

## 1. Community Need

### a. Target Area and Brownfields

#### i. Community and Target Area Descriptions

Along the eastern edge of Wisconsin, just north of Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, lie over 400 miles of picturesque coastline along Lake Michigan and Green Bay traversing north from these outlying Milwaukee communities to the upper peninsula of Michigan. Of the nine geographies encompassed statewide in Wisconsin by the various Regional Planning Commissions, the applicant, the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (BLRPC), has all eight of its counties within the Great Lakes Basin, with more miles of Great Lakes waterfront than the other regions combined. Our region is a significant contributor to the state economy, with industries such as forestry, paper, fishing, food processing, agriculture, tourism, shipbuilding, and various industries that leverage access to waterways and water in their practices. While only 21% of the U.S. population live in rural areas, approximately 26% of residents in the BLRPC area live in federally defined rural areas (below 2,500 pop.), with another 21% of residents living in communities below 10,000 residents. By community though, this percentage is much higher; 166 of our 185 cities, villages, and towns (and the Oneida Nation Indian tribe) are below 10,000 residents (i.e. 90% are “micro” communities). Our three largest cities in the BLRPC region are Green Bay (pop. 102,847), Sheboygan (pop. 49,288), and Manitowoc (pop. 33,736). Most rural communities in our region share social and economic challenges making it difficult to tackle brownfields, including limited well-paying jobs, growing poverty, aging population, and less active real estate markets. These rural communities lack city funded planning and brownfields staff found in larger metropolitan areas, thus brownfields found in these communities are significantly less likely to be cleaned up by the private sector and need public financial investment to facilitate these activities.

The BLRPC region has weathered a large number of company closures and downsizing in major industry clusters. The downturn in the national economy in the late 2000's coincided with a drastic reduction in paper demand from the newspaper and other print media industries that were so prevalent in our region. Contracting industries such as shipbuilding have contributed to regional conditions with less reinvestment into public infrastructure that is further diminished due to state budget cuts, underutilized ports, declining property values for most counties and communities in the BLRPC region, and limited job availability for new college graduates and laid-off workers. From 2010 to 2016, Wisconsin WORKnet data showed a total of 4,938 jobs were lost in the region (as noted in Section c.i. below). Closure of these industrial facilities leaves vacant run-down buildings throughout our region with many unresolved environmental issues as their legacy, exacerbating already challenging environmental conditions in our region: fluctuating Lake Michigan water levels compromise shipping in the region; ongoing concerns with air and groundwater safety and quality; unmaintained properties that contribute to runoff and the spread of invasive species, which adversely impacts water quality for tributaries to Lake Michigan; and increase in problem waterfront areas and beaches.

Due to these impacts and others, we have three classified Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) in our region, which has allowed us to leverage over \$1 million in grants from EPA and US Forest Service, but a large gap exists in funding to deal with these issues. Perhaps the largest environmental impact is from past industrial activities such as paper mills, and other industries concentrated along the Fox River and other tributaries, that have led to serious pollution that is impacting the quality of our Region and Lake Michigan. Pollutants like phosphorus, nitrogen, estrogenic compounds, discarded pharmaceuticals, and PCBs impact the Fox River and Green Bay. Additionally, uncapped brownfield sites in our area result in resuspension and redistribution of soil and debris contaminated with heavy metals, volatile organic carbons (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and other chemicals used in historical industrial practices into adjacent residential properties as well as tributaries and the Great Lakes. These have resulted in reduced water quality with diminished tourism and recreational uses in parts of our region, higher childhood blood lead

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levels, and higher prevalence of asthma. Due to our broad geographic region, we plan to focus our target area on the rural communities and tribal lands described in the first paragraph which have gaping industrial holes from recent plant closures, as well as tax-delinquent properties that have the potential to be put back into productive reuse once the due diligence can support property transactions.

### ii. Demographic Information and Indicators of Need

The BLRPC is the official area-wide planning agency for northeastern Wisconsin, with an eight county region: Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, and Sheboygan and covers 185 units of government (counties, cities, villages, towns, and the **Oneida [Tribal] Nation**). Our largest community (Green Bay) is not shown since they received a FY2017 Grant and funds wouldn't be directed there. Like most of rural Wisconsin (Wisconsin is the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest rural/small town minority population in the country), our region and communities are mostly white; however, our income levels, unemployment, LMI scores, and poverty are worse than average compared to state and national levels on a region or local basis (Table 1, 3).

