

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
**Alberta Darling**

317 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**John Nygren**

308 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8593  
Madison, WI 53708-8953  
Phone: (608) 266-2343

## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: August 29, 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 August 29, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Wednesday, September 18, 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



August 28, 2019

AUG 29 2019

*St. Finance*

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

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 309 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53707

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 the use of Stewardship Program funds in excess of \$250,000. These funds will be provided through the Recreational Boating Facility (RBF) grant program. Effective October 27, 2007, RBF grants are funded with Stewardship Program moneys.

The City of Lake Mills has requested grant aid totaling \$485,000 to relocate and reconstruct the existing one-lane boat launch facility and new parking lot on Rock Lake, Jefferson County. The City will construct a two-lane launch ramp with two boarding piers; construct 15 vehicle-trailer stalls and 1 ADA vehicle-trailer stall; and install stormwater controls, landscaping, and lighting. The City of Lake Mills' Sandy Beach Park Boat Launch project meets the following goals:

- Replaces, relocates, and expands the existing one-lane public boat launch facility.
- Provides and enhances public access, especially for the elderly and disabled.
- Enhances safety with improved traffic flow and separation from pedestrian beach/park users.
- Stabilizes shoreline and improves stormwater control and infiltration.

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 the date of this letter, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Preston D. Cole*

*for* Preston D. Cole  
Secretary Designee

C: Dave Siebert, Administrator, External Services Division  
Mark Aquino, Secretary Director, SCR  
Roberta Winebar, Recreational Boating Grant Program Manager  
Cheryl Housley, RBF Grant Project Manager, SCR

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 28, 2019

**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Preston D. Cole, DNR Secretary Designee

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL -- RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITY  
GRANT USING STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS  
GREATER THAN \$250,000**

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you of the proposed use of Stewardship Program funds in excess of \$250,000. These funds will be awarded through the Recreational Boating Facility grant program. Effective October 27, 2007, RBF grants are funded with Stewardship Program moneys. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats. The City of Lake Mills has requested \$485,000 to renovate its boat launch and parking facilities at its Sandy Beach Park.

**I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** City of Lake Mills  
**Grant sub-program:** Recreational Boating Facilities (RBF)  
**Location:** Sandy Beach Park, City of Lake Mills, Jefferson County. The boat launch facility and park are located on Rock Lake and is open to the public for boating, fishing, swimming, and picnicking.

**Project Description:** The City of Lake Mills is proposing to relocate and reconstruct the existing one-lane boat launch facility with a new two-lane launch and new parking lot on Rock Lake, Jefferson County. The City will construct a two-lane launch ramp with two boarding docks, and a parking area for 15 vehicle-trailers stalls and 1 ADA vehicle-trailer stall. The City will also install stormwater controls, landscaping, and lighting. The existing one-lane ramp is presently a safety hazard as it splits the City's park creating a great deal of vehicle and pedestrian conflicts. The new parking lot and launch ramp design is configured for more efficient traffic flow, separating beach and park users from the boat launch area, as well as improving storm water runoff. New lighting will also be installed for safety.

**Background:** The redevelopment of the launch area at Sandy Beach Park is proposed to address public health and safety concerns related to the existing boat launch location and to improve utility and emergency access. The City is also looking to upgrade and reinvest in this very popular park destination, since few upgrades to Sandy Beach Park have been made since 1977. This reinvestment will improve the long-term viability of the park and contribute to the local economy by continuing to provide a high-quality public access facility on the very popular Rock Lake.

The existing one-lane boat launch at Sandy Beach Park is located directly in the middle of the park facilities and lake frontage (see the attached appendices). To the west of the launch is the heavily-used main swimming beach as well as the bar/restaurant that serves beach patrons in the

summer. The City leases the bar/restaurant seasonally to a private vendor/operator. East of the launch is the shaded picnic area, public restrooms, playground area, and a second smaller swimming beach and pier. Sandy Beach Park is especially popular with families for its gentle sandy access to the water and other amenities, such as the playground. The splitting of these two areas by the current boat launch has caused a significant safety concern because of the large amount of pedestrian traffic crossing the boat landing vehicular driveway and launch area. The convergence of all these activities in one place poses a safety hazard to pedestrians and makes boat launching more difficult because many pedestrians, including children, commonly cross the launch area.

The proposed launch relocation concept design would provide a separate staging/queueing and launching area for boaters, as well as shorten the distance from vehicle/trailer parking to the launch by two-thirds when compared to the existing facility. Launch patrons must currently walk 550 - 750 feet after parking their vehicle/trailer in the marked stalls to return to their watercraft. This walk also requires launch users to walk along and across the main entrance to the Sandy Beach Park parking lot; no pedestrian walkways are delineated.

Sandy Beach Park boat launch currently provides approximately one-third of the total vehicle-trailer parking for boat traffic on Rock Lake with 15 vehicle-trailer parking stalls. The City proposes to maintain this level of parking at this site, while adding one stall compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The reconstructed launch will also provide expanded queueing areas for boat traffic and upgrade the facility to a two-lane launch compared to the existing one-lane launch. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) control will also be addressed in the design of the reconstructed boat launch.

**Project Goals:** The City of Lake Mills, Sandy Beach Park Boat Launch project meets the following goals:

- Replaces and relocates the existing public boat launch facility.
- Provides and enhances public access, especially for the elderly and disabled.
- Enhances safety with improved traffic flow and separation from pedestrian beach/park users.
- Stabilizes shoreline and improves stormwater control and infiltration.

**Public Uses:** The park and its launch are available to the public seven days per week, 365 days per year. The relocated launch and reconfigured parking lot will have the same number of vehicle-trailer parking spaces as the current facility. One new ADA-compliant parking stall will be added. The new design accommodates two-lanes of launching to better handle the number of users during peak boating season. The park has an average summer weekend attendance of 500-1000 visitors per day and has at times experienced up to 2000 visitors in a day. The new traffic flow will be safer for users and the life of the facility will be increased due to the improved storm water drainage that is also a part of this project.

**Property Management:** The launch will be operated and maintained by the City of Lake Mills, consistent with their management policy.

**Timetable:** Finalize design and advertising for bids are expected in Fall 2019. Construction is proposed to begin in Spring 2020 and be complete in the Summer 2020.

**Partnerships:**

- City of Lake Mills: Responsible for redevelopment, operation, and maintenance.
- Department of Natural Resources: Provides grant assistance.

**II. PROJECT FINANCES:**

Total Project Costs	\$ 970,000	
City of Lake Mills contribution		\$ 485,000
<u>DNR RBF proposed grant award amount</u>		<u>\$ 485,000 (50% cost-sharing)</u>
		\$ 970,000

**III. RECOMMENDED:**

  
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Mary Rose Teves, Director Date 27 August 2019  
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Seibert, Administrator Date 8/27/19  
External Services Division

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Sandy Beach Park map
- Appendix B – Conceptual site plan
- Appendix C – Current photos

Appendix A – Location Map: Sandy Beach Park, City of Lake Mills





Appendix C – Existing site photos, aerial and at-grade.



Existing Launch With Pedestrian Facilities Intersecting Vehicle/Trailer Areas

