

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

October 12, 2007

Environmental Management Support, Inc.
Attn: Mr. Don West
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: 2007 EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Application

Dear Mr. West:

The Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition (WBC) is applying for \$3 million to continue Wisconsin's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), known as the Ready for Reuse program. In 2004, the WBC received a \$4 million brownfields RLF grant for this statewide initiative. Since that time, the WBC has developed the administrative infrastructure and expertise needed to administer this brownfields RLF. The WBC has strived to provide Wisconsin applicants with clear application information and standardized documents to assist in simplifying this federal program. The WBC is applying for additional funds, given that the WDNR has received over \$3 million in RLF fund requests, which, once awarded, leaves the WBC with no hazardous substance funds. In addition, the WBC has met with many other potential applicants concerning possible RLF projects. The WBC is seeking to continue the "Ready for Reuse" initiative, as a reflection of the critical need for cleanup dollars to move Wisconsin's estimated 8,000 brownfields properties to the redevelopment stage.

Mandatory Contents of Cover Letter

- 1. Applicant Identification:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921 RR/8, Madison WI 53707-7921.
- 2. Funding Request:** \$3,000,000 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant for cleanup of hazardous substances.
- 3. Location:** State of Wisconsin
 - Chief Executive: Governor Jim Doyle, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707, 608-266-1212;
 - Matthew J. Frank, WDNR Secretary, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, 53709, Phone: 608-266-2621, 608-267-6897(Fax);
 - Michael Morgan, Secretary of Department of Administration, 101 E. Wilson St., Madison, 53702, 608-266-1741, 608-267-3842 (Fax);
 - Mary Burke, Secretary of Commerce, 201 W. Washington Ave., Madison, 53702, 608-266-7088; 608-266-3447 (Fax);
 - Mark Walter, Executive Director, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (RPC), 211 N Broadway, #211, Green Bay, 54303-2757, 920-448-2820, 920-448-2823 (Fax);
 - Eric Fowle, Executive Director, East Central Wisconsin RPC, 132 Main Street, Menasha, 54952, 920-751-4770, 920-751-4771 (Fax);

- Dennis Lawrence, Executive Director, North Central RPC, 210 McClellan St. Suite 210, Wausau, 715-849-5510; 715-849-5110 (Fax);
- Myron Schuster, Executive Director, Northwest RPC, 1400 South River St., Spooner, 54801, 715-635-2197, 715-635-7262 (Fax);
- Philip C. Evenson, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin RPC, W239 N1812 Rockwood Dr., Box 1607, Waukesha, 53187-1607, 262-547-6721; 262-547-1103 (Fax);
- Larry Ward, Executive Director, Southwestern Wisconsin RPC, 719 Pioneer Tower, One Univ. Plaza, Platteville, 53818, 608-342-1214; 608-342-1220 (Fax);
- Jerry Chasteen, Director, West Central Wisconsin RPC, 800 Wisconsin Street, Building D2-401, Mail Box 9, Eau Claire, 54703-3606, 715-836-2918, 715-836-2886 (Fax);
- Joe Salitros, Administrator, City of Delavan, P.O. Box 465, 123 South Second Street, Delavan, Wisconsin, 262-728-4566, 262-728-4566 (Fax); and
- Jude Elliot, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Richland Center, 450 South Main Street, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608-647-3466, 608-647-8360 (Fax).

4. Contacts:

- Project Director: Darsi Foss, Chief, Brownfields and Outreach Section, 101 South Webster Street (RR/3), Madison, Wisconsin, 53707. Darsi.Foss@Wisconsin.gov. Phone: 608-267-6713. Fax: 608-267-7646.
- Chief Executive: Matthew J. Frank, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707-7921. Matthew.Frank@Wisconsin.gov. Phone: 608-266-2621. Fax: 608-261-4380.

5. Date Submitted: Submitted on October 12, 2007, through Grants.gov.

6. Project Period: From July 2008 through June 2013.

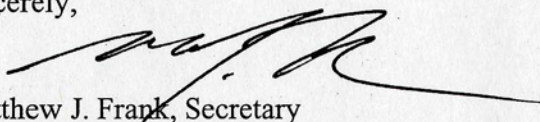
7. Population: 5,363,675 in the State of Wisconsin.

8. Special Considerations: The State of Wisconsin's special consideration areas include renewal community; 11 federally recognized Indian tribes, including one Rural Enterprise Community; 3rd largest Hmong population in the nation, doubling in size over last ten years; 22 State-designated Community Development Zones; specific environmental justice areas, due to economic and cultural challenges; home to 5 of the 43 International Great Lakes Areas of Concern; and the largest city in Wisconsin is Milwaukee, at 596,974.

9. Cooperative Partners: The WBC's cooperative partners include: 16th St. Community Health Center, Peter McAvoy, 414-672-1315, ext. 154; Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group, Bruce Keyes, 414-297-5815; Wisconsin Towns Association, Richard Stadelman, 715-526-3157; Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, Richard Eggleston, 608-257-5881; and League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Dan Thompson, 608-267-2380; Wisconsin Counties Association; Contact: Mark O'Connell, 608-663-7188. Letters of support can be found in Attachment I.

The WBC hopes that EPA agrees that Wisconsin's "Ready for Reuse" initiative is a project well worth EPA's commitment to continue investing resources in. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

cc: Deborah Orr - US EPA Region V Brownfields

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

- A. Applicant Eligibility:** The Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition (WBC) is the applicant for this RLF, and consists of three state agencies, two cities and all eight of Wisconsin's Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs). The state agencies include the Departments of Administration (DOA), Commerce, and Natural Resources (WDNR). The state legislature created the DOA in 1959, WDNR in 1967, and Commerce in 1971. Since 1995, the state members of the WBC have a signed, brownfields memorandum of agreement. The city members include Delavan and Richland Center. The eligibility documentation for the RPCs can be found in Attachment C. Letters documenting membership in the WBC can be found in Attachment I.
- B. Description of Jurisdiction:** The state of Wisconsin is the jurisdiction for the RLF.
- C. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority:** Not applicable.
- D. Cleanup Authority and Oversight Structure:** (1) The WBC will rely on the WDNR's voluntary response clean-up program (i.e., the Remediation and Redevelopment Program) to ensure appropriate state oversight of cleanups, in compliance with Wisconsin's ch. NR 700 comprehensive cleanup rule. The WBC will ensure funding information and agreements clearly specify that the loan or grant recipient's site investigation report, remedial action plan, community involvement plan, construction plan, development plans, and no further action report (closure submittal) – at a minimum – require WDNR approval. Furthermore, the WDNR has legal authority to access and secure sites in the event of an emergency or default of a loan agreement or non-performance under a sub grant. (2) The legal opinion documenting this authority is found in Attachment G.
- E. Cost Share:** The WBC's cost share of 20%, or \$600,000, will be met by requiring the loan or sub-grant recipient to provide a cost share related to eligible and allowable expenses. This will be accomplished by: (1) pairing the awards of RLF funds with the following state brownfield funds: Green Space and Public Facility Grants - \$500,000 per year; and Commerce's Brownfields grants - \$7M per year; (2) requiring the recipient provide a match of 20% in money, labor, material or services if no state dollars are being leveraged as cost share; or (3) a combination of 1 and 2. The WDNR will ensure that the cost share meets EPA's definition of "eligible and allowable expense."
- F. Legal Authority to Manage a Revolving Loan Fund:** All state WBC members have legal authority to manage revolving loan funds. The WDNR, as the recipient of the cooperative agreement, has attached the necessary legal opinion (Attachment H) that confirms its ability to hold funds, make loans, enter in loan agreements, and collect repayments. In April of 2004, Wisconsin passed into law s. 292.72, Wis. Stats., which created the brownfields revolving loan fund program. This law provides WDNR with the ability to receive and hold moneys, make loans, enter into loan agreements, and collect repayments with these federal funds. The WBC state members have extensive experience managing both grants and loans, especially related to brownfields. Over \$9M in state brownfields-related grants are awarded by the 3 state agencies on an annual basis. As of early 2000, the Clean Water Fund (jointly administered by DOA and WDNR) had entered into loan agreements with municipalities totaling \$1.7 billion. This experience will assist the WBC in successfully administering the RLF.