**Table 1: Demographic Information**

	Bay-Lake RPC Region	Statewide	National
Population:	580,449 <sup>1</sup>	5,724,117 <sup>1</sup>	316,512,021 <sup>1</sup>
Unemployment:	Ave. 3.2% <sup>3</sup>	3.5% <sup>3</sup>	4.2% <sup>2</sup>
Poverty Rate:	10.9% <sup>1</sup>	13.3% <sup>1</sup>	15.5% <sup>1</sup>
% Minority	8.9% <sup>1</sup>	13.5% <sup>1</sup>	26.4% <sup>1</sup>
Median HH Income:	\$51,519 <sup>1</sup>	\$53,357 <sup>1</sup>	\$53,889 <sup>1</sup>
Mean HH Income	\$63,118 <sup>1</sup>	\$69,333 <sup>1</sup>	\$75,558 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Data are from the 2015 American Community Survey data profile, % minority defined as “non-white”  
<sup>2</sup>Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (The Employment Situation – Sept. 2017)  
<sup>3</sup>Data from Worknet – Sept. 2017 [http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet\\_info/maps/pdf/uRatesCo.pdf](http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet_info/maps/pdf/uRatesCo.pdf)

### iii. d Descriptions of the Brownfields

For planning purposes, our “target area” in the Bay-Lake region may be a little different than most applicants. Due to our large geographic region and the need that’s been identified by our members, we will primarily be focusing on tax delinquent commercial/industrial properties falling into foreclosure; and secondarily, high priority sites located in areas that are adversely impacting the public or environmental health, especially along high-impact tributaries or lake frontage along with closed plants. These tax delinquent commercial and industrial properties are perennially in limbo with no active owner maintaining them, allowing these sites to fall into further disrepair or allow environmental conditions to worsen and is a lost opportunity for our communities. Table 2 below identifies sites we will focus on.

**Table 2: Potential Brownfield Assessment Sites and Impacts**

Site/Location	Proximity to residents	Nature and Extent of Brownfield	Real or Perceived Negative Environmental Impacts	Planned Reuse
Former Land O Lakes Dairy, Denmark (Brown Co.) [PRIORITY SITE]	Site within 30 feet of residential homes, directly adjacent to the Devil River State Trail, adjacent to wetland, 600’ from Denmark Memorial Park	Cheese factory – Closed in 2014; 18 historic releases noted, ASTs/USTs, chemicals in processing	Building in disrepair in residential area, attractive nuisance with multiple police reports on vandals and trespassers; health risks of Inhalation, ingestion, direct contact.	New manufacturing, Light Industrial
Former Oconto Hospital [PRIORITY SITE]	Located directly adjacent to homes in neighborhood, located along Oconto River	Known USTs, parcel has history of contamination per newspaper article.	Has real health risks from petroleum, hazardous substances. County/City working on enduse once environmental issues identified and resolved.	Headquarters for non-profit (see Newcap – Letter of support)

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Algoma Hardwoods (Kewaunee Co)	90 feet to residents, has approximately 3,000 feet of frontage along the Ahnapee River and stream, a State bike and pedestrian trail abuts the south side, is adjacent to DeMeuse Park,	60+ years of manufacturing wood doors; Petroleum; Solvents, various hazardous chemicals, asbestos materials, lead based paints	Physical hazards (old structure, unsecured site, safety issues when vacant), building in disrepair, health impacts to community: inhalation, ingestion, direct contact, groundwater, vapor.	Mixed use commercial/residential
2600-2621 Blk Dorn Ct, Hobart (Oneida Tribal Nation)	Adjacent to residential property.	Agricultural waste material, Fireworks storage and retail, machine parts on property;	Direct contact, ingestion, and inhalation. See above.	Commercial produce, grocery sales
CLOSED 1-Source Recycling Facility Hobart (Brown Co) - TD	Located 150 feet from nearest residence, 700 feet to Duck Creek	Recycling of metal, plastics, scrap; Heavy metals, VOCs, PAHs	Buildings unsecure with broken garage doors, falling into disrepair, uncapped site with residual waste accessible, health risks:, impacting sensitive wetlands mapped on & adjacent to site.	New industry

These sites represent a very small percent of sites in our region. The threat to human exposure are located within close proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and tributaries to Lake Michigan and easily accessible by the public.

Bold and italicized values in Table 3 below indicate worse than state averages on census and health data in our specific site areas. LMI are those with 51% of population below 80% or less of the median income.

