



Lumberjack Grant Application

PROJECT TITLE: **TOWN OF CRESCENT NEIGHBORHOOD POLLINATOR & NATURALIZATION PROJECT**

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|----------------------|---|
| Submitted by (name): | Joel Knutson: Chair, Town of Crescent |
| Organization: | Town of Crescent, Wisconsin |
| Address: | 2829 Green Bass Road |
| Phone: | 608-332-5635 |
| Email: | crescentchair@townofcrescent.com |
| Counties: | Oneida |

***Mission Statement:** Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.*

SUMMARY: Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack’s mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed.

Answer:

The Crescent town board, its town crew, and pollinator-hosting residents have a strong connection to local conservation and wish to place value on projects that protect natural resources. Residents expressed interest in creating natural preserves where insect pollinators will be protected from leading dangers such as habitat loss and roadside mortality; in response, in 2021 the Town experimented with “no-mow” and “reduced mow” areas on town roads to conserve milkweed growth and emerging wildflower populations. During the summer Town chair Joel Knutson and volunteers monitored newly-conserved milkweed patches for monarch activity, and through June and August seven “foster” families collectively reared and released over 200 monarchs from roadside-adjacent plots. Having identified areas conducive to pollinator success, in 2022 the Town continued its selective mowing practices, investing in specialized “boom” mowers that allow for specific targeting of brush and grasses; although monarch populations declined in 2022, the areas identified for protection continued to thrive and expand, generating additional local interest in expanding the concept and integrating the concept of naturalization to additional town spaces, including high profile sites at the town hall along Highway 8. The Town’s goal in 2023 and beyond is to expand community interest by committing to creating at minimum six native planting zones throughout Crescent neighborhoods in the rights-of-way that will provide refuge for important pollinator species in decline and provide a boost to the walkability and interest of our residential areas with destination gardens for families to learn and be inspired to include natives in their landscapes. In 2023, we look to include a 7th “flagship” site at the town hall that will also serve as the anchor to a memorial garden, a high visibility site where the Town will include a public workshop for residents and families at the town hall to learn about the project and how they can participate.

Overall, Crescent's project aligns with the Lumberjack mission by committing to protect natural resources in a rural town, and includes both environmental and educational benefits:

- The project proposes to directly enhance area natural resources by creating planting zones that will encourage native flowering plants to grow, while benefitting pollinator insects
- The project will improve the quality of life for area citizens in this small rural town, by engaging town residents through volunteering, gardening, monitoring, and also offering a town public workshop about native plants and the benefits of land restoration
- We are directly engaging in partnerships between public and private sectors, by working with local businesses stressing native plantings, County Conservationist (and staff), and the local cooperative invasive species management (WHIP).

OBJECTIVES: What problems, concerns or opportunities will this project address? You will be asked to show how your objectives were met when you present your follow-up presentation to the Council.

Crescent has 58 miles of town roads, which provides both opportunities in the Right-of-ways but also leads to splintering and losses of habitat and heightened risk of spreading invasives in traditional unrestricted mowing. (Our crew has already identified problematic thistle areas ensnaring our bird populations.) Further, there is a well-known problematic agricultural legacy in Crescent. As our Town grows, newer residents have expressed a concern to protect the natural resources and expand recreational opportunities, especially in largely undeveloped rural areas with significant potential for conservation. One of the simplest and most effective contributions Towns can make is the protection and creation of natural areas to protect native vegetation species, which will allow sensitive pollinator insects a safe space while simultaneously increasing the "walking" value of our emerging residential areas. Therefore the Town of Crescent plans to commit to create a network of natural preserves where insect pollinators will be protected from both habitat loss and roadside mortality not just at high-profile areas but specifically targeted among our low-thru-traffic, denser residential clusters.

Pollinators are known to be declining globally, as a result of multiple harmful factors such as habitat loss, overuse of pesticides, and shifting conditions due to climate change, all of which can be observed in real time in Crescent. A key indicator species is the Monarch butterfly, known to many communities and schoolchildren, which is now in need of habitat protection on its migration from North America through to Mexico each year. The Town of Crescent is currently working to establish itself among statewide and national monarch tracking and advocacy organizations as an "highlight project" to further actively encourages local governments to get involved in planting native species as both a providing safe refuge for butterflies and similar pollinator species and means to create healthy, livable walking communities.

