



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUL 19 2019

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor
State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your support to establish a National Estuarine Research Reserve System in the Green Bay coastal area of Lake Michigan.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recognizes the importance of partnerships as well as the economic and ecological value provided by estuarine ecosystems, which includes the importance of reserve programs for research, monitoring, education, and stewardship for local communities. NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the site designation process, and the program lead is Erica Seiden. She can be reached at (240) 533-0781 or Erica.Seiden@noaa.gov. Ms. Seiden has been in contact with Matt Dornbush from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and will coordinate next steps with the University.

We look forward to providing both technical assistance and broad capabilities for the site selection process. If you have any further questions, please contact Wendy Lewis, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil A. Jacobs".

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the Duties of
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere





Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

(13) 19-066557

March 25, 2019

Dr. Timothy Gallaudet, Acting Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Green Bay Ecosystem National Estuarine Research Reserve Site Selection

Dear Dr. Gallaudet:

I am pleased to notify your office of Wisconsin's interest in establishing a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in our Green Bay coastal area of Lake Michigan. The Green Bay ecosystem is the largest freshwater estuary in the world, in the largest reservoir of freshwater on the planet, the vitality of which are critical to the current and future prosperity of the city of Green Bay, Door County, and the broader region. We share with the NERR System a vision of creating a "living laboratory" where scientists, educators, and community partners use place-based research to create distinct educational resources, to facilitate local stewardship, and to support the local economic health afforded by our estuarine-based natural resources.

Green Bay itself is a unique body of water, stretching from the tip of Door County to the headwaters of the Fox and Wolf Rivers. The Bay contains some of the most beautiful and extensively used waters within the entire Great Lakes basin, and represents a tremendous asset for the State of Wisconsin and its citizens – for recreation, fishing, transportation and maritime commerce. It is also an intensely interesting system in terms of its underlying dynamics, the understanding of which have applicability across estuarine systems throughout the world. Designation of Green Bay as a National Estuarine Research Reserve would highlight Wisconsin's leadership in applied environmental stewardship and bring much needed attention to the Great Lakes. Wisconsin sits on nearly ~20% of the world's surface freshwater and 90% of the nation's supply that will increasingly become the envy of regions not so blessed. The Green Bay ecosystem supports a robust tourism industry, with Brown and Door Counties alone generating nearly a billion dollars in visitor spending in 2015 alone. The visitor center and outreach activities associated with a Green Bay ecosystem NERR will provide an additional year-round draw for tourists, and a highly visible location for the NERR System. The initiatives and activities led by a Green Bay ecosystem NERR will enhance place-based identity, contributing directly to talent recruitment and retention efforts for skilled millennials who are seeking the quality of life opportunities supported by a healthy natural resource base. Green Bay will, I predict, quickly become a hallmark reserve within the national system, emphasizing our ability to balance natural resource stewardship with sound agricultural practices, progressive urban design, and responsible industry.

The state of Wisconsin formally seeks federal funds, technical assistance and commitment to guide our state through the site selection process. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, working closely with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program in the Department of Administration, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and local community partners will serve as the lead agency for establishing a NERR. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has and continues to serve as a leader in in research, stewardship, and restoration activities within the Green Bay ecosystem.



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

I invite you to visit Wisconsin's Green Bay ecosystem to gain firsthand experience of this internationally important estuarine system. I am confident that NERR designation will increase awareness of the value of this resource to the nation, and foster a sense of immense pride for this natural resource treasure among the citizens of Wisconsin.

I look forward to working with you and your staff on this exciting project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers

Governor of Wisconsin

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation

Gary L. Miller, Chancellor


University of Wisconsin-Green Bay



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JUL 01 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the Duties of
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

FROM: Nicole R. LeBoeuf 
Acting Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Response to Wisconsin's Letter of Interest for a National Estuarine
Research Reserve

Name(s) of Person(s) Requesting Action/Correspondent:

- Governor Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin

Subject/Issues Raised by Person(s) Requesting Action(s)/Correspondent:

- On March 25, 2019, Governor Evers submitted a letter of interest to NOAA regarding nominating a site for a National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- The State has identified the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as the lead agency for the proposed reserve, as well as several state and local partners.
- The letter formally seeks federal funds, technical assistance, and NOAA's commitment during the site selection process.

