

# Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 2 of 11

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CF/2)  
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

**Notice:** Use of this form is required by the Department of Natural Resources for any application filed pursuant to ch. NR 193, Wis. Adm. Code. Personal information collected on this form will be used for administrative purpose and may be provided to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Public Records Laws [[ss.19.31–19.39 Wis. Stats.](#)] **To be considered, applications must either be submitted electronically or postmarked by November 15.** The preferred method of application submittal is via email to [DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@wisconsin.gov), using the **Submit by Email** button on this form.

## Section 1: Ecosystem Type

Pre-application

This project primarily focuses on (select one):

- ☒ Lakes ☐ Rivers ☐ AIS

## Section 2a: Application Type (select one)

Pre-application

### Education and Planning Grants:

- ☐ Surface Water Education  
☒ Surface Water Planning  
☐ Comprehensive Planning for Lakes & Watersheds  
☐ County Lake

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants

- ☐ AIS Prevention  
☐ AIS Population Management  
☐ Large-scale ☐ Small-scale  
☐ AIS Early Detection & Response

### Surface Water Management Grants:

- ☐ Surface Water Restoration  
☐ Management Plan Implementation  
☐ Ordinance Development  
☐ Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition  
☐ Wetland Restoration Incentive

**Note:** For Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants use [Form 8700-337](#)

Lake Monitoring and Protection Network use [Form 8700-284L](#)

Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grants use [Form 8700-035](#)

AIS Planning Grants use [Form 8700-284P](#)

## Section 2b: Applicant Information

Pre-application

Project Title

Birch Lake APM Plan

Applicant Name (Organization)

Town of Barnes

Organization Type

Town

Organization Address--Where to Send Check

3360 County Hwy N

City

Barnes

State

WI

ZIP Code

54873

Authorized Representative (AR) Name

Bill Sande

AR Title

AIS Committee Co-Chair

AR Phone Number (include area code)

(715) 558-5376

Ext.

AR E-mail Address

billsande3006@gmail.com

Contact Representative (CR) Name (if different from AR)

Megan Sorensen

CR Title

NWRPC

CR Phone Number (include area code)

(715) 520-8156

Ext.

CR E-mail Address

msorensen@nwrpc.com

Has your organization been approved as an eligible applicant within the past 10 years?

- ☐ Not applicable. (eg., Counties, Local Units of Government, Lake Districts, Town Sanitary Districts, Tribes, or Accredited Universities.)  
☐ No. Submit [Form 8700-380](#) and required supporting documentation to your [Environmental Grant Specialist](#) 6 months prior to the grant application deadline. Your organization must be deemed eligible prior to the grant application deadline.  
☒ Yes.

Please refer to the [application instructions](#) to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

# Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 3 of 11

## Section 3: Project Information

**Pre-application**

### Project Location

				Proposed Start Date		Proposed End Date	
				March 15 2026		December 31 2028	
				(Start Date) (Year)		(End Date) (Year)	
Waterbody Name(s)	Waterbody ID(s) Look it up here! ( <a href="#">WBIC</a> )	Lake Acreage (if applicable)	Is there public access?	No. of Public Access Sites Incl. Boat Launches & walk-ins	No. of Public Vehicle-Trailer Parking Spaces Available at Public Access Sites		
Birch Lake	2743200	129.00	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2	10		

- ☐ Project to be implemented on state land  
☐ Project to be implemented on land not owned by the applicant  
☐ Regional project serving multiple waterbodies

County(ies)

Bayfield

<a href="#">State Senate District</a> No.(s)	<a href="#">State Assembly District</a> No.(s)
25	74

### Management Plan(s)

Name of Plan	Publication Year

### Laboratory Analysis

Does this project include laboratory sample analysis? ☒ Yes ☐ NoIf yes, then complete [Form 8700-360](#) and indicate the lab service provider:

- ☒ State Lab of Hygiene  
☐ Other:

### Permitting

Are state, local and/or federal permits required for this project? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unknown

Permit Name	Agency	Status (i.e., to be submitted, submitted, approved)	Agency Contact

### Pre-application Meeting

Wisconsin DNR Staff Name(s)	Date
Ben Schleppenbach	10/13/2025
Jamie Vandenlangenberg	10/13/2025

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## Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 4 of 11

### Section 4: External Financial Support

List organizations (e.g., school, town, county, nonprofit organization, etc.) other than the applicant and their subcontractors that are providing financial support in the project. Identify the type of financial support (cash, volunteer hours, equipment, etc) and attach a copy of the organizations letter of financial commitment. Do not list Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funds or resources.

