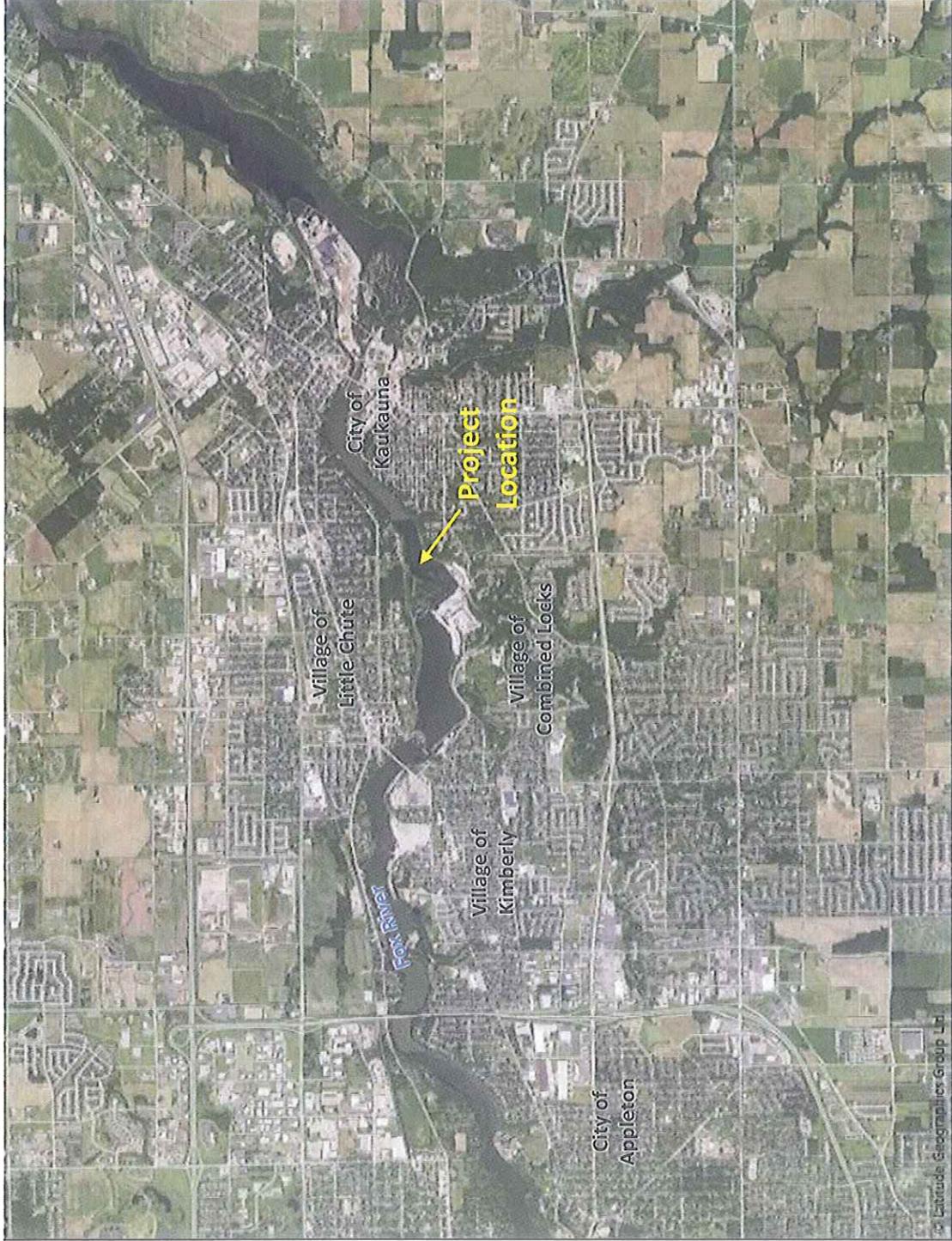
IV. ATTACHMENTS

Project Maps and Site Plans



Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector: Village of Little Chute, Outagamie County

