

# LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

## GRANT INTAKE SHEET

2026-008

Use to determine if the project submission has met the initial requirements...

PROJECT NAME	What's In Your Water?
PROJECT NUMBER	2026-008
DATE RECEIVED	9/24/2025
PROJECT COUNTIES	Shawano
PROJECT PARTNERS	Shawano & Menominee Co Health Departments, Shawano LWCD, WDNR
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 9,598.00
PRIOR FUNDING YEARS/AMOUNTS	N/A

	YES/NO
Project was received by the deadline	Yes
Project fulfills Match Requirements (50% & minimum 15% Cash)	Yes
Project budget shows more than 15% Cash Match - Show Percentage	201%
Project has been presented to county LCC	Yes 09/24/2025
If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations	N/A
Letter of Support from each match partner	Yes
Approved to move on to Council Meeting	Yes

NOTES:

# LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

2026-008

## GRANT RANKING GUIDELINE SHEET

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Use this sheet to help formulate questions & determine how the project aligns with the Lumberjack Mission.

**NAME:** What's In Your Water?

ASKING FOR...

**COUNTY:** Shawano

**\$4,125**

**PARTNERS:** Shawano & Menominee County Health Departments, Shawano Co LWCD, WDNR

**PRIOR FUNDING years/amounts:**

\$

Match Information (List Match Percentage)	201%
If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations	N/A

**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.

**The following statments should be considered when determining if you feel the project aligns well enough with the Lumberjack Mission Statement. Project critiques should be based on their merits and mission alignment points, not on location, past funding or whether funds are available for all projects.**

**Enhances Area Natural Resources.** Does this project directly enhance natural resources? Consider the area and population covered. Consider how many Lumberjack counties are covered? Lumberjack serves nine counties. Consider the diversity of natural resources benefitting from the project. Is it one, two or a range?

**Promotes a Higher Standard of Living & Improves Quality of Life.** Does this project directly promote a higher standard of living and/or improve quality of life? Consider the economic impact and how the project affects disposable income, wages, job creation. Consider the health benefits. Does the project lead to better air or water quality, a cleaner environment? Does the project enhance accessibility to resources that lead to healthier living?

**Fosters Partnerships Between Public & Private Sectors.** Consider the number and diversity of the partnerships involved in this project. Do the partners represent a good cross section of public/private entities? Consider all partners, whether they are contributing monetarily or not. (Example: A school/classroom is involved in the project but they cannot committ with a Letter of Support. This would not qualify at cash match, but would qualify as fostering partnerships.)

**Council Members:** Use this space to jot down comments or specific questions you have after reading the project proposal. You'll have an opportunity to question the applicant at the October Council meeting.



## Lumberjack Grant Application

What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic

**PROJECT TITLE:** Exposure through Well Water Testing

Submitted by (name):	Nick Mau, Health Officer/Director
Organization:	Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department
Address:	311 N. Main Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Phone:	715-526-4808
Email:	nick.mau@shawanocountywi.gov
Counties:	Shawano

**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:

This project aims to increase available private well water data (arsenic) in Shawano County and increase community awareness of the importance of safe well water. This will be accomplished by providing outreach to the identified high-risk areas of the county to facilitate water testing, provide education and resources to the community, strengthen existing and identify additional partnerships, and increase the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department's (SMCHD) environmental program infrastructure.

The target area will be five townships in Shawano County currently identified by the Center for Watershed Science and Education as having well water arsenic levels above the EPA standard of 10 ppb. A special emphasis will be on rural and Spanish-speaking households.

**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.

Answer:

The 2024 Wisconsin County Environmental Health Profile Private Water Quality data demonstrates that from a total sample of 949 tests, 13.6% of Shawano County's tests results are above the EPA Standard of 10 ppb for arsenic, as compared to the Wisconsin average of 2.43%. Data from the Well Water Quality Viewer (UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education) further demonstrates that there are five townships (Angelica, Green Valley, Hartland, Lessor and Maple Grove) in eastern Shawano County that have water arsenic levels ranging from 11-21+ ppb. Of the 465 total samples, 21.3% of the test results are above the EPA Standard of 10 ppb for arsenic. Long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water can increase the likelihood of developing certain cancers such as skin, liver, kidney and bladder. The larger the concentration the greater the risk (UW Extension-Center for Watershed Science and Education, 2025).