Organization Name	Type of Support	Amount of Support
Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club	Financial	
Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc	Letter of Support	
Douglas County Land & Water	Letter of Support	
Bayfield County Land & Water	Letter of Support	

# Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 5 of 11

## Section 5. Project Budget

Pre-application

**Part A.** Provide a detailed budget of eligible costs including all wages, services, supplies and equipment necessary to accomplish the project. List each item, the activities it is related to in Section 8 of the application, the budget category it best fits, number of units (e.g. hours, plants, square feet, days, miles) and unit cost. Note whether the item is related to administration of the project. See guidance for more information.

Item Description	Activity in Section 8 (ex. 1.a.)	Budget Category	Cash or Donation/ Match	Unit	# of Units	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Admin. Cost?
1. 2026 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection Secchi + Chemistry - Barnes volunteers	1.a.	Personnel	donation	hr	15	\$ 15.00	\$ 225.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. 2026 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection Secchi + Chemistry - Barnes boat time	1.a.	Supplies & Operating Expenses	donation	hr	15	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. 2026 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection - Chemistry WSLOH	1.a.	Other	cash		1	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. 2027 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection - Secchi + Chemistry - Barnes volunteers	1.a.	Personnel	donation	hr	15	\$ 15.00	\$ 225.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. 2027 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection - Secchi + Chemistry - Barnes boat time	1.a.	Supplies & Operating Expenses	donation	hr	15	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. 2027 Birch Lake Water Quality data collection - Chemistry - WSLOH	1.a.	Consultants/Contractual	cash		1	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. 2026 Birch Lake PI Survey - ERS	1.b.	Consultants/Contractual	cash		1	\$ 3,737.00	\$ 3,737.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. 2026-2027 APM Plan Development - NWRPC	1.c.	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	55	\$ 88.00	\$ 4,840.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. 2026-2027 Travel Costs - NWRPC (Mileage at \$0.65/mi)		Travel	cash	mi	250	\$ 0.65	\$ 162.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. 2026 Project Administration - Barnes volunteers		Personnel	donation	hr	15	\$ 15.00	\$ 225.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. 2027 Project Administration - Barnes volunteers		Personnel	donation	hr	15	\$ 15.00	\$ 225.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. 2026 Project Administration - Town of Barnes Clerk		Personnel	donation	hr	10	\$ 15.00	\$ 150.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. 2027 Project Administration - Town of Barnes Clerk		Personnel	donation	hr	10	\$ 15.00	\$ 150.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. 2026-2027 APM Plan Review and Assistance - Town of Barnes	1.c.	Personnel	donation	hr	20	\$ 15.00	\$ 300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. 2026-2027 Communications - NWRPC		Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	10	\$ 88.00	\$ 880.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.						\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
							Subtotal	\$ 12,169.50
							Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 12,169.50
State Share Requested cannot exceed Cash Cost Subtotal							Eligible State Share	\$ 8,153.56
							Grant Award Request	\$ 8,153.56

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# Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 6 of 11

## Part B – Cost Estimate Summary. Summary of all costs from Part A.

Cost Category	A. Cash Costs	B. Donated Value
1. Personnel	\$	\$ 1,500.00
2. Employee Benefits	\$	\$
3. Travel	\$ 162.50	\$
4. Equipment	\$	\$
5. Supplies/Operating Expenses	\$	\$ 300.00
6. Consultant/Contractual	\$ 9,832.00	\$
7. Construction	\$	\$
8. Other (ex. Acquisition)	\$ 375.00	\$
<b>Subtotals</b>	\$ 10,369.50	\$ 1,800.00
<b>Total Project Cost Estimate</b>	\$ 12,169.50	
<b>Grant Award Request</b>	\$ 8,153.56	
<b>Grantee Share</b>	\$ 4,015.94	

Grantee Share Percent: 33%

## Part C – Cost Containment and Professional Service Agreements.

- ☒ I acknowledge that a professional service agreement is required if the grantee subcontracts or hires an agent to undertake any portion of this project requiring more than \$5000 of grant funding prior to the commencement of any contracted work. (Does not apply to counties, cities, towns, villages or Wisconsin tribes).
- ☒ I acknowledge that cost containment measures must be implemented per NR 193.08 for all capital assets and any supply, service or equipment item purchased by the grantee if the cost exceeds \$2,500.