**Table 3: Demographic/Sensitive Pop. Information at Potential BF Assessment Sites**

Site (tract, City, Co.)	Population	Children <5	Elderly >65	Poverty rate	%LMI	Median HH income
Algoma	3,131	4.9	11.1	4.6	<b>41</b>	\$75,227
Pembine	861	4.3	<b>23.4</b>	11.6	<b>88</b>	<b>\$52,083</b>
Denmark	2,080	<b>8.3</b>	13.3	10.3	<b>47</b>	<b>\$43,179</b>
Marinette (Block 4/9614)	10,968	<b>6.2</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>\$32,679</b>
Oconto	4,153	<b>6.5</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$36,451</b>
Oneida Reservation	4,484	<b>6.5</b>	7.9	<b>18.5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$34,793</b>
WISCONSIN	5,724,117	6.0	14.8	13.3	40	\$53,357

Source: 2010, 2015 Census data; LMI info: [HUD CDBG LMI web app](#) FY2014, Oneida Nation data from City-Data.com (former Census Designated Place, non-incorporated), many native American statistics on tribal trust lands not available,

**b. Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Impacts**

**i. Welfare Impacts**

The BLRPC has identified health and welfare concerns related to brownfields as follows: the first is the concentration near sensitive populations like Native Americans, children, elderly, or low-income; and the second is the migration of contaminants from brownfields in the region to the many tributaries that drain to Lake Michigan. These sites pose numerous health concerns for our residents, suspected to be contaminated with substances classified as carcinogens, and contributors to neurological, development, reproductive, or respiratory problems. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)'s Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) database lists 6,441 total sites in our region, of which 319 are still open and unresolved, and over 75% are located within the thousands of miles of direct drainage areas to AOC tributaries or other waterways to Green Bay or Lake Michigan. These sites are found in gateways, along riverfronts, or town centers and include forgotten auto repair shops, gas stations, paint

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shops, manufacturers, junk yards, ship fabrication facilities, on the Tribal reservation, and at other industry sites that served our Region from the 1880's to the present. Sites like those noted in Table 2 will be inventoried and scored based on tax delinquent status, size, location, potential for contamination (including to waterways), proximity to sensitive populations, and redevelopment opportunity. Oneida Nation is also being negatively impacted with a variety of gas stations, unidentified properties with past small-industry operations and occupancy, and a firework site that may be unjustly impacting members. The tribal nation goals are to acquire these types of sites and clean them up for the betterment of the health and safety of their members.

### ii. Cumulative Environmental Issues

Cumulative environmental issues include a recently closed (2013) nuclear power plant in Kewaunee County with years of upcoming decommissioning contaminated and impacted power plant materials that must be transported through our communities to regulated NRC disposal sites; a shallow groundwater system significantly impacted by nitrates from [non-point source runoff from manure and agriculture contaminants](#); and significant remnants of the carcinogenic PCB's in the region from past paper manufacturing operations that remain a major health impact along our waterways and tributaries.

One common thread through all eight member counties is the cumulative impacts brownfields add to our area that is already classified with three Great Lakes AOCs including the Sheboygan River, Menominee River, and the Lower Green Bay & Fox River (which impact watersheds within Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Brown, Marinette, and Florence counties). Per the EPA's website, pollution from these AOCs include: a manufactured gas plant in Marinette, chemical and ship building companies, paper mills, discharge from two municipal wastewater treatment plants, a foundry, and runoff from salt, coal and other storage piles. [Runoff has been a key contributor of contamination in our region and one that brownfields continue to contribute to.](#) Logging activities, industry, rural and urban non-point sources, along with unregulated dumping has impacted the AOC with PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals, fecal coliform bacteria, and excessive amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen. These have resulted in the entire basin impacted by water quality issues, public use restrictions, degraded fish/wildlife/plant populations, frequent algal blooms, and adverse toxicological impacts that bio-accumulate in fish and subsequently impact health of our human population with blood-metals and cancer.

The pollution website [Scorecard.org](#) lists that environmental justice along these waterfront communities disproportionately impacts disadvantaged populations. Brown County has over a 2:1 ratio of impacts from release of toxic chemicals, superfund sites (per sq. mile), and air pollutants burdened by people of color compared to white residents. Similar ratios are noted by these residents below the poverty line as well, where we see a higher populace near these former industrial corridors with higher concentrations of brownfield sites.