RANKING CRITERIA

A. RLF Grant Proposal Budget: The WBC proposes to continue the operation of an RLF with \$3 million available for hazardous substance cleanups. The WBC’s proposal would provide \$3 million in cleanup funds to local governments and tribes to competitively bid for contractual services from environmental consultants. The WBC proposes to provide 80% of the funds to local governments and tribes in the form of revolving loans, and 20% in the form of subgrants. The cost share for the RLF funds is 20% or \$600,000, and will be provided by the loan and grant recipients. The WBC budget proposes to use the funds solely as contractual costs, as proposed below. WDNR will use other non-RLF funds to operate and market the RLF. These activities include meeting with communities, updating RLF materials and the RLF web site, and creating success story publications. WDNR will also use non-RLF funds to involve the community and oversee the cleanups. As this is an established program, no funds are needed to establish the RLF.

Budget Table: Project Tasks for \$2,400,000 in Hazardous Substance Loans

BUDGET CATEGORY	OPERATE RLF	MARKET RLF	CLEANUP LOAN AMOUNT	TOTAL
Loans (Contractual)			\$2,400,000	
SUBTOTAL			\$2,400,000	
Cost Share (20%)	\$400,000	\$80,000		\$480,000
TOTAL	\$400,000	\$80,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,880,000

Budget Table: Project Tasks for \$600,000 in Hazardous Substance Subgrants

BUDGET CATEGORY	OPERATE RLF	MARKET RLF	CLEANUP SUBGRANT AMOUNT	TOTAL
Subgrants (Contractual)			\$600,000	
SUBTOTAL			\$600,000	
Cost Share (20%)	\$100,000	\$20,000		\$120,000
TOTAL	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$600,000	\$720,000

B. Community Need

1. Target Communities: The State of Wisconsin is the target community for the RLF. Wisconsin’s total population is 5.4 million (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Of the total population, 6% are African American or Black, 1.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, 2% Asian, and 2% other race. Wisconsin has the third largest population of Hmong in the U.S. Further, Wisconsin is home to 11 federally recognized Indian tribes, including one Rural Enterprise Community. According to the 2006 Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) economic report, one out of every 10 Wisconsinites and more than one out of every 6 children live in poverty. The 2006 COWS research also concluded that 35% of African Americans and 27% of Latinos in Wisconsin live in poverty. According to data from the US Census Bureau, approximately 42.5%

of the families headed by females-only are below the poverty level. Wisconsin also has 22 designated Community Development Zones, and one Renewal Community designation.

Wisconsin is generally considered a “rural” state, based on the Office of Management and Budget’s metropolitan county designation criteria. Approximately 32% of the state’s population lives in rural areas, as compared to the national average of 20% (US Census Bureau 2000 census data). Wisconsin has three cities with a population greater than 100,000, with one of those 3 cities being Milwaukee. Despite the “rural” nature of the state, in 2001, the state ranked 10th nationally in the number of total manufacturing jobs (Wisconsin Investment Act State Plan 2005-07). However, this data is tempered by the fact that since 2000, the state has lost 80,000 manufacturing jobs, and in 2006 ranked 4th nationally in mass layoff off and plant closings (2006 Corporation for Enterprise Development Report). The rural nature of Wisconsin’s population, coupled with the strong manufacturing tradition, would indicate that there were many manufacturing companies located in rural communities across the state, not solely in urban areas. Many of these companies – both in rural and highly urbanized Wisconsin – have either closed their doors or had significant layoffs. As a result many of these properties have been vacated by their former owners, and left to Wisconsin communities to deal with as brownfields.

The challenges of rural brownfields were articulated well in the 2001 National Association of Development Organizations report: “Reclaiming Rural America’s Brownfields: Alternatives to Abandoned Property.” These challenges include:

- Remote and rural geographic location often inhibits economic growth, making it difficult to recruit new and/or retain existing businesses and difficult to justify funding brownfields redevelopment;
- Costs associated with brownfields cleanup and redevelopment often far exceeds costs of developing abundant green space;
- Absence of funds necessary to recruit expertise required to manage a brownfields redevelopment project; and
- Lack of a formal self-help network of other rural development practitioners involved in brownfields redevelopment to share experiences and exchange information.

Thus, one of the most important RLF target areas in Wisconsin is rural parts of the state where manufacturing facilities have ceased operation, and not in the traditional urban manufacturing centers. The number of known brownfields sites in rural Wisconsin is significant. Of the 5,231 known contaminated sites that have yet to be cleaned up, 1,509 sites or 28% are located in rural areas (WDNR’s Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System). For several reasons, it is especially challenging to encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of the many brownfield sites in rural areas around Wisconsin. Unlike the sites in major metropolitan areas of the state, the real estate market and economic climate of smaller cities and rural areas is much less robust. There are fewer businesses seeking industrial and office space for their operations. There is a smaller demand for condos and new housing, and there is inexpensive undeveloped land available for development within close proximity of the center of town. As a result, these sites are significantly less likely to be cleaned up by the private sector and need public financial investment in order for a cleanup to occur.

As part of the state’s Smart Growth Law, state and local governments in Wisconsin have just begun to identify and prioritize for reuse the many rural brownfields across the state. The WDNR’s Brownfields Site Assessment Grants (SAG) is a small state grant program which provides seed money to local governments for demolition, environmental assessments and removal of abandoned tanks and containers. Since 2000, the DNR has awarded 352 Site Assessment Grants to 180 different Wisconsin local governments. Of that, approximately 40% of those grants were awarded to rural communities. This state program is assisting communities to proactively identify these brownfields properties for cleanup and reuse.

Some of the significant plant closings in “rural” areas of Wisconsin include:

Community	Type of Company	Population	Number of Workers Affected
Platteville	Transformer Company	10,000	700 workers
Park Falls	Paper Manufacturer	2,700	132 workers
Mayville	Cheese Plant	4,902	170 workers
New London	Furniture Manufacturer	7,000	220 workers
Manitowoc	Cookware Manufacturer	33,000	900 workers
Crivitz	Wood Products	1,000	65 workers
Lake Mills	Liquid Crystal Displays	5,000	300 workers

The state’s urban areas - such as Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and the Green Bay-Appleton area – are also in need of funds due to the closing of many manufacturing businesses. Since 1979, Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine counties have lost more than 88,000 manufacturing jobs, which is a 41% reduction from their base. Further, these counties have a large number of known brownfields, with respectively 1200, 120, and 160 *known* sites in those counties needing cleanup. The City of Milwaukee is an especially important target community for the RLF. According to an August 28, 2007 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, Milwaukee has the 8th-highest poverty rate among large U.S. cities, with more than 143,000 people (26.2%) living below the federal poverty line. This is up from a poverty rate of 21.3% in 2000. In 2006, more than one in four Milwaukee residents lived in poverty.

A particularly hard-hit area of Milwaukee is the approximately five-mile long 30th Street Industrial Corridor, which has a population of 31,918 with the following demographics (2000 US Census data): 97% of the residents are considered “minority;” approximately 11,838 children under the age of 18 (or 37% of residents) live within this area; about 18.5% of the labor force was not employed in 2000; the area’s median household income (\$16,920) was less than half of the state’s median income; and 48% of the residents lived below the poverty level, well above the City’s rate of 21% and the state’s average rate of 9%. WDNR has four EPA brownfields assessment grants (\$800,000) that are targeted towards assessing properties in the 30th street area. A portion of the RLF funds would be targeted to also assist with cleanup of properties in this hard-hit neighborhood.

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CED) recently published their annual report card for the states concerning development opportunity (2007). While noting the improvements in Wisconsin’s economy, the report notes that Wisconsin trails most of the other states in new

companies created (ranked 46th). While Wisconsin's economic profile is on the rise, the hundreds of brownfields sites that were created during the mass plant closings of the last decade will take years to address. As summarized in Wisconsin's WIA State Plan (2005-07), "Wisconsin is in the process of recovering from one of the worst economic recessions since the mid 1980s, having lost 80,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000." The RLF funds will help these impacted rural and urban communities secure the needed funds to clean up and reuse these former manufacturing properties for new economic development and community purposes. There is an entire legacy of 8,000 brownfields properties for the state and local governments to deal with.