One goal for this project will be to increase the available private well water data (emphasis on arsenic) in Shawano County. Since there are areas already identified as having a higher arsenic concentration within the county, the SMCHD plans to work with Shawano County Land Conservation Department (LCD) to develop an outreach plan for the identified townships, to inform of the current burden of arsenic in well water, opportunities and logistics for testing, and educational opportunities for community members. The five townships identified for this project are largely rural areas (average township population of 1,200), which may contribute to financial or transportation barriers for those community members. SMCHD and LCD intend to travel to the rural community to implement no-cost activities. Many Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Shawano County historically employ farm workers who are Spanish-speaking. Any materials utilized for this project will be translated as applicable, and the SMCHD will partner with Hola and Hmong & Hispanic Communication Network Project (H2N), through the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS) to utilize a trusted, culturally aware partner to provide outreach and resources to this population.

**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:

By increasing the number of wells tested for arsenic, the SMCHD can work with partners to identify additional households with elevated arsenic levels, provide education and resources on potential health hazards and improving water quality to the community members residing in those areas, and expand the water sample size to further analyze water quality trends within this high-risk and/or additional geographical areas.

The SMCHD will work with its partners to develop the logistics of water sample collection, transportation and testing, and identify an appropriate means for communicating test results to the households, as well as the township and Shawano County Boards. SMCHD and partners will implement these activities, with the goal of 140 water samples collected and tested. The proposed testing facility will be University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, with tests to include the Homeowner's Package for bacteria and nitrate and Metals Package for arsenic.

We plan to create a testing log using Excel to document number of private wells tested and number of private wells with arsenic levels >10 ppb. We will consult with partners to complete a statistical analysis and will report out at project end to funders, Shawano-Menominee County Board of Health/Veterans Services, Land Conservation Committee and Shawano County Board of Supervisors

**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:

In 2009, the Shawano County Land Conservation Department's Water Quality Project created a mailing list of 225 landowners in the Townships of Angelica, Green Valley, Hartland, Lessor and Maple Grove for well water testing. The LCD collected 88 well water samples. For this upcoming well water testing program, we plan to use a social media campaign via Facebook, postings on county websites, communications with Town officials and partners to help make people aware. Nick Mau, Health Officer, will be the project lead. SMCHD has been awarded funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services 2025-2026 Taking Action with Data grant of \$10,000 that will cover costs for 70 well water samples. Due to a more robust outreach effort for this project, it is felt that landowner interest and funding would be needed for a total of 140 well water tests.

The Lumberjack RC&D grant opportunity will help support this environmental health initiative, and strengthen our partnership with the LCD. The LCD will help with outreach, testing logistics, sample kit distribution, collection and delivery to lab and results. The SMCHD is also currently partnering with Hola/H2N, providing health promotion information, resources, screening and immunizations to Spanish-speaking farmworkers through a mobile clinic model. The addition of water quality testing, education and resources to the existing program will further strengthen this rural health initiative, as well as the SMCHD's partnership with Hola/H2N. Please see letters of support from Shawano County Land Conservation Department and Hola/H2N. SMCHD anticipates the identification of additional partners and stakeholders during additional planning and implementation of project activities.

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

Answer:

Goal 1: Increase available private well water data (arsenic) in Shawano County.

By 12/31/2025, the SMCHD and partners will provide outreach to Township Boards, landowners, community groups and businesses and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that are located in the five identified townships with well water arsenic levels above 10 ppm) about well water testing opportunities.

By 3/31/2026, the SMCHD and partners will facilitate the collection and testing of 140 well water samples (Homeowners Package for bacteria and nitrate and Metals Package for arsenic) from at least one Shawano County entity (Township or CAFO).

Goal 2: Increase community awareness of the importance of safe well water.

By 5/31/2026, the SMCHD and partners will facilitate two community educational presentations addressing well water quality.

By 07/31/2026, the SMCHD will post four Facebook posts per month during project addressing well water quality.

Possible Roadblocks: Even though people want to know the quality of their well water, they likely do not want to share the results with others. SMCHD and partners will inform people that test results will be grouped at the section, township and full project level. Individual test results will only be share with those providing the well water sample. Many CAFOs in Shawano County historically employ farm workers who are Spanish-speaking. These agricultural workers may have fears of interacting with government staff which could limit their participation.