### iii. Cumulative Public Health Impacts

The brownfields identified in Table 2, and others located across the BLRPC region, pose numerous health concerns to residents, many related to air related toxins so prevalent on unpaved contaminated brownfield sites like the former 1-Source Recycling noted above. Since these unpaved and contaminated sites are usually in more populated areas, they are in close proximity to residences, schools, libraries, and parks that negatively impact sensitive populations like children, low income residents, or the elderly by exposing them to contaminants by direct contact, ingestion, airborne particulate inhalation, and vapor intrusion pathways. Childhood lead levels, cancer, and asthma are especially prevalent. County-level health data provided from the Data Portal on [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) and other sources (as noted) showed our counties higher than state averages:

**Table 4: Adverse Health Impacts in BLRPC Counties**

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Health Impact Category	Note on BLRPC Counties
Air Quality – ozone (days above standard, 2011)	5 of the worst 13 counties in WI (incl. the worst -Sheboygan Co.)
Air Quality, PM2.5 (% days above standard)	Brown Co. worst in state (0.5, vs. Milwaukee 0.3, and State avg of 0.03)
Release of lead to air ( <a href="#">Scorecard.org</a> )	Two of top three counties in WI are in our BLRPC Region
Asthma ER Visits (2014)	Three counties above state average (Marinette=50, Manitowoc=39, Brown-38, WI state average = 37)
Childhood Blood Lead Percent (2014)	<u>For 5-10 µg/dL and children less than 6 years:</u> Sheboygan Co is 8 <sup>th</sup> highest in state (5.9%), Florence is most (12.5%), <u>For &gt;10 µg/dL, child 0-1 years:</u> Manitowoc Co. second highest in state, twice state average and 3.5 times higher than Milwaukee Co <u>For &gt; 10 µg/dL, child 2-3 years:</u> Kewaunee Co is second highest in state, nearly three times state average, and 50% higher than Milwaukee Co.
Bladder Cancer (2009-2013, per 100,000)	Florence (26.92), Marinette (29.4), Oconto (23.94), Kewaunee (31.63), and Sheboygan (24.69) all above state average.
Lung Cancer (2009-2013, per 100,000)	3 of 8 member counties are above state average, especially concerning are how elevated Oconto (76) and Marinette (72) are 25% and 18% higher than the state average. of 61.14
Heart attack hospitalizations (age 35, per 10,000)	Marinette Co 2nd highest rate in WI (at 69.8, twice the state average of 31.1), and 50% of BLRPC member counties are above the state average.

It is no coincidence that many of these health issues correlate with low income (LI) and low access (LA) to quality food such as fresh fruits and vegetables (labeled “Food Desert” by USDA). Large areas of Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties as well as Oneida Tribal Nation are LI and LA, and subsequently are both adversely impacted by proper diet and health as well as from industrial practices and brownfield sites. Furthermore, the few cities of any significant population with a number of noted sites in our initial inventory (Marinette, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay in Door County, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan) have large areas of LI and LA. The fact that there are greater percentages of sensitive populations residing in these areas indicates that there is a likely correlation between income, age, and health impacts from contaminated properties.

**c. Financial Need**

**i. Economic Conditions**

Our region has a strong history of both heavy and light manufacturing, and job loss across our 8-county region is a large factor in our residents’ lack of economic viability. Our job loss has been significant since 2010. Kewaunee Co. lost high-paying jobs from nuclear plant closure in 2013, recent closure of Algoma Hardwoods in 2016, and Manitowoc crane company in 2016 resulting in the loss of nearly 1,300 from these three companies alone. This is all in addition to over 3,400 jobs lost from 39 businesses from 2010-2015 according to the [Wisconsin WorkNet](#) website that tracks plant closing mass layoffs, and thus totals 4,938 total jobs lost from 2010-2016 in all member counties and all service sectors (retail, auto, ship building, paper, power, and general industry).