Budget Items > \$2,500	Cost-Containment Methods	Description of Method
2026 Birch Lake PI Survey - ERS	Flat Rate	ERS has done all previous plant mapping for the Town of Barnes and uses WDNR rates as base for contract proposals
2026-2027 APM Plan Development - NWRPC	Average Cost	NWRPC uses an hourly rate based on other planning projects

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# Surface Water Grant Application

Form 8700-284 (R 07/01/2025)

Page 7 of 11

## Section 6: Attachments (check all that are included)

- ☒ Authorizing resolution (required).
- ☒ Documentation of external financial support and/or letters of support.
- ☒ Map of project location, public access, public land and other use and access features (required).
- ☒ Surface Water Grant Project Lab Costs, [Form 8700-360](#) (required).

## Section 7: Certification

Bill Sande

Signature: Bill Sande

11/11/2025

Date Signed

## Section 8: Project Description

Pre-application

**A. Brief Project Summary (1000-characters, with spaces maximum)**

Enter text below using the following sentence structure: *The [applicant] is sponsoring a project to conduct AIS Planning activities on [waterbody]. Activities and deliverables include 1) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], 2) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], 3) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], ...*

**Note**, this text will be used as a standalone scope statement in program and promotional materials, the SWIMS database, and on DNR Lakes webpages if the grant is awarded.

The Town of Barnes is sponsoring a project to develop an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Birch Lake. Activities and deliverables include 1) water quality data collection, 2) a point-intercept survey, and 3) an aquatic plant management plan for Birch Lake.

**B. Project Area and Public Access/Use**

Describe where the project is located, including information on the waterbody or community served. For projects addressing waterbodies or watersheds, include physical characteristics like size, depth, hydrological type and land use. Describe public use and access features.

The proposed project is for Birch Lake, a 129-acre, shallow drainage-seepage lake in the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County. Situated between Robinson Lake and Upper Eau Claire Lake, it is part of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, which forms the headwaters of the Eau Claire River. Eight areas are designated as Critical Habitat on Birch Lake for a total of 36 acres. Seven areas are classified as Sensitive Areas for rushes, emergent and floating leaf aquatic plants, and/or submergent aquatic plants. One area is classified as a Public Rights Feature for woody habitat. There are also two state-owned islands.

Birch Lake is 129 acres and is a relatively shallow drainage-seepage lake that is part of the Eau Claire chain of lakes, with a maximum depth of about 8 feet and an average depth of 5 feet. The land use around Birch Lake is characterized by northwoods cabins and vacation homes typical of the region's recreational character. Birch Lake is within the Eau Claire Lakes Watershed (HUC12) that has 80% natural land cover. The primary source of development is the Town of Barnes and shoreline development.

Public access to Birch Lake is primarily via navigable water from Robinson Lake and Upper Eau Claire Lake, rather than a dedicated boat launch directly on Birch Lake itself. The lake supports fishing for species such as panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye. Although there is no public boat landing on Birch Lake, its hydrological connection to lakes with public access facilitates boating, scenic paddling, and angling from within the broader chain system.

**C. Problem Statement**

Provide a clear and concise description of the problem that this project will address. What is the purpose of the project?

Birch Lake currently lacks water quality and aquatic plant data, creating gaps in understanding its ecological health and vulnerability to aquatic invasive species (AIS). Because it is directly connected to Upper Eau Claire Lake, where curly-leaf pondweed is actively managed using the Town of Barnes' DASH boat, Birch Lake faces an elevated risk of AIS introduction and spread. This risk is heightened by its hydrologic connection to Upper Eau Claire and the fact that access to Birch Lake is primarily through Upper Eau Claire or Robinson Lake. Without baseline data, effective monitoring, management, and protection of the lake are not possible.