2. Community Benefits: The WBC funds brownfields cleanup projects in economically challenged neighborhoods, where there have been mass layoffs, environmental justice issues are present and higher-than-state-average unemployment or poverty rates exist. Funds will be targeted at projects ready for reuse, particularly those that promote living-wage jobs for the most-needy populations. While the WBC received \$4 million in 2004, these funds – as projected – have helped to start clean ups at only a small percentage of all brownfields properties. In addition, almost all of our state's brownfields financial assistance programs are oversubscribed. The Department of Commerce only funds 50% of brownfields applications submitted and of those, the average award is only 30% of the funds requested. The WDNR's assessment grant program continues to move properties into the cleanup pipeline by providing funds for assessments, demolition and investigations. Like Commerce, it only funds about 50% of the funds requested and in November 2006, received a near-record number of assessment grant requests. To date, there have been over 300 assessment grants awarded. The state's dry cleaning fund is oversubscribed as well. The RLF funds, if awarded, will assist in closing these large funding gaps.

The RLF moneys will result in the cleanup of at least an additional 8 to 15 brownfields properties that would otherwise not reach this protective level in the next 2 to 5 years. This will reduce the number of exposures to cancer and non-cancerous contaminants through inhalation and direct contact risks. In addition, it will also reduce the contaminant loading to the air, surface water and groundwater. In Wisconsin, over 75% of the population relies on groundwater for their drinking water. There are more than 750,000 private wells in this state, in addition to the hundreds of potable wells serving municipal residents. The use of these cleanup funds along waterways, including the Great Lakes, will reduce or halt contaminant loading, which impacts our native fish population. Many indigenous and immigrant peoples (e.g., Hmong community), as well as recreational anglers, consume fish from these impacted or threatened waterways.

Wisconsin ranks third in the nation for total water surface per square mile of land. Our industrial legacy has left 49 surface waters with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) advisories for fish and there is a statewide mercury fishing advisory. The RLF funds will halt or significantly decrease contaminants from entering these resources, and lead to their restoration.

3. Community Impact: Wisconsin communities need funds to deal with 5,200 properties with known contamination, an estimated 2,800 yet-to-be-discovered brownfields. Also, there are 19,000 properties where the "known" contamination has been removed to the satisfaction of the state. Many of those properties will require additional environmental action, because it is likely other "unknown" conditions will be discovered. Also, the state is notified of 500 new sites a year needing cleanup. These properties pose a potential threat to the public, as well as the air,

land and waters of the state. The WBC is seeking to continue its “Ready for Reuse” initiative, as a reflection of the critical need for cleanup dollars to move Wisconsin’s estimated 8,000 brownfields properties to the redevelopment stage. Wisconsin’s economy has improved in the last two years; however, there are several less-than-favorable factors that are of concern to those who understand the economic factors that drive brownfields redevelopment.

In 2007, the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CED) issued their annual report card concerning development opportunity in the 50 states. Wisconsin received decent grades for “business vitality,” “performance,” and “development capacity.” However, there are two economic grades that are of concern: (1) Wisconsin received a “C” in “entrepreneurial energy” (e.g., job creation by start ups, proportion of employment by the tech industry), leaving Wisconsin ranked 46th in the nation in “new company formation”; and (2) Wisconsin received a “D” in employment, due to the number of layoffs and mass plant closings. Further, the State ranked 43rd (i.e. 7th worst) in conversion of cropland to other uses. Additionally, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), in its 2007 Report Card for Wisconsin, reported that the total potential cleanup costs of the 8,000 estimated remaining brownfields in Wisconsin “could require funds ranging from \$2 billion to \$12 billion.” Therefore, Wisconsin received a “D” for “funding available compared to need.”

The receipt of these RLF funds will ensure that more contaminated properties in Wisconsin will be cleaned up in the next 2 to 5 years, thus halting public health exposures and preventing further environmental degradation. As previously mentioned, 75% of Wisconsin residents rely on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. This is reflected in the fact that there are still 750,000 private wells in this state, as well as hundreds of municipal wells, which are vulnerable to contamination migrating from uncontrolled brownfield properties. Contaminants from brownfields and other sources impact our waterways, and unfortunately, find their way into our food system. In Wisconsin, 49 waters carry polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) advisories for fish. Also, there is a statewide mercury advisory, because that contaminant is found in almost all waters throughout the state. Cleaning up these uncontrolled brownfields properties will reduce the current exposures to public health and reduce the migration of those chemicals into our waters, air and soil.

C. Business Plan for RLF Program

1. RLF Structure: The WBC’s RLF portfolio consists of \$3 million in funds, 80% of which will be provided to local governments and tribes as loans at a 0% interest rate. 20% will be given out as subgrants. WDNR, the cooperative agreement recipient, will utilize its s. 128(a) funds to support the administration of the program. The WBC’s goal would be to solicit applications for eligible projects as soon as receiving the funds, due to already established administrative infrastructure for this program. It is the WBC’s plan to loan or sub-grant these funds out in a 2-year time frame.

RLF loan-eligible activities must be completed in 5 years, with a maximum 20-year repayment period. The WDNR will work with each loan recipient to determine the appropriate repayment schedule, recognizing the available revenue sources for the community. It is the WBC’s preference that the funds be repaid as soon as financially possible, to ensure that they can be provided to other needy projects. However, the WBC does recognize that some financially

challenged rural and urban communities may require more time. If the local government or tribe sells the property during the loan period, proceeds from the sale of the property will be used to pay off the loan per the conditions of the loan agreement. If new loan funds are awarded to the WBC in 2008, the WBC anticipates repayments starting in 2009 for some projects.

The WBC has elected to provide these funds only to local governments, as the lack of financing for publicly driven brownfields was a major public policy issue identified by the state. There are a number of state and federal funding sources that are available to privately driven economic development projects, such as federal EDA funds, federal CDBG funds, and Wisconsin's Commerce grants (\$7 million per year). Therefore, the WBC is targeting these community-driven projects that do not qualify for or score high enough to successfully compete for these aforementioned funds. The WBC is actively marketing the program to local governments, and advocating that local governments can "partner" with a private developer on an RLF-eligible project. This public-private partnership allows the state the assurance of the financial backing of the local government, and provides further security of the "deal" moving ahead due to local involvement and approval. In addition, Wisconsin has very clear state borrowing laws that set the conditions of the loan obligation, providing further security for the loan repayment.

Wisconsin has a number of complimentary loan and grant programs, which we will help loan and subgrant recipients to apply for in addition to the RLF funds. Wisconsin has been nationally recognized for the variety of financial assistance tools that are available to assist in the assessment, cleanup and reuse of contaminated properties. Wisconsin agencies provide almost \$9 million annually in grants to assist in the assessment and cleanup of brownfields. Wisconsin has a number of tax incentives, including: (1) remediation tax credits; (2) tax forgiveness provisions; (3) and is one of the national leaders in the issuance of federal tax deduction approvals. Wisconsin has streamlined its tax incremental financing laws to assist with urban renewal, including the creation of a TIF solely for brownfields. The state's petroleum cleanup fund provides limited dollars to assist in the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks, and the state has a dry cleaner response fund to assist with the costs of cleaning up these historic sites.

2. Target Market: The WBC will continue to target these funds for use by local governments and tribes to "jump start" brownfields projects that would not otherwise receive any, or sufficient, state cleanup funds. The WBC will dedicate a portion of the funds to green space or other public use projects. The remaining funds would be used as a catalyst for private investment in a project. The WBC would like to target areas that address multiple contaminated properties, but will also fund single sites for cleanup. The WBC will strive to achieve a balance of the types of sites (dry cleaners, gas stations, manufacturers, etc.) it funds, with particular interest in the following: (1) projects in neighborhoods or communities that are economically distressed due to plant closings, layoffs, or poverty or unemployment levels being above the state average; (2) brownfields projects along waterfronts that result in economic benefits, ecosystem protections, access to recreational areas, or a combination of these; (3) striking a balance between urban and rural projects, with a fair balance of projects funded across the state; and (4) promoting the use of innovative clean up techniques, sustainable development practices, and integration of brownfields and smart growth planning.

The WBC plans to award RLF subgrants for both green space and non-green space projects, and will utilize EPA's criteria in awarding those grants. For green space-public use projects, the WBC will also use WDNR's state green space grant criteria to assist in project selection. WDNR's scoring criteria includes such factors as: (1) economic hardship and distress in the neighborhood/community; (2) community support and partnerships; and (3) public benefit and demonstrated need. Subgrants will be targeted at public or private projects where repayment of a loan would be an economic challenge. Subgrants will likely occur in communities that are more rural in nature or are economically distressed. While more urbanized areas can rely on TIF districts to assist in repayment of RLF funds, rural brownfields or public use projects generally don't have the property "value" needed to make a TIF work. Additionally, the WBC believes that the amount of money these subgrants will leverage (an estimated \$7 in investment for each federal grant dollar), makes sacrificing the long-term availability of 40% of the funds worth the trade off. The WBC plans to utilize the RLF where it can maximize existing infrastructure, such as roads, utilities and public transportation is available.