Attachment A
Project Location
Map



1.4

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1.4 Miles

Projection: NAD_1983_HARN_Wisconsin_TM

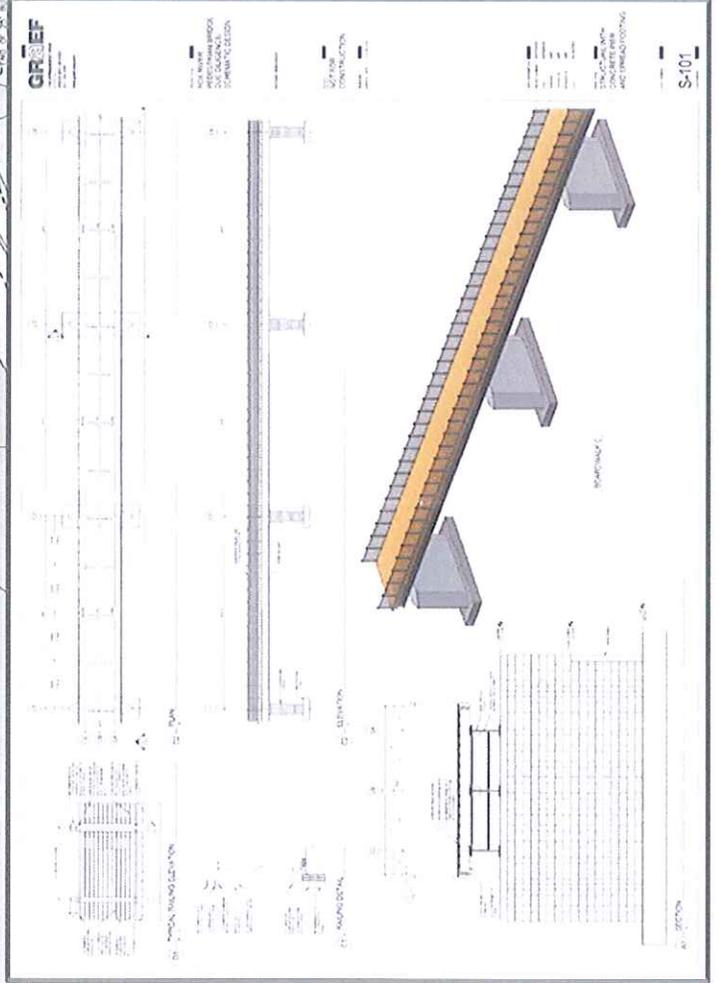
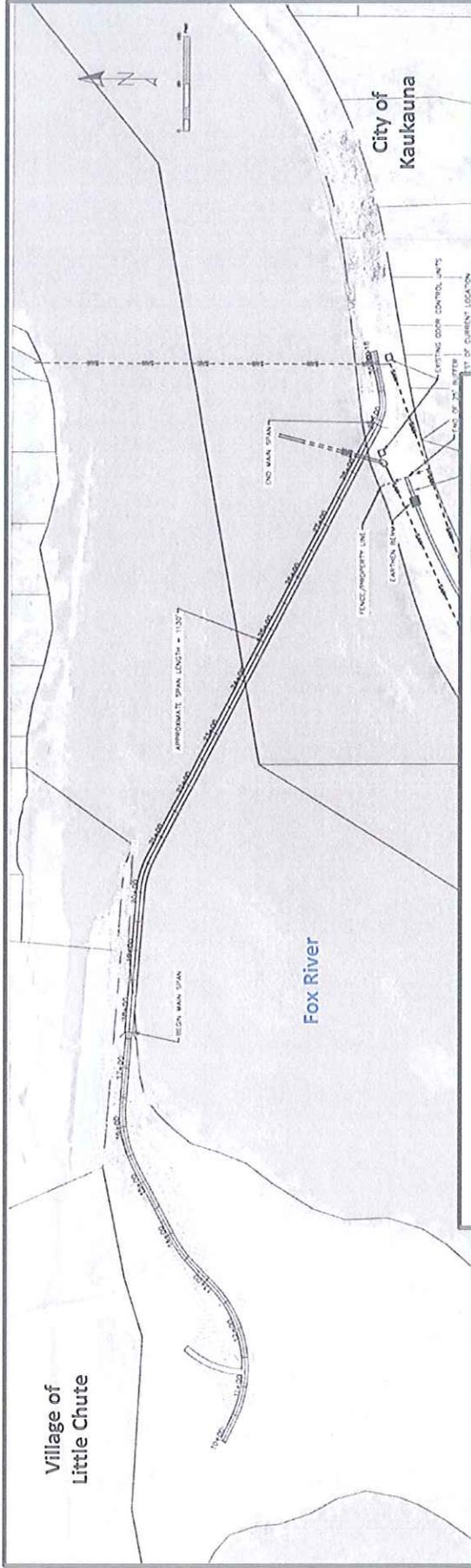
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Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector: Village of Little Chute, Outagamie County