Objectives:

- Create (at least) six roadside native planting zones in the Town of Crescent that will provide refuge for important pollinator species, primarily the Monarch Butterfly. Planting zones will be an average of 100 feet x 5 feet = 500 square feet and will consist of a variety of native flowering plants in each zone.
- Monitor native planting zones for Monarch butterfly eggs and chrysalis that might need to be relocated and reared to adulthood (at homes of volunteers).
- Report Monarch reproduction data via volunteer monitoring for tracking databases.
- Work in partnership with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department for consultation and recommendations throughout the grant cycle.
- Ensure that any invasive plant species are detected and controlled before native plantings are installed, and monitor the zones for regrowth.

- Hold a public workshop at the Crescent Town Hall in early summer 2023 with volunteer partners to engage as many area residents as possible, and provide outreach on native gardening and the ways we can help Monarch butterflies and other species on our own land.
- Distribute a brochure to Town residents about the project.
- Show our neighboring Towns an example of citizen science and encourage them to participate

FORMULATION & EVALUATION: Why is this project the best way to address the issues described above? How will the outcome be evaluated? Be specific – outcomes that can be measured are viewed more favorably.

Answer:

This is “phase II” of what the Town hopes will be a long-term commitment to encouraging native restorations; as a work-in-progress, the Town expects to serve as a model (what works/what doesn’t) for peer towns and villages. As such, the Town is fully committed to making all its work available and be guided in future efforts by researchers and professionals – for example, our first efforts at monitoring suggested the Town’s agricultural-adjacent milkweed plots did not produce nearly the volume of monarch caterpillars as non-agricultural, forest-adjacent sites. As a town-wide project, we expect to engage in ongoing conversations with residents about the possibility of protecting native species not just by decreasing the amount of mowing done in our Town but supporting efforts with examples and seed giveaways to further encourage native plantings on private property. As chair, I am personally very familiar with the plight of the Monarch butterfly having reared them in concert with other area volunteers for several years. The Town is well prepared to host fun, engaging workshops to not just “share information” with residents but to generate long-term permanent positive activity.

Outcomes will be evaluated by (but not limited to!):

- Tracking the native plantings (number and species diversity) and rate of growth success
- Monitoring Monarch butterfly numbers by sighting, using volunteers and town chair
- Holding a successful workshop to engage Town residents
- Successful completion of invasive species management and surveying
- Working with partners: Oneida County Land & Water, WHIP, North American Butterfly Association

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Why is assistance needed from Lumberjack? Who within your organization will run the project? Describe the assistance you are receiving from other partners. Include Letters of Support as outlined in Lumberjack’s Granting Policy.

Answer:

The Town is requesting assistance from Lumberjack in recognition that our goals and missions align. We feel that the Town commitment to improve the natural resources of our area is a good and supportive example of Lumberjack’s work in Oneida County, and will build on what the county conservation department has accomplished to date. The Project will be spearheaded by Joel Knutson, Town Chair, with input and oversight from the Town board, clerk, and crew. Volunteers will be recruited at Town meetings, community group meetings (e.g., lake associations) and other online community platforms such as NextDoor and Facebook. **The Town is requesting \$10,000.** This will enable the Town of Crescent to work with a landscape and plant cultivating company as a consultant, purchase appropriate varieties of native plants for planting and growth in 2023, secure supplies such as topsoil, and would include hours for a professional to survey and control any invasive species that may be present in the planting zones.

The Town will commit a large amount of match in the regular budget for the project (\$5000) including significant in-kind hours from the Town Chair and the Town Road Crew members (for assistance planting, transporting plants, disposing of brush and waste, etc). Other matches include volunteer time as well as securing potential secondary grants for further expansion. Details on budget page.

PROJECT OUTLINE & TIMETABLE: List the project steps and expected completion dates. Could there be any possible roadblocks? If so, list them here.