According to the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) 2007 economic report, "Between 2000 and 2003, Wisconsin hemorrhaged 90,000 manufacturing jobs. As a result, Wisconsin has fewer manufacturing jobs today than it did in 1990." As such, the WBC's target market includes rural and urban areas, where manufacturing was prevalent. Wisconsin has a history of being home to many small manufacturing businesses, many of which no longer exist in small towns across this rural state. While these businesses no longer exist, they have left our rural and urban centers with abandoned and mothballed brownfields properties, which only a community driven effort will get cleaned up and redeveloped. These small, rural communities do not have sufficient discretionary funds available to address the state's industrial legacy.

In particular, the WBC hopes to use some of these cleanup funds on projects in Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor, which is the target of the WDNR's four assessment grants from US EPA. The area within a one-mile radius of the approximately five-mile long 30th Street Industrial Corridor has a population of 31,918, with the following demographics (2000 US Census data): 97% of the residents are considered "minority"; approximately 11,838 children under the age of 18 (or 37% of residents) live within this area; about 18.5% of the labor force was not employed in 2000; the area's median household income (\$16,920) was less than half of the state's median income; and 48% of the residents lived below the poverty level, well above the City's rate of 21% and the state's average rate of 9%. The RLF funds, if provided, will help this impacted neighborhood to secure the needed funds to clean up and reuse these properties for new economic development and community purposes.

3. Project or Site Selection: The WBC has an RLF program up and running that addresses the process and criteria for selecting projects, borrowers and subgrantees. The WBC has developed a 2-part application process that includes the US EPA project manager as a member of the review and selection team. The first part of the application addresses EPA's eligibility criteria. The second part of the application addresses the ranking criteria, including the creation of greenspace; the community's inability to draw on additional funds; the reuse of infrastructure; and promotion of long-term availability of loan funds. These factors will go into the selection of sub grants, and will be documented to EPA's satisfaction prior to the issuance of a sub grant by

the WBC. The WBC has an excellent working relationship with its EPA Region V project manager, and includes that person in grant development, selection and administration processes.

4. Management and Operational Team: Darsi Foss, Chief of the Brownfields and Outreach Section in the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment at the WDNR, will be the Program Coordinator for this grant. Ms. Foss has worked in Wisconsin's brownfields program since it was established in 1994. She has been in the environmental cleanup field since 1985, when she started her career at the US EPA. She has eleven years of experience administering EPA program cooperative agreements, and 9 years experience administering brownfields funds to local governments. Jessica Milz, the WDNR brownfields marketing specialist, is the fund manager for the RLF. Ms. Milz spends 50% of her efforts dedicated to the day-to-day management of the current RLF. She has 8 years experience with natural resources and community development programs, including on the local government level. Shelley Fox, our state grant manager, has 10 years of fiscal experience, and dedicates her efforts to tracking funds and ensuring that the program adheres to state and EPA's financial regulations. Judy Ohm, a WDNR attorney, is our legal counsel for the RLF program and has over twenty years of legal experience with the state. She is also legal counsel for the state's Safe Drinking Water fund. The WDNR's highly experienced hydrogeologists will be involved with the technical oversight of each cleanup project. Most WDNR hydrogeologists have at least 10 years of technical experience with the state or private sector.

D. Sustainable Reuse of Brownfields

1. Pollution Prevention/Resource Reduction: The WDNR acts to prevent the creation of future brownfields through several approaches. One approach is ongoing inspection, education and enforcement. In addition, WDNR has several programs aimed at providing cooperative assistance to businesses to address their environmental compliance issues. These include business sector specialists who work with small companies in 20 different business sectors (paper production, dry cleaning, etc.) on compliance and environmental improvements. Also, we encourage the use of environmental management systems (ISO 14000) to prevent use and disposal of hazardous substances. Wisconsin has one of the first "Green Tier" laws in the nation promoting "beyond environmental compliance" programs. Additionally, WDNR also has authority require someone to develop and implement a spill prevention plan to prevent the creation of new brownfield sites.

For all brownfields projects, environmental best practices and sustainable development activities are promoted. When a community approaches the state for assistance with a brownfield project, a "green team" of state experts are brought together to meet with the community leaders and potential developers, if available, to discuss financial incentives and programs that could assist with the project. Typically staff from various WDNR programs, as well as the state departments of Commerce, Revenue, Administration, and Transportation, are involved. Best practices used at other brownfields projects will be shared with the community, tribe or developer. In addition, sustainable development practices, such as green building and unique storm water runoff are shared as well.

In addition, these state resources are available to promote sustainability and best practices: the Wisconsin "Focus on Energy" program, promoting combined heat and power and on-site energy

production on brownfields redevelopment sites; DOA's Coastal Management Program, providing grants for coastal land acquisition and other activities that protect Wisconsin's coastal resources, and increase public access to the Great Lakes; WDNR's Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance, providing pollution prevention assistance and promoting innovative environmental regulatory methods; WDNR's Waste Reduction & Recycling Grants and Waste Cap Wisconsin, Inc., a statewide, industry-supported nonprofit are used to minimize waste generation and maximize recycling of materials at brownfields projects.; DOT, which provides grants and loans for trails, bike paths and other alternate forms of transportation.

The reuse of existing infrastructure is one of the compelling reasons why federal, state and local governments are willing to commit public funds to these projects. Wisconsin has a tradition of working with local governments to identify projects that will maximize use of existing roadways, bus transportation, utility services, neighborhood centers and waterfront transportation modes. The WBC will continue to team with the Wisconsin DOT, to identify projects which DOT's Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) grants could assist. These funds can be leveraged at brownfields to assist with rail, road, harbor or airport work. In addition, DOT has used its TEA-21 (21st Century) funds to preserve historic sites (e.g., depots), pedestrian and bicycle facilities and paths, and preserving abandoned rail corridors. Kenosha's Harbor Park brownfields project on Lake Michigan is a prime example of reusing existing infrastructure, by connecting a trolley system with the main commuter train to the Chicago metro area.

2. Promote Economic Benefits: The WBC will continue to fund brownfields cleanup projects in economically challenged neighborhoods, where there have been mass layoffs, environmental justice issues are present, and higher-than-state-average unemployment or poverty rates. Funds will be targeted at projects which are ready for reuse, particularly those that promote living-wage jobs for the most-needy populations. While the WBC received \$4 million in 2004, these funds – as projected – have helped to start cleanups at a small percentage of properties. In addition, many of our state's brownfields financial assistance programs are oversubscribed. With the state budget deficit estimated at \$1.6 billion, these funds are critical to the state's efforts to revitalize those properties that are a remnant of Wisconsin's manufacturing legacy.

The Department of Commerce only funds 50% of the brownfields applications submitted and of those, the average award is only 30% of the funds requested. The WDNR's site assessment grant continues to move properties into the clean-up pipeline by providing funds for assessments, demolition and investigations. Like Commerce, it only funds about 50% of the funds requested and in November 2006, received a record number of assessment grant requests. To date, there have been over 300 state assessment grants awarded. In addition, the WDNR just finished awarding another round of green space and public facility grants, to enhance our urban areas by providing recreational fields, butterfly gardens, and walking paths. The state's dry cleaning fund is a popular, but oversubscribed program. The RLF funds, if awarded, will assist in closing these large funding gaps by funding an additional 8 to 15 brownfields properties that would otherwise not reach this protective level in the next 2 to 5 years. The state estimates that for every dollar it invests, it leverages \$7 of additional public and private investment.

Despite Wisconsin's limited resources and struggling economy, the WDNR and Commerce have been able to assist 150 brownfields projects since 1988, creating an estimated 5,800 new, full-

time jobs, increasing the taxable property value by \$210 million and reclaiming 1,350 acres of brownfields properties. In addition, WDNR has awarded \$9.9 million state grant dollars to 259 brownfields site assessment projects, totaling more than 900 acres. The state has done this in both urban and rural communities. To illustrate the widespread nature of brownfields in Wisconsin, in the spring of 2006, WDNR awarded nearly half of its grants to “rural” communities or counties, with approximately one third of the grants going to communities with populations of less than 5,000.