This eroding tax base coupled with declining property values have left many in our rural and blue-collar communities struggling. The BLRPC [2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) noted the region’s equalized property values decreased by \$659 million, from 2008 to 2012 which results in a decline in tax revenue for communities to support social programs. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities issued the 2016 State of Cities and Villages report. It noted state aids fell 12.8% since 2011, and federal aid another 1%, which meant even increasing tax levies locally (which are limited due to state-imposed levy limits tied to economic development-thus if no new development, it cannot levy additional property taxes) still only allowed for 95% of municipal services could be funded. The loss of revenue from local and state budgets, losses of employment base due to plant closures, have left our region crippled due to lack of funding that can’t be

made up locally. BLRPC has no taxing authority and operates on a budget of \$800,000/year with no funding for brownfield assessments. Without this assessment grant funding, we will not be able to begin revitalizing our region and addressing these blighted and health hazards posed by brownfield sites.

ii. Economic Effects of Brownfields

The widespread economic decline along with the company closures and job loss noted above have further contributed to blight as buildings fall into disrepair. These drop property values (\$659 million), subsequent tax loss and inability to raise income tax levies due to state restrictions, are a real economic effect. Job losses from our paper and manufacturing industries shutting down, create lower income as noted in Table 3, drop regional property values (as noted in 1.c.i above) as well as corporate income taxes and result in environmental conditions worsening as runoff carries contaminants from sites like those in Table 2 to our rivers and Lake Michigan. This then further erodes the tax base for local government to address infrastructure and essential service needs, much less brownfields. Correlation also remains for diminished home values with increased crime as vacant buildings stay empty.

According to County Treasurers in our region, we have at least 18 tax-delinquent commercial or industrial properties that meet the definition of a brownfield that are sitting idle and underutilized and on the verge of, or going through, tax foreclosure with some additional absentee owners doing the bare minimum to stave off foreclosure. These few sites result in an annual tax revenue lost opportunity of approximately \$218,000/yr. Most of these sites (like Land O'Lakes) are located within or near residential neighborhoods, creating blighted pockets, promoting crime and deterring economic development or causing residents to leave these areas. Brown County, our most urban and populated county with more industrial operations and brownfields, has had an [85% increase in methamphetamine cases in the last 3 years](#) among the highest in the state. These properties have a clear adverse impact to communities exploring revitalization along the water and despite these amenities, redevelopment has been stymied with overwhelming costs to move things forward. For example, areawide development in the waterfront community of Kewaunee is expected to cost over \$14 million. To date, the City of Kewaunee is still working on permitting, engineering, and fundraising to identify and remove brownfields and their imminent health concerns to improve housing, downtown revitalization, and recreation, and help offset some of the 4,900 jobs lost from recently closed businesses in our region.

**2. Project Description and Feasibility of Success**

**a. Project Description, Redevelopment Strategy, and Timing and Implementation**

i. Project Description and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

BLRPC will lead this project and direct project funds to our eight member counties and Oneida Tribe, and will be guided by a newly formed Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC). Committed BAC members to date include Marinette Co. Association for Business and Industry, UW-Oshkosh, Brown Co. Planning Commission, Wis. Dept. of Health Services, Oneida Nation, WI Land Information Program/Coastal Management Program, and Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Marinette, and Door County Economic Development Committees. This plan details strategies to employ during redevelopment, and lists potential Economic Development Administration fundable projects. The BAC stakeholder group will align with goals from the community comprehensive plans (such as our government partner [Marinette](#), which integrates environmental corridors and shorelines with brownfields) and the [2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS) developed by BLRPC (being updated for a 2018 publication). As part of revitalization and economic development activities, we've facilitated meetings with EDA, and have conducted quarterly outreach meetings open to the public of our 185 units of government and their residents. Comingling brownfields with the CEDS has primed the pump for assessment and revitalization efforts. To date, we've developed a preliminary inventory list of 18 sites we intend to score and evaluate. This includes the Land O'Lakes, (Table 2) which will be a focus site of redevelopment with this program, and the contaminated Oconto Memorial Hospital, long sitting vacant and tax delinquent. These project sites, and others in both petroleum and

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hazardous sites, are compliant with the local community's comprehensive plan to address blight and revitalize downtowns. The redevelopment strategy will begin with assessment, and depending on what issues remain, will work towards leveraging funds through programs noted below to cleanup any sites in conjunction with redevelopment. The Land O' Lakes site is located in downtown Denmark and the planning component of the assessment grant would be used to plan rehab for future commercial or industrial use to bring jobs back to this community (100 lost upon plant closure). The former Oconto Memorial Hospital saw local press in June 2017 where the county and city partnered on acquiring the hospital through back taxes to focus on a new headquarters for a social service company. These are just two examples of how grant funds will assess and promote site reuse possibilities and further develop the inventory of brownfield sites on tax delinquent parcels or other sites identified and supported by our member communities or counties (focusing on areas with redevelopment potential, along waterfront or tributary access, or those with areas near sensitive populations in accordance with local plans). The BLRPC will consolidate this information in electronic format and create summary sheets to highlight the most pertinent information about each site that can be distributed to interested buyers or developers. Other sites selected from the inventory will be based on other factors identified in 2.a.iii.(b)