This project will collect comprehensive water quality and aquatic plant data to establish essential baseline information for Birch Lake. These data will support the development of an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan as part of a broader Town of Barnes initiative to create coordinated management strategies for all area lakes. The goal is to prevent new AIS introductions, manage existing infestations, and guide long-term lake protection efforts, helping preserve the ecological integrity and recreational value of Birch Lake and the wider Eau Claire Chain of Lakes.

**D. Project Description and Timeline****1. Goals and Objectives**

List your project's goals and objectives. A goal describes a big-picture outcome, a goal describes what positive effect you are trying to achieve. Goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-oriented. An objective is how that goal will be accomplished. Objectives often use some unit of measure (lbs of Phosphorus reduced, people contacted, surveys completed, etc) that specifies progress toward achieving a goal within a time frame.

Goal:

Establish a comprehensive baseline understanding of Birch Lake's water quality and aquatic plant community by the end of the grant period to support informed management decisions, prevent new AIS introductions, and protect the ecological health and recreational value of the lake.

Objectives:

Please refer to the [application instructions](#) to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

- 1) Collect baseline water quality data during the 2026 and 2027 monitoring season, including measurements of water clarity (Secchi), nutrient concentrations (Total Phosphorus), and algal biomass (Chlorophyll-a).
- 2) Conduct a warm-water aquatic plant survey by September 2026 to document species diversity, distribution, and detect any existing AIS.
- 3) Develop an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for Birch Lake by December 2027 using collected data to identify management priorities, AIS prevention strategies, and protection measures for native plants.
- 4) Integrate Birch Lake's APM Plan into the broader Town of Barnes lake management initiative by 2027, ensuring consistent and coordinated strategies across the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes.

## 1.a. Activity

Describe the activities that you will conduct to achieve your project's objectives and goals. For each activity, provide a general project time frame for completion.

Volunteers will collect Secchi disk readings and total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a samples once per month June through August in 2026 and 2027.

### Method and Data Collected

Identify by name what Surface Water Grant Program-approved method will be implemented. If a program-approved method is unavailable, describe the protocol you intend to use. Describe the data that will be collected.

Volunteers will be trained by CLMN and/or Bayfield County personnel to collect data following CLMN water clarity and chemistry procedures.

### Deliverable and Outcomes

Describe all deliverables that will be submitted during the grant cycle.

All water quality data will be submitted to SWIMS.

## 1.b. Activity

Describe the activities that you will conduct to achieve your project's objectives and goals. For each activity, provide a general project time frame for completion.

Conduct a Point-Intercept Survey to quantitatively assess the distribution and abundance of aquatic plants in Birch Lake.

### Method and Data Collected

Identify by name what Surface Water Grant Program-approved method will be implemented. If a program-approved method is unavailable, describe the protocol you intend to use. Describe the data that will be collected.

Endangered Resource Services, LLC will conduct a point-intercept survey of Birch Lake using the Aquatic Plant Baseline Aquatic Plant Monitoring Protocol in summer 2026.

### Deliverable and Outcomes

Describe all deliverables that will be submitted during the grant cycle.

The point-intercept excel data (point-intercept excel template), spacial data (geodatabase), and maps (PDF or jpegs) will be submitted as electronic files.

## 1.c. Activity

Describe the activities that you will conduct to achieve your project's objectives and goals. For each activity, provide a general project time frame for completion.

NWRPC will lead the development of an APM Plan for Birch Lake.

### Method and Data Collected

Identify by name what Surface Water Grant Program-approved method will be implemented. If a program-approved method is unavailable, describe the protocol you intend to use. Describe the data that will be collected.

The Birch Lake APM Plan will incorporate the point-intercept survey results and water quality data collected during the project. Additionally, relevant information from Wisconsin DNR databases, prior area lake studies for the Town of Barnes, and other relevant sources (land cover, fisheries, etc.) will be reviewed to provide context and support decision-making. Using this information, NWRPC will identify management priorities, strategies to prevent new AIS introductions, and methods to control existing AIS (if any) while protecting native aquatic vegetation.



## Deliverable and Outcomes

Describe all deliverables that will be submitted during the grant cycle.

The final deliverable will be a completed APM Plan for Birch Lake.

## E. Appropriateness and Need

Provide reasoning for why the project activities are appropriate and necessary to protect or improve surface water. Include information on how the project is appropriate given the unique characteristics of the system and stage of planning. Describe how the project is needed to solve a problem, answer a specific scientific question, or lead to implementation.