Major Points in the Response:

- NOAA thanks the State for the letter of interest and recognizes those who have been identified as lead partners.
- NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, in the National Ocean Service, will serve as the lead for the designation process.
- NOAA acknowledges that the state has identified the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as the lead partner for the proposed reserve.
- The NOAA program lead has been in communication with the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and will continue to work with the University to coordinate next steps.

Potential Controversy:

- None expected. As defined in the regulations, there are several biogeographic regions within the Great Lakes that are not currently represented. These areas are included in priorities for expansion; hence, this designation would fill a gap currently within the system. For this reason and for the strong local support, we do not expect the nomination to be controversial.



Clearances and Coordination:

- Keelin Kuipers, Deputy Director, NOS/Office for Coastal Management
- Erica Seiden, Ecosystems Program Manager, NOS/Office for Coastal Management
- Office of General Counsel Review:
 - List which section of NOAA GC reviewed (e.g., GC Fisheries). Include name of attorney who reviewed, if known, and date of review (in parentheses)
 - List whether DOC GC reviewed and date of review (in parentheses)
- Other Agency Coordination:
 - N/A

Contact Person:

- Erica Seiden, Ecosystems Program Manager, NOS/Office for Coastal Management,
Erica.Seiden@noaa.gov

Attachment:

- Letter to Governor



Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Headquarters Clearance Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

NOS PCO - NOAA Service Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov>

Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 1:44 PM

To: Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov>

Cc: Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>, NOAA <noaa.hq.corrclearance@noaa.gov>, Linda Belton - NOAA Federal <linda.belton@noaa.gov>, Kelly Quickle <kelly.quickle@noaa.gov>, Edward J Vandenameele - NOAA Federal <edward.j.vandenameele@noaa.gov>, Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal <wendy.lewis@noaa.gov>, Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov>, "Rameau, Brian (Contractor)" <brian.rameau@noaa.gov>, Denise Johnson <denise.l.johnson@noaa.gov>

NOS PCO clears.

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 12:45 PM Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov> wrote:
OLIA clears.

Have a great 4th of July!
Melanie

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 11:54 AM Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov> wrote:

Attached for your review and clearance is a response letter to Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin regarding Wisconsin's interest in establishing a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). This is for the Under Secretary's signature.

Clearance is due: 11:00 a.m., Monday, July 8.

Please remember to "reply all" to ensure others in the clearance process are able to see your clearance and/or comments.

Thank you

Attachments
incoming
transmittal sheet
response

--
Melanie Jackson, Ph.D.
Knauss Sea Grant Fellow
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Melanie.Jackson@noaa.gov
Office: (202) 482-5111
Cell: (202) 379-6677

--
Tricia Hooper

Program Coordination Officer, National Ocean Service
Lynker Technologies, Inc. supporting:
Office of the Undersecretary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Ave NW, Rm 58019
Washington, DC 20230
Cell: 301 351 3999
DC Office (M,W,Th): 202 482 2799



NOAA

Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Headquarters Clearance Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

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Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 12:44 PM

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LA' or similar initials, located to the right of the attachments list.

--
Melanie Jackson, Ph.D.
Knauss Sea Grant Fellow
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Melanie.Jackson@noaa.gov
Office: (202) 482-5111
Cell: (202) 379-6677



Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Headquarters Clearance Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

Jeff Dillen - NOAA Federal <jeff.dillen@noaa.gov>

Tue, Jul 9, 2019 at 5:21 PM

To: Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Cc: NOAA <noaa.hq.corrclearance@noaa.gov>, Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov>, Linda Belton - NOAA Federal <linda.belton@noaa.gov>, Kelly Quickle <kelly.quickle@noaa.gov>, Edward J Vandenameele - NOAA Federal <edward.j.vandenameele@noaa.gov>, Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal <wendy.lewis@noaa.gov>, Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov>, "Rameau, Brian (Contractor)" <brian.rameau@noaa.gov>, Denise Johnson <denise.l.johnson@noaa.gov>

NOAA GC clears.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 3, 2019, at 11:54 AM, Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov> wrote:

Attached for your review and clearance is a response letter to Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin regarding Wisconsin's interest in establishing a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). This is for the Under Secretary's signature.