**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: "What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing"

Starting Project Date  
1/1/2026

Ending Project Date **1**  
12/31/2026

Income (SPECIFY)	Cash	Match (Cash & In-Kind) <b>2,3</b>	Total
YOUR Request of Lumberjack RC&D	\$ 9,598.00		\$ 9,598.00
WI Department of Health Services Grant		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
SMCHD staff support		\$ 4,426.55	\$ 4,426.55
LCD staff support		\$ 4,439.60	\$ 4,439.60
SMCHD and LCD travel		\$ 443.80	\$ 443.80
Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 9,598.00	\$ 19,309.95	\$ 28,907.95

Percent of Match=Match Total/Lumberjack Request **201%**

LJ Percent of Total = YOUR LJ Request/Total Expenses **33%**

General Expenses (SPECIFY & include Match expenses)		
SMCHD staff support	\$	5,338.55
LCD staff support	\$	4,439.60
LCD pickup of sample bottles at UWSP	\$	92.40
SMCHD and LCD distribution of sample bottles	\$	105.00
SMCHD and LCD collection of sample bottles	\$	105.00
LCD drop off sample bottles at UWSP	\$	92.40
SMCHD and LCD travel and hosting education event	\$	49.00
Test Kit - Homeowners Package (140 tests)	\$	9,520.00
Test Kit - Metals Package (Arsenic) (140 tests)	\$	8,400.00
Printing of education materials (300)	\$	156.00
Postage to mail test results (140)	\$	110.00
UWSP CWS - Data analysis & education programming	\$	500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$	28,907.95
<b>NET <b>4</b></b>	\$	-

- 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 & must include a description & match value
- Explain a **NET** balance other than Zero (\$0.00) in the box below:



SHAWANO



COUNTY

## LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

311 N. MAIN STREET - COURTHOUSE

SHAWANO, WI 54166-2145

Phone (715) 526-4820

<https://www.co.shawano.wi.us>

September 29, 2025

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc  
Attn: Tracy Beckman  
315 S. Oneida Ave  
Rhineland, WI 54501

Re: Letter of Support for *"What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing"*

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of the Shawano County Land Conservation Department (LCD), I am pleased to express strong support for the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department's (SMCHD) grant application, *"What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing."*

Arsenic in private well water is a critical issue in our county, with levels in several townships exceeding the EPA standard of 10 ppb. This project addresses a clear need by increasing well water testing, expanding data collection and providing community education on water quality and health. This work aligns with the Shawano County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, specifically Objective 5: Improve Groundwater Quality.

The LCD has some experience coordinating targeted well water testing efforts and is eager to partner with SMCHD in outreach, testing logistics and sharing results with those private well owners, township officials and community members. The LCD will provide in-kind support including: 100 hrs of staff time for \$4,439.60 and travel for \$443.80. We recognize the importance of cross-agency collaboration to identify at-risk areas, inform residents and connect them with the resources they need to safeguard their families' health.

We are confident that this project will provide impactful benefits for Shawano County residents and strongly encourage its funding.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Frank  
County Conservationist  
Shawano County LCD

[scott.frank@shawanocountywi.gov](mailto:scott.frank@shawanocountywi.gov)

(715) 526-4632

Tony Evers  
Governor

Kirsten L. Johnson  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**  
Department of Health Services

Division of Public Health  
201 E. Washington Ave.  
PO Box 2659  
Madison, WI 53701-2659

Phone: 608-266-1251  
Fax: 608-267-2832  
TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

August 29, 2025

Nick Mau  
Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department  
311 N Main Street  
Shawano, WI 54166

Dear Nick:

Thank you for your application for the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program funding opportunity RFA #2025-2026-Y10 "Taking Action with Data: Using Environmental Public Health Tracking Data to Improve Environmental Health in a Community." We are pleased to award **Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department** \$10,000 under this RFA.

You will receive your funding through the GEARS system as a modification of the consolidated contracting funds. We have already begun this process on our end, but the processing time for approval and sending out modifications varies. We will provide an update when we have additional information. After the project period begins on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, you may incur and invoice for expenses prior to the modification being signed but will not be reimbursed for them until the GEARS modification for this project has been signed.

In addition, a Wisconsin Tracking staff member will be contacting you either by telephone or email to schedule a kick-off conference call to discuss grant goals/objectives, strategic planning, capacity development, evaluation, and project timelines. We look forward to working with you and the staff at the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department on this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Camponeschi".

