



WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program's mission is to preserve, protect, develop and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of Wisconsin's coastal area for this and succeeding generations, with governmental coordination and public involvement, giving due consideration to the linkages and impacts to resources of inland areas.

State Program in Action

Project of Special Merit: Explore an innovative professional networking approach to address coastal hazard mapping issues. The project will create a community of practice in Wisconsin's Lake Superior region consisting of mapping professionals from local governments, tribes, NGOs, state and federal agencies and academics. The project will focus mapping of culverts as the first case study.

NOAA Coastal Management Fellow: The Fellow compiled a current and comprehensive public access inventory, developed a Wisconsin Great Lakes public access database, and developed Story Maps to promote coastal heritage tourism in Wisconsin.

J. Philip Keillor Wisconsin Coastal Management/Sea Grant Fellowship: The Fellow is involved with diverse efforts to improve the preparedness and resiliency of Wisconsin's coastal communities for coastal hazards such as flooding, bluff erosion, and lake level fluctuation. This includes revising and updating the Coastal Processes Manual publication.

NOAA OCM Training - Managing Visitor Use Impacts: A coordinated a two day training course in Ashland for coastal resource managers, local-decision makers, and planners in the Lake Superior region to better understand, monitor, and manage visitor use to maintain quality resource conditions and visitor experiences.

40th Anniversary and Chronicle Compendium: In partnership with Wisconsin Historical Society Press, and in celebration of its 40th anniversary, published the Great Lakes Chronicle: Essays on Coastal Wisconsin. The book provides readers with over 120 articles, spanning 17 years of coastal management along Wisconsin's Great Lakes.



Looking to the Future

Wisconsin's coastal bluffs, beaches, and waterfront infrastructure are impacted by erosion, coastal storms, and fluctuating water levels which threaten coastal properties and impair economic security of tourism and commerce. The WCMP is partnering with Wisconsin Sea Grant, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant to provide research data, educational resources, and technical assistance to build coastal hazard resilience in Southeastern Wisconsin's coastal communities. This collaborative effort is organized within a "Community of Practice" to connect local officials, scientists, and outreach specialists to learn about, share experiences, and develop approaches to plan and prepare for coastal hazards. Updated shoreline recession is being mapped and evaluated to provide needed data for long-term planning. Educational resources on options to protect coastal assets, including nature-based solutions, are being developed for local officials and property owners. Using these data and resources, the project team is working with municipalities to assess their vulnerabilities to coastal hazards, prioritize potential actions to address coastal hazards, and implement some of these identified actions.

FY18 Federal Funds: \$2,469,000

FY18 State & Local Matching Funds: \$2,316,000

FY18 Total: \$4,785,000



HELPING PREPARE FOR COASTAL HAZARDS

In July 2016, a coastal storm caused significant flooding and damage in the Lake Superior region, leading local stakeholders to look at options to deal with future events. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program provided funding to Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) to examine the relationship between storm damage, wetlands, and land use in Northern Wisconsin counties. The project was the first step in a long-term effort to explore wetland practices as part of hazard mitigation and adaptation strategies. Goals of the project included developing an approach to document the relationship degraded wetland storage and floodplain connectivity and storm response; producing and sharing vignettes to illustrate the consequences of disruptions; identify data gaps and needed decision support tools; and producing an outreach plan. WWA used spatial analysis, field-observations, and consultation with local resource experts in developing their report, Exploring the Relationship Between Wetlands and Flood Hazards in the Lake Superior Basin."

Available here: https://wisconsinwetlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/WetlandsFloodHazards_WWA_web.pdf

"WCMP support has been vital for helping the WI Wetlands Association build partnerships with local natural resources experts and collaborations across sectors with emergency managers and transportation planners. Their support is accelerating the consideration of integrated stream, floodplain, and wetland restoration projects that build community resilience and protect infrastructure. Additionally, we have been able to leverage WCMP support for greater investments in demonstration projects, plan development, and research that showcases the flood mitigation benefits of increasing wetland storage and floodplain connectivity."

Kyle Magyera
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Helping people care for wetlands

Working with Partners in Wisconsin

The project is the first step in a long-term effort for Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA). WCMP will continue its partnership with WWA to identify and address the relationships between wetlands and flooding in Wisconsin's coastal region. Multiple partners are involved in the effort. The State of Wisconsin's Geographic Information Officer is using WWA's work in identifying data needs for the region as well plans for the Project of Special Merit.

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