Birch Lake currently lacks any existing water quality or aquatic plant data, making it difficult to assess the lake's ecological health or identify potential management needs. The lake is hydrologically connected to and accessed through Upper Eau Claire Lake, which has populations of CLP managed with DASH. This connection increases the potential for the introduction of CLP, highlighting the importance of a point-intercept survey to know if it is or is not already in the lake.

The Town of Barnes has voluntarily committed to developing management plans to preserve and protect the lakes within its jurisdiction, demonstrating strong local stewardship and foresight. While the Eau Claire Lakes watershed, which includes Birch Lake, is not designated as a Healthy Watershed, it is bordered by several watersheds that are recognized as being in the Healthy. This context underscores the need for early intervention and planning to maintain ecological integrity and prevent future water quality and invasive species issues. Developing an aquatic plant management plan for Birch Lake will provide the foundational data needed to guide sustainable management and protect this valuable natural resource.

## F. Complementary Efforts

Describe how the project complements other efforts on the water body or within a region. Describe coordination with key partners. Consider connections to County Land and Water Plans, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans, 9 Key Element plans, etc.

Currently, there are active APM Plans for Sand Bar, Tomahawk, Sweet, Shunenberg, Smith, Upper Eau Claire, Middle Eau Claire, Lower Eau Claire Lakes. The Town of Barnes is also applying for additional funding for plans for Robinson, Bony, and George Lakes in this grant cycle. This plan will be integrated into the management planning and strategy for the area.

This APM Plan several goals in the Bayfield County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. By collecting baseline data about Birch Lake, managers will be able to make informed management decisions to protect and enhance the lake, its water quality, habitat, ecologic function, and recreation and aesthetic values. It also enhances partnerships between the Town of Barnes and Bayfield County.

Goal I Protect and enhance surface water, wetlands, and groundwater to maintain water quality, ecologic function, and recreation and aesthetic values.

Goal II Reduce the spread of invasive species to aquatic and terrestrial habitats. This plan will enable managers to implement strategies to reduce the spread of AIS to and from Birch Lake.

Goal III Protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat in forests, lakes, and streams.

Goal IV Increase natural resource education and LWCD outreach opportunities.

The Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan includes specific goals, objectives, and actions related to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat that will be supported by this plan by the collection of baseline data and integration into a greater ecosystem approach for the watershed with all the other Barnes APM Plans.

Goal 1: Protect, maintain, and enhance lakes and streams, [...] to maintain water quality, ecologic function, and recreational and aesthetic values.

Goal 5: Protect, restore, and enhance sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitat through an integrated ecosystem approach.

## G. External Support

Describe collaboration with other organizations that will be providing financial or other support along with the expected benefits of collaboration. Document support with letters and submit with this application. Be sure to highlight support from partners that are critical to implementation.

Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department - AIS Coordinator Andrew Teal expresses full support for the project.

Douglas County Surface Waters Program - Surface Waters Program Manager Zach Stewart provides formal support

Please refer to the [application instructions](#) to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

for FOECLA's AIS management proposal, noting it aligns with the county's AIS Strategic Plan and strengthens regional coordination.

Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club (ECLCC) - President Fred Kawell confirms continued financial and volunteer support for the Barnes AIS Committee's invasive species control programs, with funding commitments to be reviewed at their April meeting.

Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies, Inc. - President Mike Persson provides a letter of support emphasizing the importance of AIS control to protect fish populations and water quality, representing 125 local members committed to healthy fisheries.

## **H. Other**

The Birch Lake Aquatic Plant Management planning effort directly supports the Town of Barnes' broader objective to develop a comprehensive, coordinated approach for managing aquatic plants and preventing the spread of AIS across all local waterbodies. By gathering lake-specific data on plant communities and water quality, which has never been collected for Birch Lake, the Birch Lake APM Plan will fill an important information gap and ensure management decisions are based on current, site-specific conditions. This planning effort aligns with the Town's larger strategy to create consistent, science-based guidance for all lakes in the area-supporting proactive management, efficient resource use, and the long-term protection of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes and surrounding waters. Ultimately, the Birch Lake plan will serve as a building block toward a unified, watershed-scale aquatic plant management framework that strengthens prevention, enhances coordination, and protects the ecological integrity and recreational value of the Town's lakes.