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Thank you

Attachments

incoming
transmittal sheet
response

<66557-incoming.pdf>

<66557-transmittal sheet.pdf>

<66557-response.docx>



Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Headquarters Clearance Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <makeda.okolo@noaa.gov>

Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 2:35 PM

To: NOS PCO - NOAA Service Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov>

Cc: Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov>, Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>, NOAA <noaa.hq.corrclearance@noaa.gov>, Linda Belton - NOAA Federal <linda.belton@noaa.gov>, Kelly Quickle <kelly.quickle@noaa.gov>, Edward J Vandenameele - NOAA Federal <edward.j.vandenameele@noaa.gov>, Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal <wendy.lewis@noaa.gov>, Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov>, "Rameau, Brian (Contractor)" <brian.rameau@noaa.gov>, Denise Johnson <denise.l.johnson@noaa.gov>

DUSO clears with the attached edits.

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 1:44 PM NOS PCO - NOAA Service Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov> wrote:
NOS PCO clears.

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 12:45 PM Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov> wrote:
OLIA clears.

Have a great 4th of July!
Melanie

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 11:54 AM Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov> wrote:
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Melanie Jackson, Ph.D.
Knauss Sea Grant Fellow
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
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Office: (202) 482-5111
Cell: (202) 379-6677

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Tricia Hooper
Program Coordination Officer, National Ocean Service
Lynker Technologies, Inc. supporting:
Office of the Undersecretary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Headquarters Clearance Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

Brandon Elsner - NOAA Federal <brandon.elsner@noaa.gov>

Sun, Jul 7, 2019 at 6:23 PM

To: Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <makeda.okolo@noaa.gov>

Cc: Denise Johnson <denise.l.johnson@noaa.gov>, Edward J Vandenameele - NOAA Federal <edward.j.vandenameele@noaa.gov>, Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>, Kelly Quickle <kelly.quickle@noaa.gov>, Linda Belton - NOAA Federal <linda.belton@noaa.gov>, Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov>, NOAA <noaa.hq.corrclearance@noaa.gov>, NOS PCO - NOAA Service Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov>, "Rameau, Brian (Contractor)" <brian.rameau@noaa.gov>, Tanya Dobrzynski - NOAA Federal <tanya.dobrzynski@noaa.gov>, Wendy Lewis - NOAA Federal <wendy.lewis@noaa.gov>

ASOA clears.

Brandon

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 2:35 PM Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <makeda.okolo@noaa.gov> wrote:

DUSO clears with the attached edits.

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 1:44 PM NOS PCO - NOAA Service Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov> wrote:

NOS PCO clears.

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 12:45 PM Melanie Jackson - NOAA Federal <melanie.jackson@noaa.gov> wrote:

OLIA clears.

Have a great 4th of July!

Melanie

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Melanie Jackson, Ph.D.
Knauss Sea Grant Fellow
NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Melanie.Jackson@noaa.gov
Office: (202) 482-5111
Cell: (202) 379-6677

--



Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Re: NOAA Autopen Request: Wisconsin's Letter for NERR (Folder 13-066557)

1 message

Michael Weiss - NOAA Federal <michael.weiss@noaa.gov>

Fri, Jul 19, 2019 at 10:31 AM

To: Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov>

Cc: _NOAA HQ AUTOPEN <noaa.hq.autopen@noaa.gov>, Kelly Quickle <kelly.quickle@noaa.gov>, Edward J

Vandenameele - NOAA Federal <edward.j.vandenameele@noaa.gov>, "Rameau, Brian (Contractor)"

<brian.rameau@noaa.gov>, Denise Johnson <denise.l.johnson@noaa.gov>, NOS PCO Account <nos.pco@noaa.gov>

Autopen approved.

Thank you.

On Wed, Jul 10, 2019 at 1:46 PM Exec Ecorr - NOAA Service Account <exec.ecorr@noaa.gov> wrote:

All clearances received: PCO, LA, GC, DUS w/edits, ASO(Brandon Elsner) and Brian R. (Editor)

Redline version attached with edits made in clearance. Please provide Autopen approval at your earliest convenience.

Thank you

Attachments
incoming
transmittal sheet
response

--
Michael Weiss
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Under Secretary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
202-482-5958 (w)
301-337-0684 (c)