3. Promote a Vibrant Community: All local governments in Wisconsin are developing smart growth comprehensive plans. These land use plans include the communities' redevelopment priorities and economic development activities for their brownfield properties. The awarding of RLF moneys will take into consideration whether the brownfield project is part of a comprehensive plan. The WBC initiative is a means to create a bridge between the state's “Grow Wisconsin” economic plan and smart growth planning. The goal would be to create new business opportunities and public places, consistent with the “smart growth” plans of Wisconsin communities. The WBC also sets aside part of its funds for “public” projects involving green space, public facilities and housing. These projects will help to create more vibrant, equitable and healthy communities. Generally, these are projects in highly urban areas where existing transportation and utility corridors are used to service the project. For example, one of the first RLF sub-grants awarded by the WBC was to a green space project in the Village of Waunakee that connected its trail system along Six-mile creek. In addition, the WDNR is working with the City of Milwaukee in the 30th Street industrial corridor, and adjacent neighborhoods, to determine if existing parks need any environmental assistance. The WDNR, with its green space and public facility grant program, has the experience in marketing and overseeing funds to promote the creation or expansion of trails, building of public markets, soccer fields and other public projects.

E. Creation and/or Preservation of Greenspace/Open Space or Nonprofit Purpose:

A portion of the RLF moneys will be targeted for the cleanup of properties where the future use is for green space or public use. Wisconsin has one of the only state programs in the nation with money specifically dedicated to cleanup of brownfields for green space or public use, such as parks, recreational areas or libraries. RLF moneys may assist projects that need additional clean-up funds or were not funded by this state program. Cleanup projects submitted to WDNR include remediation of properties that will be used for: a neighborhood park, a farmers market in a mixed income urban neighborhood, and soccer fields. The WDNR uses deed restrictions and conservation easements to ensure that land remains in the public domain. If land use controls are needed, including maintenance, Wisconsin has specific state law, s. 292.12, Wis. Stats., which requires such long-term stewardship of the property. The WDNR has experience in marketing and administering public funds for these green space projects.

F. Pre-Award Community Notification

1. Notification to Targeted Communities: The Wisconsin brownfields community was notified of the WBC's proposed plans to apply for \$3 million by the following means:
 - Emails with, and support from, the Regional Planning Commissions – 9/2007;
 - Public notice of draft grant application and copy of draft application made available to public on WDNR's web page – 10/1/07;

- Email invitation to comment to Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group – 10/2/07;
- Legal notice and invitation to comment placed in 22 state newspapers - 10/2/07; and
- Public comments were encouraged via email or in written form.

2. Selection of Notification Methods: The WBC chose statewide notification as most appropriate to its efforts to expand our RLF, given our focus on both rural and urban brownfields. The extensive notification methods listed above ensured that persons interested in brownfields were aware of our success in marketing our existing RLF, the demand on RLF funds and our efforts to obtain additional funds.

3. Length of Public Comment: The official public comment period on the draft application ran for two weeks, from October 1 to October 11, 2007. The types of outreach performed are listed in question 1 above. However, WDNR encourages public comment on the program at any time, not solely during the posted public comment period.

4. Response to Comments: The WBC will prepare a response to all comments received, inform the commenter how their comments were addressed, and post our responses to public comments on the WDNR Internet.

G. Ongoing Community Involvement

1. Plans for Community Involvement: Wisconsin has a strong, progressive tradition of public involvement. For the RLF fund, the federal public notification requirements and the state requirements in ch. NR 714, Wis. Admin. Code, entitled “Public Information and Participation” will be followed. At a minimum, RLF loan and subgrant recipients will need to: (1) notify the public of the availability of funds (i.e., pass a municipal resolution at a public-noticed municipal meeting open to the public); (2) post public notice signs of contamination at the property per s. NR 714.07(3); (3) create an administrative record; and (4) provide the opportunity for public comment and a meeting on the cleanup plan. Recipients will be encouraged to maintain either a web site documenting progress at the property or a publicly accessible paper file, with language(s) indigenous to the community. The WDNR has created model documents to help subgrant or loan recipients meet these requirements in the simplest and most cost-effective manner possible. We offer to meet with the community to assist them in developing these documents. In addition, the WDNR will use part of the RLF funds to maintain both a programmatic and site-specific web site.

2. Development of Partnerships: Wisconsin’s brownfields initiative has a strong tradition of building and maintaining partnerships with local governments, tribes, other state agencies non-profits and other brownfields practitioners. The WBC partners included the state’s 7 regional planning commissions, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Other partners who support our application are listed below in section 4. The state’s excellent working relationship with the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group, a citizen board established in 1998, is a prime example of our strong and successful partnerships. On a state-wide level, we will continue to work with our traditional partners to develop, market and implement the RLF, including such activities as: (a) soliciting feedback from WBC members and Brownfields Study Group on development of our Wisconsin RLF; (b) continuing dialogue with the Regional Planning Commissions, governmental associations including the WI Alliance of

Cities, League of Municipalities, Counties Association and Towns Association, and tribes to help establish criteria for awarding grants and loans; and (c) continuing to market the program with help from these partners. In addition, on the local level, WDNR is a member of many community groups such as the Menomonee Valley Partners non-profit group created to clean up and revitalize a former industrial corridor on Milwaukee's Menomonee River.

3. **Communicating Progress:** The following tools will be used to communicate progress in developing and implementing our RLF: (a) a web page devoted to Wisconsin's RLF, with programmatic and site-specific information; (b) regular articles in our electronic newsletters, *RR Report* and *ReNews*; (c) directing communication with our partners and community-based organizations listed below; (d) providing a status report on development and implementation of the WI RLF; (e) continued meetings with the WI Brownfields Study Group; (f) site-specific "success stories" on the Internet highlighting benefits of the RLF; and (g) developing articles for the Alliance of Cities, League of Municipalities, Counties Association and Towns Association to insert into newsletters to their members. The WBC members will also work with RLF recipients to identify special communication needs, especially to ensure that the affected public can be reached in their indigenous language. We plan to use resources for communicating in indigenous languages through local non-profit groups, colleges, and other parties with those skills. Site-specific materials will be prepared in languages indigenous to the affected public.

4. **List of Community-Based Organization Participation:** Partners include: 16th St. Community Health Center, Peter McAvoy, 414-672-1315, ext. 154. the 16th St. Community Health Center is a non-profit, innovative primary health care organization, providing services to Milwaukee's near south side residents; The Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group, Bruce Keyes, 414-297-5815, the Brownfields Study Group is a non-partisan advisory task force created in 1998 that includes environmental advocates, attorneys, local elected and appointed officials, and non-profit and academic interests; Wisconsin Towns Association, Richard Stadelman, 715-526-3157, the Towns Association is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization created to protect the interests of the state's 1,264 towns; The Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, Richard Eggleston, 608-257-5881, is a non-profit organization representing 38 of the largest municipalities in the state; The League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Dan Thompson, 608-267-2380, acts as an information clearinghouse and legal resource for 386 villages and all of the 190 cities in the state; The Wisconsin Counties Association, Mark O'Connell, 608-663-7188, the Counties Association serves and represents Wisconsin's 72 counties.

H. Reduction of Threats to Human Health and the Environment

1. **Reduction of Threats.** The receipt of these funds will guarantee that more contaminated properties in Wisconsin will be cleaned up in the next 5 years, thus halting public health exposures and preventing further environmental degradation. Seventy-five percent of Wisconsin residents rely on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. This is reflected in the fact that there are still more than 750,000 private wells in this state, as well as hundreds of municipal wells, which are vulnerable to contamination migrating from uncontrolled brownfield properties. Lead in soils, contaminants in drinking and surface waters, and air pollution are all exposures that have negative impacts on public health, especially children, the elderly and pregnant women. Contaminants from brownfields and other sources impact our waterways, and unfortunately, find their way into our food system. In Wisconsin, polychlorinated biphenyls

(PCBs) and mercury contaminate a large number of recreational fishing areas. PCB contamination is most often associated with industrialized river systems and the Great Lakes. The statewide mercury advisory is found in almost all waters throughout the state. Cleaning up these uncontrolled brownfields properties will reduce the current exposures to public health and reduce the migration of those chemicals into our waters, air and soil.