Jenny Camponeschi, MS  
Program Manager, Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health  
Division of Public Health  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
[Jennifer.Camponeschi@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Camponeschi@dhs.wisconsin.gov)  
(608) 267-3811

9/30/2025



Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc

Review Committee

Re: Letter of Support for *“What’s in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing”*

Dear Review Committee,

HOLA and Hmong and Hispanic Communication Network (H2N) project is proud to support the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department’s grant application, “What’s in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing.”

H2N is dedicated to working alongside public health organizations, health systems, resource agencies, and community partners to ensure Hmong and Hispanic communities have the tools and resources they need to improve health outcomes. Many families in Shawano County rely on private wells for drinking water, and arsenic contamination poses a significant health risk that requires culturally appropriate outreach and engagement.

Through this project, HOLA and H2N will assist with translation, outreach, and education to ensure that Spanish- and Hmong-speaking residents are fully informed about well water testing opportunities and understand the importance of safe drinking water. By removing language and cultural barriers, we can help ensure this project reaches those most at risk and provides equitable access to testing and resources.

We strongly support this proposal and are confident it will deliver measurable improvements in well water testing, education, and health outcomes for Shawano County residents. HOLA and H2N looks forward to continuing our partnership with the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department to ensure this initiative’s success and sustainability

Sincerely,

Francisco Guerrero

Vice President

HOLA & Hmong and Hispanic Communication Network project (H2N)





## **Minutes**

### **Land Conservation Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025 @ 2:30 PM**  
**Shawano County Courthouse, Meeting Room 200**

**Members Present:** Martin Elmer, Kathy Luebke, Joe Miller, Curtis Naja, Lynn Tober-Steinke

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Scott Frank and Lori Mathew (LCD); Nick Mau (Public Health); Nichole Zuehl (Finance); Shanda Hubertus and Kori Halstead, Waterways Association of Menominee & Shawano Counties (WAMSCO)

#### **1. Call meeting to order.**

Meeting was called to order at 2:31 PM by Vice Chair Tober-Steinke.

#### **2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.**

Motion made by Luebke, seconded by Elmer to accept the minutes for August 7, 2025 LCC meeting as written. Motion prevailed by acclamation.

#### **3. Grant proposals to Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council.**

##### **3.1 Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties**

Halstead presented WAMSCO's grant application and budget for a rain garden and native plant showcase project on public property in the Schoenick Creek Watershed. The project has acquired some funding from other sources and is requesting \$10,000 from Lumberjack RC&D. They are hoping to install a pond, native plants, ADA accessibility trails, educational signage, and kiosk benches. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the grant application through Lumberjack RC&D.

##### **3.2 Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department**

Mau reviewed the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department's grant application, "What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing." It is hoped to increase community awareness of safe well water. The Land Conservation Department will assist with this project and the plan is to have 140 water samples collected and tested. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the grant application through Lumberjack RC&D.

#### **4. Adjournment.**

Motion made by Miller, seconded by Naja to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 PM.

Recorded by: Lori Mathew, Office Assistant III, and Scott Frank, Conservationist



## Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

311 N. Main Street, Room 102

Shawano, WI 54166-2198

Phone: (715) 526-4808

Nick Mau, MPH

Director / Health Officer



Date: 10/1/25

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc.

Attn: Grant Review Committee

### Re: **Letter of Support – *What's in YOUR Water?* Project**

Dear Lumberjack RC&D Council Members,

On behalf of the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department (SMCHD), I express my full support for the grant application, "*What's in YOUR Water? Identifying Arsenic Exposure through Well Water Testing*" project. Arsenic levels in private wells across Shawano County are significantly higher than the state average, posing serious health risks for our residents.

This initiative will expand water testing in high-risk townships, raise community awareness about safe drinking water, and ensure outreach to rural and Spanish-speaking households. It directly aligns with SMCHD's mission to protect and promote the health of our communities.

To demonstrate our commitment, SMCHD will contribute \$4,426.55 of in-kind staff time to support project implementation, outreach, and evaluation. We are proud to partner with Lumberjack RC&D, Shawano County Land Conservation Department, and Hola/H2N to bring this important work forward.

We respectfully urge your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Nick Mau, MPH

Health Officer/Director

Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

[nick.mau@shawanocountywi.gov](mailto:nick.mau@shawanocountywi.gov)

(715)526-4808