Answer:

| Projected Activities to include: | Completion Date |
|---|--------------------------|
| Creation of project details for bid; meetings with contractor to begin site selection | Fall 2022 into winter 23 |
| Invasive species surveying | Early spring 23 |
| Invasive species control | April-May 2023 |
| Preparation of soil | May 2023 |
| Planting of native species (plugs) | June 2023 |
| Monitoring, growth, watering | Summer 2023 |
| Public workshop held at Town Hall | July 2023 |
| Rearing of Monarch butterflies (eggs, chrysalis, adult, release) | Summer 2023 |
| Fall visits, continued monitoring for invasives | September 2023 |
| Sharing information | Fall into winter 2023 |
| Report and presentation to Lumberjack | Before Dec 2023 |

BUDGET: Complete the attached Budget Form. Remember the 50% match value requirement with 15% of the match being cash. List each match donor in the 'Match' column and submit a corresponding Letter of Support with specific value of in-kind/services or cash for the project for which funds are being asked. Note: This form is available in excel online at: <https://lumberjackrcd.org/projects>

LUMBERJACK BUDGET FORM



Project Name: Town of Crescent Pollinator Planting Project

Starting Project Date
2/1/2023

Ending Project Date **1**
12/31/2023

| Income (SPECIFY) | Cash | Match (Cash & In-Kind) | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| YOUR Request of Lumberjack RC&D | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Town of Crescent Budget (cash) | | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Town Chair in-kind time (as volunteer, 80 hours over grant cycle) | | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Town Road Crew in-kind time (2 @ 40 hours) | | \$ 2,160.00 | \$ 2,160.00 |
| Volunteer resident donated time (100 hours) | | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,860.00 | \$ 15,860.00 |

Percent of Match=Match Total/Lumberjack Request 59%

LJ Percent of Total = YOUR LJ Request/Total Expenses 63%

| General Expenses (SPECIFY & include Match expenses) | | |
|---|----|-----------|
| Site consultant/plant contractor time (Est.) | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Native Plant Plugs and Pots (7 sites) | \$ | 7,000.00 |
| Sedge seeding | \$ | 200.00 |
| Sod cutter rental (one week), site prep | \$ | 400.00 |
| Topsoil, fertilizer, mulch | \$ | 1,100.00 |
| Town chair volunteer time, oversight, labor | \$ | 1,200.00 |
| Town Road Crew time: transport of supplies, prep, plantings, watering (estimated 80 hours over grant cycle at \$23 & \$26/hr + ins.) | \$ | 2,160.00 |
| Invasive species management: Survey of roadside stretches, control before plantings, monitoring after plantings (20 hours WHIP time at \$25/hr) | \$ | 500.00 |
| Planting, weeding, watering, monitoring time from volunteers (estimated 100 hours) | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| Outreach brochure printing | \$ | 300.00 |
| Signage + posts | \$ | 300.00 |
| Website/drone/social media contractor | \$ | 200.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ | 15,860.00 |
| NET ⁴ | \$ | - |

- Lumberjack Project funds are available for one year from the date of the approval notice
- Match Value must equal at least 50% of the Lumberjack Request and 15% must be in cash
Volunteer Services=\$15/hour & Professional Services=current hourly wage
- A Letter of Support is required for all match partners listed above and must include a description and value of service.
- Explain a **NET** balance other than Zero (\$0.00) in the box below:



December 29, 2022

To: Tracy Beckman, Lumberjack Council

315 S. Oneida Avenue, Suite 206 Rhinelander, WI 54501

Dear Ms. Beckman:

At the November 16, 2022 meeting, the Crescent Town Board (“Board”) approved moving forward with an application to the Lumberjack RC&D Council in support of its efforts at encouraging native pollinators through a series of plantings throughout the Town in 2023.

After passage of the town budget earlier in the evening, on December 8, 2022 the Board reviewed my proposed application and approved moving forward with the proposal, with the following matches:

1. The Town will match \$1000 cash from its 2023 budget, paid out of its Community Development Fund;
2. Because the project is viewed as integral to the ordinary course of future maintenance of town roads, public spaces, and rights-of-way, The Town approved the allocation of town crew time in support of the project: at minimum, a combined 80 hours over the course of the year with an estimated value of (at least) \$2160 based on 2023 wages.
3. As Town Chair, I will both supervise the project as a volunteer coordinator as well as provide programming support and on-site labor as needed in support of the project: at minimum, this contribution is expected to be at least 80 hours over the course of the year with an estimated value of \$1200.
4. The total cash + in-kind contribution from the Town of Crescent is \$4360.

Preliminary minutes of the December 8 2022 Board meeting are included; they will be finalized at the regular meeting of the Board in mid-January.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ jfk

Joel Knutson
Chair, Town of Crescent

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
TOWN OF CRESCENT
MINUTES FOR
MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022
5:40 P.M., CRESCENT TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Joel Knutson, Chair; Kyla Waksmonski, Supervisor; Mike Pazdernik, Supervisor; Tracy Hartman, Clerk; Carla Fletcher, Treasurer.

