



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873  
Email: [fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov) • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

February 1, 2022

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: University of Wisconsin System: Section 13.10 Request for Release of Funding for  
Collaboration with Federal Department of Defense -- Agenda Item VII

### REQUEST

On November 16, 2021, the UW System submitted a request under s. 13.10 of the statutes for release of \$500,000 GPR in 2021-22 for collaborative efforts with the federal Department of Defense.

### BACKGROUND

Under 2021 Act 58, \$500,000 GPR in 2021-22 is provided in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for release to the UW System upon request and approval by the Committee for two collaborative efforts with the United States Department of Defense (DOD). Of this amount, \$250,000 was intended to be utilized to support collaborative efforts between the DOD and the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and \$250,000 was intended to support collaborative efforts between DOD and the UW System relating to water-related activities.

### ANALYSIS

#### **Nelson Institute**

According to the request, \$250,000 would be utilized for a partnership between the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Environmental and Natural Resources Specialists. If approved by the Committee, the funding provided under Act 58 in fiscal year 2021-22 would be released to the UW-System general operations GPR appropriation. As a biennial appropriation, funds could be utilized in both years of the biennium, with any funds remaining uncommitted at the close of fiscal year 2022-23 lapsing to the balance of the general fund.

Located at UW-Madison, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies houses four interdisciplinary research centers working toward solutions to critical environmental challenges including: the Center for Climate Research, which studies climate history, ocean-atmosphere-biosphere interactions, and future climate; the Center for Culture, History, and Environment, which investigates historical environmental and cultural change to inform current and future environmental research; the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment which examines connections between natural resources, technology, policy, human health, and security in the rapidly changing global environment; and the Center for Ecology and the Environment which fosters research, instruction, and outreach among ecologists at UW and beyond. The request indicates a partnership between the Nelson Institute and the U.S. Army would enhance the missions of both organizations.

U.S. Army Civil Affairs Soldiers work closely with local populations and civil authorities during times of conflict. These soldiers use their specialized training to plan and execute a variety of civil-military operations in support of Army, Joint, and Special Operations. The request notes that the need for expertise on the environment is critical to Civil Affairs operations, specifically for Civil Affairs Environment and Natural Resources Specialists. According to the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Operations Field Manual No. 3-57:

The 38G/4E environment and natural resources specialist advises and assists on, or reestablishes and directs, the management of environmental protection and resource management measures relating to land use for the protection of human health, natural resources, and native ecosystems. They emphasize balancing the preservation, access, and utilization of resources for development of economic opportunities at local communities through national interests. They also provide technical expertise to national and provincial officials on plans, policies, and laws related to the utilization of indigenous resources to benefit effective governance and economic stability, ensuring the safety of the ecosystem for the benefit of the entire population.

According to the request, UW-Madison's well-recognized expertise in a wide-breadth of environmental and resource management areas makes it ideally positioned to meet the U.S. Army Civil Affairs' needs. The \$250,000 funding would be utilized to create a pilot two-year initiative to: (1) create an internal organizational structure at UW-Madison to facilitate access to UW-Madison's environmental expertise in support of 38G personnel; (2) design a project/request/work-flow system that meets the needs of 38G personnel, while simultaneously not overtaxing faculty time/resources; and (3) provide infrastructure to support 38G personnel excursions to the UW-Madison campus for workshops/trainings.

Overseen by the Dean's Office of the Nelson Institute, the effort would provide consultations, workshops, or research to meet needs identified by the Army. Additionally, the request indicates an oversight committee consisting of environmental experts from across campus would be periodically convened. Under the effort, experts would respond to specific sets of questions with work products that could include meetings between 38G personnel and area experts with a Q&A or brief presentation, a short précis summary of relevant information, a brief research summary, or a workshop or excursion with a more in-depth review of current knowledge.

The proposal indicates the \$250,000 in funding would support two years of \$125,000 effort as shown in the following table:

**UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies  
Partnership with U.S. Army Civil Affairs Proposed Budget (Annual)**

Excursion Support Expenses	\$48,000
Primary Liaison to USACA (60% staff time)	45,000
Faculty Chair (1 month of summer salary)	16,000
Graduate Student Hourly Support	10,000
Consultation by Additional Faculty	<u>6,000</u>
 Total	 \$125,000

**Water Council**

Under the request, the \$250,000 allocated for water-related activities would be released to the UW-System general operations GPR appropriation and UW-Milwaukee would execute a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Water Council (TWC) and the U.S. Department of Defense. UW-Milwaukee has been a partner of TWC since its founding in 2009 and UWM Chancellor Mark Mone is a member of the TWC Board of Directors.

The Water Council is a 501c3 non-profit membership organization comprised of more than 200 water technology businesses from around the world as well as academic and government partners. Based in Milwaukee, TWC's mission is solving critical global water challenges by supporting innovation in freshwater technology and driving solutions to the numerous industries that need and use a large amount of water. By linking academia to businesses that need technology, TWC assists in assembling industry and academic research and development collaboratives. TWC also promotes water stewardship as a natural complement to water innovation. They offer a variety of water stewardship advisory services including working with publicly traded and private corporations to accelerate water stewardship performance; coordinating local water stewardship projects with organizations seeking to improve water-related performance within their direct operations or in partnership with key suppliers in water-stressed regions; and addressing shared challenges and opportunities with strategic partners from Canada to the United States.

According to the request, the \$250,000 is intended to serve as seed funding to support the TWC partners in their efforts to assist U.S. military personnel in their overall understanding of water-related issues. This could involve the development of military training aids and materials, workshops and conferences for skills exchange and capacity building, integrating water management practices and technology into military exercises, cross-training and mission assignment opportunities, and providing a platform to support outreach to organizations in the wider military and water industry professional communities. UWM's role in the collaborative effort would include providing: graduate and post-graduate-level research in order to further the understanding of water-related challenges related to military missions; curriculum and training program development; lab and/or facility staff support; connections to the campus Military and Veterans Resource Center; and meeting space and lab access for training excursions.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### **A. Nelson Institute**

1. Approve the request and transfer \$250,000 GPR in 2021-22 held in reserve from the Committee's s. 20.8675(4)(a) appropriation to the UW System's s. 202.285(1)(a) appropriation to support a partnership between the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs.

2. Deny the request.

### **B. Water Council**

1. Approve the request and transfer \$250,000 GPR in 2021-22 held in reserve from the Committee's s. 20.8675(4)(a) appropriation to the UW System's s. 202.285(1)(a) appropriation to support a partnership between the Water Council and the federal Department of Defense.

2. Deny the request.

Prepared by: Erin Probst