In addition, urban areas like Milwaukee are not only challenged by the health issues associated with the concentration of brownfields in certain neighborhoods, but also other urban health issues. For example, in Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor -home to over 200 known brownfields sites - child lead poisoning is another public health threat. Statistics show that in 1998, 19.5% of the children tested in Milwaukee had blood lead levels equal to or above 10 µg/dL (micrograms per deciliter), the lead poisoning threshold. This is about 5 times the national average of 4%. Blood lead data collected by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health also show that neighborhoods along the 30th Street Corridor have the State's highest concentration of lead poisoned children. Residents of these neighborhoods also have elevated rates of hospital visits to treat asthma. These higher rates of asthma are greatly affected by poor living conditions and indoor air quality often found in the old housing stock of the 30th Street area. These sub-standard health conditions and unacceptable exposures are present in a neighborhood that has the fewest resources available (i.e., access to health care and insurance, as well as living wage jobs) to deal with such known and unknown health concerns.

2. Public Health Partnerships. The WBC will work with local and state public health officials to ensure that clean-up and redevelopment activities are protective of public health and the environment. WDNR has an excellent working relationship with Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Public Health's staff. DHFS staff provides a number of environmental health services, including: (1) on-site and written, site-specific health "consultations" on exposure conditions at contaminated sites and those undergoing remediation; (2) consultation with state agencies and local officials on chemical-specific (e.g., lead and arsenic) or exposure pathway (e.g. vapor intrusion) risks and how they impact cleanup and redevelopment options; and (3) presence at public meetings to answer questions from public on health impacts. The WDNR will provide the technical expertise on ensuring that the investigation, clean-up and redevelopment meet all applicable public health and environmental laws, through oversight provided by the Remediation and Redevelopment program. All sites receiving funds will be required to seek WDNR review and approval at specific milestones in the process, such as at the site investigation stage, remedial action plan stage and at completion of the remedial action. WDNR's public involvement requirements, in addition to the federal requirements, will ensure that the public is adequately informed about and able to engage in the project.

I. Leveraging of Additional Resources

1. Funds and Staff Commitment: The WBC members will dedicate staff time, as in-kind services, to develop, implement, market and document the efforts to expeditiously grant and loan the \$3M in a two-year period. The state members will administer the RLF, with WDNR as the cooperative agreement recipient. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce will lend its expertise in economic development and revolving loans, while the Wisconsin Department of Administration will use its experience implementing the state's Coastal Management grants, Comprehensive Planning grants, and revolving loan programs. WDNR will contribute its

technical cleanup expertise, as well as its financial experience with EPA grants and loans. The Regional Planning Commissions, including the tribal members, would provide the connection with the local governments and tribes, to target projects, market the program and assist member communities throughout the RLF process. Of the 2004 RLF funds awarded by the WBC to date, the following funds have been leveraged: (1) state dry cleaning funds at the Fond du Lac loan project; (2) state Commerce and WDNR stewardship and site assessment funds at the Village of Waunakee grant project; (3) state Commerce and WDNR site assessment funds at the Prairie du Chien grant project.

2. Other Funding Sources: The WBC's goal is to maximize the use of state funds to leverage additional public, federal, state, private and non-profit investment. The WBC will pair RLF with existing state grant programs: \$3.4 million in WDNR Brownfield Site Assessment Grants (20% match required); \$1 million in WDNR Brownfields Green Space & Public Facilities Grants (20-50% match required); and \$14 million in Commerce Brownfields Grants (20-50% match required). The state has the following additional tools to leverage additional investment: state tax credits; two kinds of TIF districts; \$750,000 in Coastal Management Grants; property tax cancellation tools; dry cleaner reimbursement funds; federal tax deduction approvals; and approximately \$5 million in state block grant funds for brownfields. In addition, communities have been successful using federal block grant funds, economic development administration grants, and transportation grants to leverage additional investment. The WBC's current list of applicants for RLF loans and subgrants includes projects with dry cleaning funds, Commerce grants, TIF funds, and WDNR site assessment grants. As an example of the amount of funds that could be leveraged, the Commerce Brownfields Grants have leveraged \$14.50 for every state dollar awarded. The WBC estimates that it would be able to leverage \$7 for every RLF dollar, for a total estimate of \$21 million.

J. Programmatic Capability/Management Structure

1. Management Plan: The loan fund will be managed by the Remediation and Redevelopment program within WDNR to ensure it incorporates prudent lending practices. Loan and grant agreements will be awarded and tracked by staff that has over 15 years of experience managing loan and grant programs. Since 1996, WDNR has received and managed multiple brownfields funds in the form of cooperative agreements. WDNR has a sound track record of effectively managing and spending its federal cooperative agreement funds. EPA funds have assisted the WDNR to leverage a significant amount of investment in brownfields. For example, EPA provides funds for brownfields staff, which in turn have assisted 150 brownfields projects since 1988, creating an estimated 5,800 new, full-time jobs, increasing the taxable property value by \$210 million and reclaiming 1,350 acres of brownfields properties. In addition, WDNR has awarded \$9.9 million state grant dollars to 259 brownfields site assessment projects, totaling more than 900 acres.

Since 1996, WDNR has been the recipient of brownfields funds through EPA cooperative agreements, and funds the following activities: (1) web pages development and maintenance for a site providing general information on remediation and redevelopment, with 30,000+ users in the last year; (2) a web-based public record of 18,000 contaminated sites where hazardous substances and petroleum have been reported to the WDNR; (3) inventory and survey of over 400 historic disposal sites; (4) a proactive contaminated site discovery of almost 500 sites; (5)

geo-location of 5,600 contaminated properties and historic disposal sites; (6) annual cleanup of 400 sites; (7) annual audit of institutional controls at 40 sites; (8) a One Cleanup Program MOA between WDNR and EPA to clarify agency roles and responsibilities under three major federal cleanup laws, and (9) conduct over 70 meetings and/or presentations to brownfields audiences. WDNR's s. 128(a) cooperative agreement accomplishments reports can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/cleanup/rr_success.htm.

2. History of Managing Federal Grants: The WDNR has extensive experience in the management of federal funds. OMB Circular A-133 Audit findings have been very positive. In particular, WDNR manages dozens of federal grants totaling tens of millions of dollars annually, and has managed this level of grants for over 30 years. The Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) program manages 15 federal grants, with an annual budget of over \$4 million for more than 15 years. One of the program's 15 EPA grants is the \$400,000 brownfields assessment cooperative agreement, for the 30th Street Industrial Corridor initiative. The Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) conducts the OMB Circular A-133 single audit of WDNR at the end of each state fiscal year. LAB's most recent completed audit of WDNR for state fiscal years 2004 and 2005 did not contain any adverse findings. The WDNR has never been required to comply with any special "high risk" terms and conditions under agency regulations implementing OMB Circular A-102.

3. Brownfields Cooperative Agreement Recipient: WDNR, specifically the RR program, has received Superfund Core Brownfields grants from October 1994 through June 2004. WDNR has also received Superfund Site Assessment Brownfields grants from October 1998 through the present. WDNR received its first annual Section 128(a) State Response Program grant for September 2003 through August 2004. Recently that grant was amended to include funding through August 31, 2007. WDNR has consistently completed the following activities for each of these grants: (1) quarterly progress reports required per grant conditions; (2) semiannual progress reports required by WDNR's Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement (EnPPA) with EPA Region 5; (3) brownfields reporting measures required through grant conditions or the EnPPA; and (4) annual Financial Status Reports (FSRs) required per grant conditions, often submitting these on a more frequent quarterly basis.

4. Tracking and Measuring. The WBC will continue to follow the minimum requirements for reporting and tracking in the grant terms and conditions. In addition, the WDNR is updating its electronic, web-based BRRTs data base to track the RLF funds awarded to specific projects. In addition, the WDNR's RLF web page will have site specific information posted about each individual project.

<p style="text-align: center;">APPENDIX C: Documentation of Applicant Eligibility Wisconsin's Regional Planning Commissions</p>
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Members of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition

The Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition members include three state departments, the state's eight Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) (including five tribal members) and two cities. The RPCs were established pursuant to s.66.0309, Wis. Stats., and perform planning, coordination and outreach functions for 55 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Copies of the Executive Orders that created the RPCs are attached.