Call to Order: Chairman Knutson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. The meeting has been properly posted and distributed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pazdernik to approve the agenda. Seconded by Knutson. All aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Waksmonski to approve the minutes from the Monthly Town Board Meeting of November 16, 2022. Seconded by Knutson. All aye. Motion carried.

Fifteen Minutes of Public Discussion –

- Pat Karaba requested that the ORV Park be put on a future agenda and asked questions regarding what would be included in the ORV park. Karaba expressed concern over the noise that may occur due to the ORV Park.
- Thomas Geisler expressed concern with the sound the proposed ORV park may make. Geisler reported that he lives on Indian Hill Trail and the sound from the gun club travels over the river and is quite loud at times.

Town Chair Report – Knutson reported that he continues to look into the runoff from the Crescent School parking lot, he also continues to work on getting projected costs for South River Road, and working on the Fire Department by-laws. Knutson thanked the board and the Crescent Residents for their support during the last year. Knutson reported that there will be a flier with the tax bills this year and encouraged residents to sign up for emails and the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - A written report was given by Treasurer, Carla Fletcher.

Library Report - Update on the library board meeting and upcoming programs being offered at the library – None

County Board Supervisor's Report - Review of County Board meeting and Committee meetings – Thome reported that during the last month he has worked with a number of entities regarding the runoff issue at the Crescent School and received an email from the DNR that was sent to the school district regarding some recommendations/requirements that the school needs to complete.

Fire Department Report and Approval of Purchases -

- Monthly Call update, purchases update, training update, fundraiser update – Mahner gave an overview of the calls during the last month. Mahner reported that they had the annual

cookies with Santa event and it went well. Mahner discussed plans in the event of a structure fire during the winter with snow/ice on the roads.

First Responder's Report and Approval of Purchases - None

Town Road Crew Report

- Road Projects update, update on vehicle repairs and shop repairs – Knutson reported that the town is still down a plow truck and the anticipated delivery date is December 16th. Knutson gave an overview of the work that is being completed by the road crew and maintenance of the vehicles.

Town Plan Commission Report – Pazdernik reported that the plan commission will be meeting on December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Uniform Dwelling Inspector's Report - None

Squash Lake District Report – None

Crescent Lake District Report – None

2023 Heal Creek Dog Dash – Niina Baum reported that during the 2022 Heal Creek Dog Dash there were 80 competitors and around 500 spectators. Baum reported that there were issues with the parking and they would like to work with the Town of Crescent to make sure this doesn't happen again. Baum reported that they would also like to work with the Fire Department on a fundraiser during the Heal Creek Dog Dash. Baum reported that the Dog Dash will be held February 25th and 26th. Discussion regarding fundraising options during the event and what will be happening during the event. Knutson reported that the town will work with the event to make sure parking is acceptable. Baum reported that Pioneer Park will also be bringing the trolley to help shuttle attendees.

2023 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant: Scope of Work proposal by Epstein Global

– Knutson reported that the TAP grant is the funding mechanism for bike/pedestrian plans in the Town of Crescent. Knutson reported that he has worked with Ryan Peterson from Epstein to come up with a proposal for a plan. Knutson reported that this will need to be put out to bid with the Town requesting proposals. Peterson gave some recommendations for future bike/pedestrian planning and what types of services the town would want to look for in proposals. Peterson gave an overview of the proposal that was provided to the town. Discussion regarding the type of proposal that would be required through the federal funding. Discussion regarding the request for qualifications process. Peterson reported that he would assist the town with the process.

Lumberjack RC&D Grant Application (pollinator pathways & roadside naturalization) –

Knutson reported that he has submitted an application for the Lumberjack RC&D Grant and gave an overview of what is being requested. Knutson informed the board that there would be approximately a \$1000 cash match required if the grant is received. Knutson gave an overview of the grant application that will be submitted. Discussion regarding the cash match and the match in hours worked by the board, crew and volunteers. Motion by Knutson to submit the Lumberjack RC&D Grant Application and to utilize the community development funds for the match requirement. Seconded by Pazdernik. All aye; motion carried.

