

Surface Water Grant Application

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

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CF/2)
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921
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, 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

Robinson 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.

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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! (WBIC)	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		
Robinson Lake	2743300	89.00	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	1	5		

- ☐ 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

State Senate District No.(s)	State Assembly District 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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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	

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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 Robinson Lake PI Survey - ERS	1.a.	Consultants/Contractual	cash		1	\$ 3,049.00	\$ 3,049.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. 2026-2027 APM Plan Development - NWRPC	1.b.	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	55	\$ 88.00	\$ 4,840.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. 2026-2027 Travel Costs - NWRPC (Mileage at \$0.65/mi)		Consultants/Contractual	cash	mi	250	\$ 0.65	\$ 162.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. 2026 Project Administration - Barnes volunteers		Personnel	donation	hr	12	\$ 15.00	\$ 180.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. 2027 Project Administration - Barnes volunteers		Personnel	donation	hr	12	\$ 15.00	\$ 180.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. 2026 Project Administration - Town of Barnes Clerk		Personnel	donation	hr	10	\$ 15.00	\$ 150.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. 2027 Project Administration - Town of Barnes Clerk		Personnel	donation	hr	10	\$ 15.00	\$ 150.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. 2026-2027 APM Plan Review and Assistance - Town of Barnes	1.b.	Personnel	donation	hr	20	\$ 15.00	\$ 300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. 2026-2027 Communications - NWRPC		Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	10	\$ 88.00	\$ 880.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.						\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
							Subtotal	\$ 9,891.50
							Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 9,891.50
State Share Requested cannot exceed Cash Cost Subtotal							Eligible State Share	\$ 6,627.31
							Grant Award Request	\$ 6,627.31

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

Cost Category	A. Cash Costs	B. Donated Value
1. Personnel	\$	\$ 960.00
2. Employee Benefits	\$	\$
3. Travel	\$	\$
4. Equipment	\$	\$
5. Supplies/Operating Expenses	\$	\$
6. Consultant/Contractual	\$ 8,931.50	\$
7. Construction	\$	\$
8. Other (ex. Acquisition)	\$	\$
Subtotals	\$ 8,931.50	\$ 960.00
Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 9,891.50	
Grant Award Request	\$ 6,627.31	
Grantee Share	\$ 3,264.19	

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
2026-2027 APM Plan Development - NWRPC	Average Cost	NWRPC uses an hourly rate based on other planning projects

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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).

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 Robinson Lake. Activities and deliverables include 1) a point-intercept survey and 2) an aquatic plant management plan for Robinson 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 Robinson Lake, a 89acre, deep lowland lake in the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County. Located upstream of Birch Lake which connects to Upper Eau Claire Lake, it is part of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, which forms the headwaters of the Eau Claire River. Five areas are designated as Critical Habitat on Robinson Lake for a total of 71.6 acres. All five areas are classified as Sensitive Areas for rushes, emergent and floating leaf aquatic plants, submergent aquatic plants, and/or extensive riparian wetland.

Robinson Lake is a clear-water lake with a maximum depth of 36 feet and an average depth of 14 feet that is part of the Eau Claire chain of lakes. The bottom substrate is primarily sand. The land use around Robinson Lake is characterized by northwoods cabins and vacation homes typical of the region's recreational character. Robinson 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.

Robinson Lake has one public boat launch with 5 vehicle stalls. The lake supports fishing for species such as panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye. Robinson connects to Birch Lake, which connects to Upper Eau Claire Lake, further enhancing recreation opportunities and access.

C. Problem Statement

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

Robinson Lake faces increasing pressures from shoreline development, recreational use, and the potential spread of invasive species. While surrounding lakes in the Chain have completed or are undergoing aquatic plant management planning, Robinson Lake currently lacks an updated, science-based plan to guide management decisions. Without this critical information, the lake's native plant communities, water quality, and overall ecological balance remain vulnerable.

This project is part of a broader, coordinated planning effort for the Eau Claire Lakes Chain, which includes nearby Upper Eau Claire Lake, Middle Eau Claire Lake, and Bony Lake. Developing an aquatic plant management plan for Robinson Lake will complement ongoing efforts, ensure consistency in management strategies across the Chain, and provide the necessary data to make informed decisions that protect habitat, sustain recreational opportunities, and preserve water quality for future generations.

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 Robinson Lake's 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:

1) Conduct a warm-water aquatic plant survey by September 2026 to document species diversity, distribution, and detect any existing AIS.

2) Develop an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for Robinson Lake by December 2027 using collected data to identify management priorities, AIS prevention strategies, and protection measures for native plants.

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

3) Integrate Robinson 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.

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

NWRPC will lead the development of an APM Plan for Robinson 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 Robinson Lake APM Plan will incorporate the point-intercept survey results collected during the project. Additionally, relevant information from Wisconsin DNR databases, prior area lake studies for the Town of Barnes, and other relevant sources (water quality data, 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 Robinson 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.

Robinson Lake is an important recreational and ecological resource. The lake supports boating, fishing, and wildlife habitat, but it faces increasing pressures from shoreline development, recreational use, and the potential introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species. Despite its significance, Robinson Lake does not currently have an aquatic plant management plan, leaving a critical gap in understanding the status of its aquatic plant communities, habitat conditions, and water quality trends. Without this information, effective, science-based management decisions cannot be made to protect the lake's ecological health and recreational value.

This project is part of a broader, coordinated planning effort for the Eau Claire Lakes Chain, which includes similar planning initiatives on surrounding lakes. The interconnected nature of the Chain makes a coordinated approach essential for sustaining long-term water quality and ecological balance. By developing an APM Plan for Robinson Lake, this project will complement ongoing planning efforts, ensure consistency in management strategies across the Chain, and provide a foundation for implementing protection and restoration actions that benefit the entire watershed.

The proposed planning effort is appropriate because it aligns with statewide and regional water quality goals, addresses identified data gaps, and directly supports informed decision-making by lake stakeholders, resource managers, and local partners. Establishing a science-based plan for Robinson Lake is necessary to preserve native

plant communities, maintain recreational opportunities, and ensure the lake's long-term health as part of the larger Eau Claire Lakes system.

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 Bony, Birch, 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 Robinson 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 Robinson 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 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

Volunteers have been collecting water quality data on Robinson Lake through the CLMN program since about 2000 (which is why water quality data collection is not included in this application). Water quality results indicate that the lake is mostly mesotrophic (WEx). Relative to other deep lowland lakes, Robinson has deeper secchi readings, lower total phosphorus, and lower chlorophyll-a (WEx). An in depth analysis of Robinson's water quality will be included in the Aquatic Plant Management Plan to ensure that the plan takes the entire ecosystem of Robinson Lake into account, as well as how Robinson Lake fits into the Eau Claire Chain ecosystem.

The Robinson Lake Critical Habitat Designation Report identifies five areas as Critical Habitat on Robinson Lake for a total of 71.6 acres. All five areas are classified as Sensitive Areas for rushes, emergent and floating leaf aquatic

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plants, submergent aquatic plants, and/or extensive riparian wetland. The APM Plan for Robinson will include information from available fisheries reports and the Critical Habitat Designation Report to incorporate the fisheries and habitat perspective as well as aquatic plants.

The overarching goal for this project is to incorporate an ecosystem and watershed approach, that accounts for more than just aquatic plants, into the Robinson Lake APM Plan; and in turn, incorporate the APM Plan into an ecosystem planning and management approach for the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes and the Eau Claire Watershed.