Wisconsin Department of Administration

Michael Morgan, Secretary
101 East Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53702

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Mary Burke, Secretary
201 W. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
101 South Webster St.
Madison, WI 53703

Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

Mark Walter, Executive Director
211 N Broadway, #211
Green Bay 54303-2757
Created in 1972

Counties: Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto and Sheboygan

East Central Regional Planning Commission

Eric Fowle, Executive Director
132 Main Street
Menasha WI 54952-3100
Created in 1972

Counties: Calumet, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission

Greg Flogstad, Director
1707 Main Street, Suite 240
La Crosse WI 54601
Created in 1964

Counties: Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau and Vernon

North Central Regional Planning Commission

Dennis Lawrence, Executive Director
210 McClellan Street, Suite 210
Wausau, WI 54403
Created in 1973

Counties: Adams, Forest, Juneau Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Myron Schuster, Executive Director
1400 South River Street
Spooner WI 54801
Created in 1959

Counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Washburn, and the Tribal Nationals of Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff and St. Croix

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Philip C. Evenson, Executive Director
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
PO Box 1607
Waukesha WI 53187-1607
Created in 1960

Counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha

Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Larry Ward, Executive Director
719 Pioneer Tower, One University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818
Created in 1970

Counties: Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland

West Central Regional Planning Commission

Jerry Chasteen, Director
800 Wisconsin Street, Building D2-401, Mail Box 9
Eau Claire WI 54703-3606
Created in 1971

Counties: Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk and St. Croix

City of Delavan

Joe Salitros, City Administrator

PO Box 465

123 South Second St.

Delavan, WI 53115

City of Richland Center

Jude Elliot, City Clerk/Treasurer

450 South Main St.

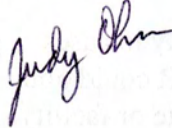
Richland Center, WI 53581

**APPENDIX G: Legal Opinion to Access and Secure Sites in the Event of an
Emergency or Default**

DATE: October 4, 2007

TO: Darsi Foss—RR/8
Brownfields Section Chief

FROM: Judy Mills Ohm—LS/5
Legal Counsel



SUBJECT: Legal Opinion regarding application for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund; Legal authority to access and secure sites

You have requested a legal opinion on the following question regarding your application for a Brownfields revolving loan fund from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”):

Does the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“WDNR”) have legal authority to access and secure sites in the event of an emergency or default of a loan agreement or non-performance under a sub-grant?

My legal opinion on this question is as follows:

WDNR has the legal authority to obtain access to properties and to secure them in the event of an emergency or default of a loan agreement or non-performance under a sub-grant, in order to take environmental repair action at a site or facility, or if entry is necessary to prevent increased damage to the air, land or waters of the state.

WDNR has legal authority to obtain access to properties under ss. 292.11(8) and 292.31(3)(e), Wis. Stats. Section 292.11(8), Stats., provides as follows:

292.11 (8) Access to property and records. Any officer, employee or authorized representative of the department, upon notice to the owner or occupant, may enter any property, premises or place at any time for the purposes of sub. (7) if the entry is necessary to prevent increased damage to the air, land or waters of the state, or may inspect any record relating to a hazardous substance for the purpose of ascertaining the state of compliance with this section and the management rules promulgated under this section. Notice to the owner or occupant is not required if the delay attendant upon providing it will result in imminent risk to public health or safety or the environment.

There is similar language in s. 292.31(3)(e), Stats., which relates to environmental repair actions at designated sites or facilities:

292.31 (3)(e) Access to property. Any officer, employee or authorized representative of the department may enter onto any site or facility and areas surrounding the site or facility at reasonable times and upon notice to the owner or occupant to take action under this section. Notice to the owner or occupant is not required if the delay required to provide this notice is likely to result in an imminent risk to public health or welfare or the environment.

One of these two statutes would most likely apply in cases in which WDNR would make a loan or a grant under the revolving loan fund. WDNR could obtain access to any site or facility, under these statutes, to determine whether the site or facility is in compliance with the law regarding hazardous substance discharges, upon providing notice to the owner or occupant, in either emergency or non-emergency situations. If immediate access was necessary in order to prevent imminent harm to the environment, notice to the owner or occupant would not be required. In addition, if the owner of the property denied access to the property, WDNR has the authority to obtain a special inspection warrant in order to gain access to the property. This authority is found in s. 66.0119(2), Wis. Stats., which provides as follows:

66.0119 (2) A peace officer may apply for, obtain and execute a special inspection warrant issued under this section. Except in cases of emergency where no special inspection warrant is required, special inspection warrants shall be issued for inspection of personal or real properties which are not public buildings or for inspection of portions of public buildings which are not open to the public only upon showing that consent to entry for inspection purposes has been refused.

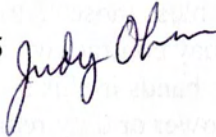
Thus, WDNR would have the authority under these statutes to access and secure sites in the event of an emergency or default of a loan agreement or non-performance under a sub-grant. As lead agency of the Coalition applying for the Brownfields revolving loan fund, WDNR could use this inspection authority to ensure adequate program performance by other Coalition members, borrowers and subgrantees, if necessary.

APPENDIX H: Legal Opinion of Legal Authority to Manage RLF

DATE: October 4, 2007

TO: Darsi Foss—RR/8
Brownfields Section Chief

FROM: Judy Mills Ohm—LS/5
Legal Counsel



SUBJECT: Legal Opinion regarding application for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund; Legal authority to manage a revolving loan fund

You have requested a legal opinion on the following question regarding your application for a Brownfields revolving loan fund from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”):

Does the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“WDNR”) have legal authority to perform the actions necessary to manage a revolving loan fund, such as the ability to hold funds, make loans, enter into loan agreements and collect repayments?

My legal opinion on this question is as follows:

WDNR has the legal authority to perform the actions necessary to manage a revolving loan fund (such as the ability to hold funds, make loans, enter into loan agreements and collect repayments).

After applying for the USEPA Revolving Loan Fund program in 2003, WDNR pursued legislation to allow it to administer a loan program, specific to the money it would receive through the USEPA Revolving Loan Fund program. The legislation passed, and s. 292.72, Wis. Stats., was created. That statute provides as follows:

292.72 Brownfields revolving loan program.

(1) The department may enter into an agreement with the federal environmental protection agency under which the department receives funds under 42 USC 9604 (k) (3) (A) (i) to establish and administer a brownfields revolving loan program. If the department receives funds under this subsection, it may make loans or grants for the remediation of brownfield sites, as defined in 42 USC 9601 (39), in accordance with the agreement.

(2) At the request of another governmental entity, the department may administer funds received under 42 USC 9604 (k) (3) (A) (i) by the other governmental entity for the establishment of a brownfields revolving loan program.

In administering other grant programs, WDNR has utilized the authority under s. 66.0301, Wis. Stats., to enter into intergovernmental agreements with municipalities in order to disperse grant money to the municipalities. Sec. 66.0301, Wis. Stats., states that it is to be interpreted liberally

in favor of cooperative action between municipalities (including the State and State agencies) and between municipalities and federally recognized Indian tribes and bands. The statute also provides that such agreements or contracts may include provisions for the deposit and disbursement of funds appropriated. The relevant provisions of the statute are as follows:

66.0301(2) In addition to the provisions of any other statutes specifically authorizing cooperation between municipalities, unless those statutes specifically exclude action under this section, any municipality may contract with other municipalities and with federally recognized Indian tribes and bands in this state, for the receipt or furnishing of services or the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law. If municipal or tribal parties to a contract have varying powers or duties under the law, each may act under the contract to the extent of its lawful powers and duties. A contract under this subsection may bind the contracting parties for the length of time specified in the contract. This section shall be interpreted liberally in favor of cooperative action between municipalities and between municipalities and Indian tribes and bands in this state.

(3) Any contract under sub. (2) may provide a plan for administration of the function or project, which may include but is not limited to provisions as to proration of the expenses involved, deposit and disbursement of funds appropriated, submission and approval of budgets, creation of a commission, selection and removal of commissioners, and formation and letting of contracts.

Since the legislation passed that authorizes WDNR to administer a separate loan program specific to the money it receives from the USEPA Revolving Loan Fund program, WDNR can utilize s. 66.0301, Wis. Stats., to enter into loan agreements with municipalities and federally recognized Indian tribes. The agreements can specify the terms of the loans, including how loan repayments would be made.

Applicants who are successful in obtaining a Revolving Loan Fund will be allowed to award some of the money as grants and some as loans. WDNR and the other members of the Coalition applying for the Revolving Loan Fund currently administer a number of Brownfield grant programs and loan programs. WDNR administers the following programs:

1. Brownfield site assessment grant (SAG) program under s. 292.75, Wis. Stats. This program provides grants to local governments from the appropriation under s. 20.370(6)(et) for the purpose of conducting environmental investigation of environmental contamination at eligible sites or facilities and conducting certain removal actions at those sites or facilities. Grant recipients must provide a minimum match of 20% of the amount of the grant. Each recipient is required to sign a contract that includes enforceable conditions and sanctions if the grantee does not meet the conditions of the program.
2. Brownfield green space grant program under s. 292.79, Wis. Stats. This program provides grants to local governments for projects to remedy environmental contamination of brownfields, if the project will have a long-term public benefit, including the preservation of green space the development of recreational areas, or the use of a property by the local government. Grant recipients must provide a match of 20% to 50% of the amount of the grant. Each recipient is required to sign a contract

that includes enforceable conditions and sanctions if the grantee does not meet the conditions of the program.

3. Land recycling loan program under s. 281.60, Wis. Stats. This program provides financial assistance (through loans) to local governments for projects to remedy environmental contamination of sites or facilities at which environmental contamination has affected or threatens to affect groundwater or surface water.

Wisconsin's Department of Administration ("WDOA") works with WDNR to administer the clean water fund program, safe drinking water loan program and land recycling loan program, which include revolving loan funds (s. 281.59(2), Wis. Stats.). These loan programs include authority to enter into financial assistance agreements with applicants, to collect repayments and to collect the amount of any unpaid loan balance by deducting that amount from any state payments due the municipality (s. 281.59(2) and (11), Wis. Stats.).

In addition to the WDNR grant and loan programs, two other Wisconsin State agencies administer grant programs relating to Brownfields. The Department of Commerce administers the Brownfields Grant program under s. 560.13, Wis. Stats. This program awards grants based on the potential of the project to promote economic development in the area, whether the project will have a positive effect on the environment, the amount and quality of the recipient's contribution to the project and the innovativeness of the proposal. Also, the Department of Administration administers a Coastal Management program, which awards grants to eligible projects that protect or improve water quality in counties along the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Examples of eligible projects include projects relating to public access, waterfront redevelopment, cleanup of brownfields, preservation of wetlands and land use planning.

Thus, WDNR and the other members of the Coalition have the current legal authority to perform the actions necessary to manage USEPA's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, such as the ability to hold funds, make loans, enter into loan agreements, collect repayments, and collect the amount of any unpaid loan balance if the loan recipient defaults on the loan.

APPENDIX I: Support Letters

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607 •

TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721
FAX (262) 547-1103

September 28, 2007

Mr. Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Serving the Counties of:

RECEIVED

KENOSHA
MILWAUKEE
OZAUKEE
RACINE
WALWORTH
WASHINGTON
WAUKESHA



SEP 28 2007

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

Dear Secretary Frank:

We are writing to once again support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Federal Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, representing Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties, is formally agreeing to continue as a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Grant & Loan Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management and helps implement the regional land use plan.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 262-547-6721.

Sincerely,

Philip C. Evenson
Executive Director

PCE/lw
#122938 v2 - WBCSupport

cc: Darsi Foss, WisDNR

Received

OCT 01 2007

REMEDICATION &
REDEVELOPMENT



Serving communities within and counties of
ASHLAND • BAYFIELD • BURNETT
DOUGLAS • IRON • PRICE • RUSK
SAWYER • TAYLOR • WASHBURN
And the Tribal Nations of
BAD RIVER • LAC COURTE OREILLES
LAC DU FLAMBEAU • RED CLIFF • ST. CROIX

September 26, 2007

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2007

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Frank:

We are writing support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) 2007 application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. The Northwest Regional Planning Commission, representing the Counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn is formally agreeing to continue as a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Loan & Grant Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

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The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715/635-2197.

Sincerely,

Myron L. Schuster
Executive Director

cc: Darsi Foss, DNR RR/8

OCT 01 2007

WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
REDEVELOPMENT



ONE UNIVERSITY PLAZA
719 PIONEER TOWER
PLATTEVILLE, WI 53818

PHONE: (608) 342-1214
FAX: (608) 342-1220
WWW.SWWRPC.ORG

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE AND RICHLAND.
HELPING COMMUNITIES REACH THEIR GOALS.

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Received

OCT 01 2007

Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

REMEDIAZION &
REDEVELOPMENT

Dear Secretary Frank:

We are writing support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) 2007 application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. The Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, representing Green, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties is formally agreeing to continue as a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Loan & Grant Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

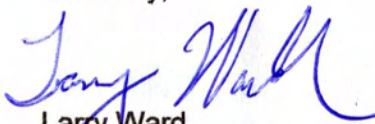
Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 608.342.1214.

Sincerely,


Larry Ward
Executive Director

Cc: Darsi Foss, DNR RR/8

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2007
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY



EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

132 Main Street Menasha Wisconsin 54952-3100 (920) 751-4770 Fax (920) 751-4771
Website: www.eastcentralrpc.org Email: staff@eastcentralrpc.org

*An Economic Development District and Metropolitan Planning Organization
Serving the East Central Wisconsin Region for over 30 years*

Received

OCT 02 2007

REMEDICATION &
REDEVELOPMENT

October 1, 2007

Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Frank:

The Commission is writing to support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) 2007 application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, representing Calumet, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago Counties, is formally agreeing to continue as a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Loan & Grant Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's, and our region's, environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

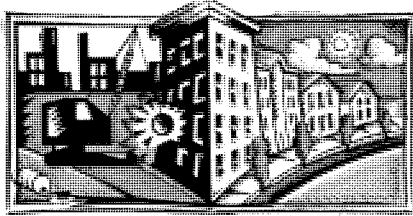
- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructure.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (920) 751-4770 or via e-mail at efowle@eastcentralrpc.org.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Fowle, AICP
Executive Director

c: ECWRPC Steering Committee, Env. Mgt. Committee and Economic Dev. Committee
Darsi Foss, WDNR RR/8



THE BROWNFIELDS STUDY

GROUP 2007

Members

John Antaramian
Nancy Frank
Arthur Harrington
Steve Hiniker
Bruce A. Keyes
Larry Kirch
Scott Manley
Peter McAvoy
Dave Misky
Tom Mueller
Peter Peshek
John Stibal
Joy W. Stieglitz
Mark Thimke
Scott Wilson

October 10, 2007

Matt Frank
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Frank,

On behalf of Wisconsin's Brownfields Study Group, we are writing to once again support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Grant & Loan Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

We support the RLF application because the funding:

- o supports sound land use management;
- o helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures;
- o helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants; and
- o helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

Possible brownfield redevelopment projects that could use RLF funds include:

- o applicants for, or recipients of, DNR Brownfields Site Assessment or Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities grants at locations that require additional environmental cleanup;
- o applicants for Department of Administration Coastal Management Grants at locations that need environmental cleanup;
- o applicants for Department of Commerce Brownfields Grants that did not receive a grant; and
- o applicants for brownfields in communities with high unemployment and poverty, such as federal enterprise communities, renewal communities, or state community development and enterprise zones.

The Wisconsin Brownfields program has been recognized as a leader in innovation, in part because of the diverse availability of funding. We believe that revolving loan funds administered by the WBC would provide a remarkable return on investment in terms of the impact on contaminated properties in Wisconsin and fill an urgent need essential to fuel the economic engine of growth. On behalf of the Brownfield Study Group and in particular, the private sector and local government members of the Group, we urge the award of funds to the Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Keyes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Keyes
On Behalf of the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group

cc: Brownfields Study Group Members
Darsi Foss, DNR
Jessica Milz, DNR



P. O. Box 7970
Madison, Wisconsin 53707
(608) 266-1018
TDD #: (608) 264-8777

Jim Doyle, Governor
Mary P. Burke, Secretary

October 11, 2007

Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street, Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Frank:

I am writing to reflect our support of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's – the Departments of Natural Resources, Commerce and Administration - application to EPA for a federal brownfields clean-up grant. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce has agreed to continue our membership in the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. This grant would be administered as a revolving loan fund that would provide sub-grants and no-to-low interest loans to Wisconsin communities to assist in the clean up of their brownfields.

The Department of Commerce recognizes that brownfield projects are opportunities for economic and social redevelopment. As such, the Department has provided over \$57 million in grants in the past ten years to assist communities and businesses in the redevelopment of contaminated properties. The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition represents our goals and enhances our efforts for several reasons:

- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.
- It supports sound land use management.

You can be assured that the Department of Commerce will support the Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary P. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

Mary P. Burke
SECRETARY