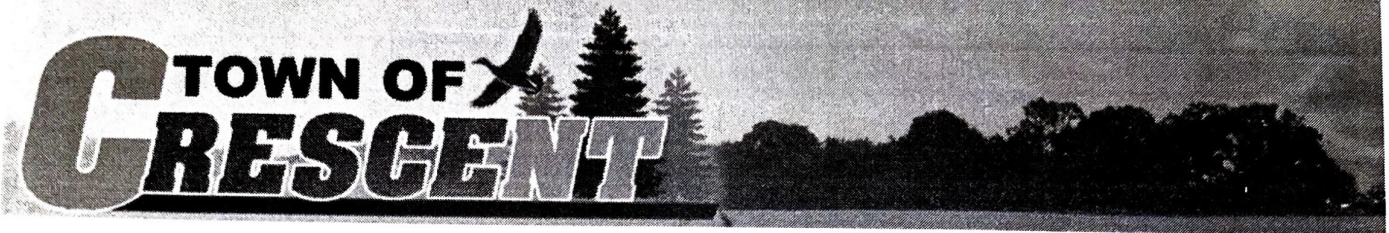
2022 Budget Reconciliation – Hartman gave an overview of the budgets that are currently overbudget and the recommended transfers to balance the 2022 closing. Motion by Knutson to approve the budget transfers as submitted by the clerk. Seconded by Pazdernik. All aye; motion carried.

Review Correspondence – None

Approval of Vouchers/Adjourn -

Motion by Knutson to approve vouchers as submitted and adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Seconded by Waksmonski. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Hartman
Municipal Clerk



December 29, 2022

To: Tracy Beckman, Lumberjack Council

315 S. Oneida Avenue, Suite 206 Rhinelander, WI 54501

Dear Ms. Beckman,

This letter is offered in support of the a commitment of 100 volunteer hours for the Town of Crescent's Pollinator Planting Project grant proposal submitted for 2023.

As residents of the area, we support establishing native plants along town roads and public spaces: it values the biodiversity and habitat needed for pollinator species and beautifies our rural areas and creates points of interest for walkable communities. We hope the Town's efforts provide inspiration and seed sources for further proliferation of native plants in private gardens as well. We sign below to commit match hours and contribute towards the Town's collective goal of 100 volunteer hours over the course of 2023, which we understand are worth \$15/hour. We will participate in any or all of the following:

- ◇ Checking for weeds, preparing sites by removing grasses and non-native shrubs;
- ◇ Digging and planting new seedlings;
- ◇ Helping construct informative signs;
- ◇ Watering new plants for growth and survival;
- ◇ Raising enthusiasm from our neighboring residents and spreading the word about the advantages of native plants to our own communities.

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| Hatie Schramke | Hatie Schramke |
| Cody McFadden | [Signature] |
| Jada Apple | [Signature] |
| Austin Randolph | [Signature] |
| Jacquelyn Christopher | [Signature] |
| Josh Stephens | [Signature] |
| CARLY LAPIN | [Signature] |
| Scott Van Egeren | Scott Van Egeren |
| Maria Rudesill | MRudesill |
| Kyler Waksmonski | [Signature] |

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| [Signature] | Paul R. FRYE |
| Nancy Hoffman | [Signature] |



November 20, 2022

**Tracy Beckman, Executive Director, Lumberjack RC&D Council
315 S. Oneida Avenue, Suite 206
Rhinelander, WI 54501**

Dear Ms. Beckman,

This letter is to confirm support from the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) for the Town of Crescent's current grant proposal submitted to your program for 2023.

WHIP is pleased that the Town of Crescent is taking on the challenge of creating native gardens along their roadways. Through this project they will show their commitment toward protecting natural habitats and native species. Part of the planned activities will involve removal of invasive species (such as spotted knapweed, common tansy, and non-native honeysuckles) in the right-of-way, which is something that our group can help accomplish. In our 2016 Strategic plan (goals 1 and 4), WHIP lists the following relevant action items: *"helping communities to take on invasive species projects"* and *"support partner or volunteer-organized restoration projects"*. This project presents an excellent opportunity to accomplish these action items, while also collaborating with a Town as a partner, which is a current goal of WHIP.

Throughout 2023, WHIP will work on the selected Crescent roadsides to:

- Survey selected areas for invasive species that would interfere with native plantings
- Prioritize invasive species as they are found
- Carry out control through recommended methods (pulling, digging, treating)
- Revisit after plantings to ensure no regrowth or reinvasion occurs

We appreciate the chance to cooperate with another Town board with Lumberjack's support, and look forward to this partnership and the wonderful example it will set for others!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosie Page", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rosie Page, Coordinator

Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership