



Vilas County Land & Water Conservation

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Gina Owens,
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Eastern Region
626 E. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee WI 53202

September 15, 2020

Dear Ms. Owens,

The Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department (VCLWCD) fully supports the goals of the Sustainable Resources Institute Inc. Landscape Scale Restoration Proposal. In recent years a number of culverts on both municipal roads and private access roads have been impacted by higher intensity storms and have required significant resources to repair the damage/replace the culverts. About 1/3 of Vilas County is public forest lands (with additional amounts of private forest lands), which require reliable access for management and public use.

VCLWCD is a source of technical assistance and funding to municipalities and landowners addressing culvert repair issues in Vilas County. We will support this project by assisting with the development of the toolkit as well as sharing the toolkit and the webinars with our local municipalities and land owners. In 2019 we started a survey of the road stream crossings across Vilas County, and as we share our survey results with townships the toolkit will be invaluable for them to address those culverts that are cause ecological and economic issues.

Our department will commit 80 hours of staff time (\$1760.00) to assist with the Tool Kit development and dissemination, allowing us to more readily achieve some of our current Vilas County Resource Management Plan Goals: *Goal 1 Increase the publics' level of natural resource knowledge and stewardship; Goal 2 Protect aquatic and, terrestrial environments from non-point source pollution; Goal 3 Protect aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland ecosystems from invasive species; and Goal 5 Attend to state and local conservation funding and policy issues.*

In future work planning, Road Stream Crossing projects will remain a priority.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the Sustainable Resources Institute Inc. Landscape Scale Restoration Proposal.

Carolyn Scholl, Director
Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department