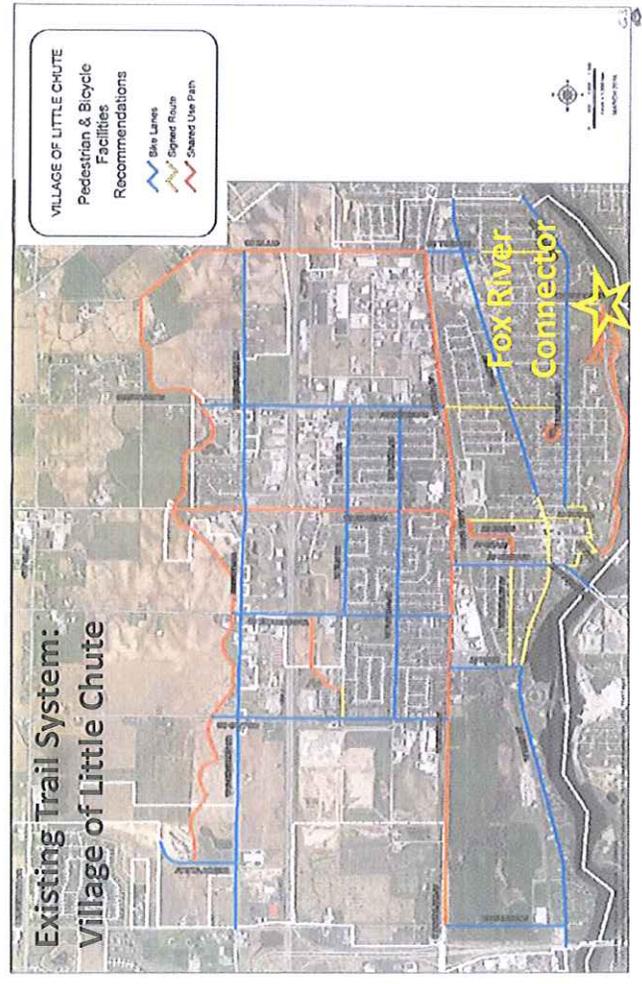
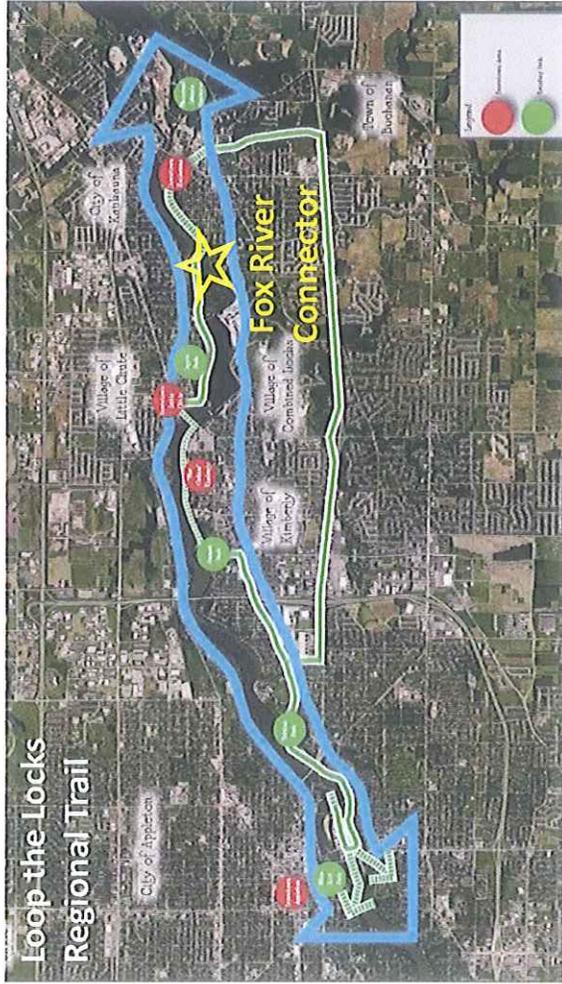
Attachment B Site Plan





Proposed Knowles-Nelson Local Units of Government Stewardship Grant Award
Loop the Locks Trail Fox River Connector: Village of Little Chute, Outagamie County

Attachment C
Additional Details



April 2018 Trail
Ground-breaking