This project will address environmental justice issues by assessing, cleaning up and bringing back to beneficial use brownfields on Oneida Nation lands for planned rural produce sale and other uses in small, rural, low income communities in the region. The selected priority sites and other sites to be selected under this grant have existing infrastructure in place to support sustainable development patterns. The BAC will assist communities throughout the project period to select and prioritize sites for assessment and develop final reuse plans where affordable housing is feasible. For example, the former Oconto Hospital contaminated site is located in a residential neighborhood and is feasible to invest in the downtown walkable area with a city-identified reuse as a non-profit headquarters focusing on low-income families. Equitability is an important concern of our communities as demonstrated by the diversity of housing options contemplated in our communities' comprehensive plans – ranging from preserving and reusing historic building stock to building apartments and townhomes along waterfront that will provide much-needed alternatives to large-lot single-family development. Even more critical is the proximate access to new forms of employment our revitalization efforts will offer, such as that conceived at the former Denmark dairy plant. The assessment and eventual cleanup of brownfields will help establish a clean slate to grow better neighborhoods in our communities.

ii. Redevelopment Strategy - Brownfield grants can be a valuable tool for leveraging dynamic community projects and our organization appreciates the diversity of deliverables that can emerge from the process. Broadening our field of vision beyond just the environmental studies, a portion of the grant's community engagement funds can be used to develop motivating illustrations and strategies for redevelopment on contaminated sites. We plan for our selected team to have professionals who have extensive experience helping rural towns generate results. We understand that small communities and our tribal partner don't have extensive staff to help implement the recommendations that are included in redevelopment strategies. That's why our approach is tailored to assist local resources, creating recommended action steps that use plain language to describe tactics to use in implementing strategic vision. We will first use the assessment aspects of the grant to understand the risks posed by property transactions, and then use that information to leverage additional resources to address any environmental conditions. Assessment data will be used to determine extent of contamination, exposure pathways, and develop remediation strategies. Step two is to generate excitement for the revitalization of sites like Algoma Hardwoods (that has been shuttered but have natural amenities and reusable infrastructure along a tributary to Lake Michigan) or the former Land O'Lakes site through the use of brownfield planning imagery and visuals with an inspiring outreach strategy. This will push forward to the subsequent stages of redevelopment planning and marketing of BFs, which is our ultimate end

goal. Those tax delinquent parcels that have been sitting idle for years or perhaps decades, represent a lost opportunity, and we will work with our partners to identify the issues that hinder redevelopment and how we can overcome those to get to productive reuse.

iii. Timing and Implementation

(a) **Contractor Procurement** - The BLRPC has the knowledge and pieces in place to begin an Assessment grant project immediately upon the award and be able to complete the project within the three-year term. BLRPC will solicit a qualified consultant team through a formal Request for Qualifications as part of the competitive contractor procurement process requirements under 40 CFR 31.36. Firms will be evaluated and selected by our agency based on qualifications. If awarded, BLRPC will implement contracting with this qualified consultant to work with BLRPC throughout the project period. Along with the contractor, BLRPC will prepare the overall 36-month project budget and schedule (to be included in Work Plan and Cooperative Agreement [CA]). BLRPC will provide staff for day-to-day grant operations including: updating the brownfield inventory; distributing project information to the community; site selection; quarterly reporting; ACRES progress tracking and oversight of our contractor. The QAPP will be developed within the first 60 days of grant so that assessment activities are not delayed. Based on our pre-planning efforts, established operational and organizational processes, we expect timely and full use of the project funds over the three-year grant period. Our staff has already assembled a list of more than 20 sites within our project area to jump start the assessment process. Upon approval of the Site Eligibility Determination (SED), we will coordinate Phase I ESA (performed in accordance with ASTM E-1527-13) activities. If Phase I's determine that recognized environmental conditions (RECs) provide potential for contamination, Phase II work may be implemented. If contamination is noted during that phase of work, it would be reported to WDNR for inclusion onto the GIS database, and results will be disseminated at public meetings, and we will work with our public health organization partner, as appropriate. Remedial Action Plans will immediately be developed for priority sites.

(b) **Site Selection Process:** BLRPC will expand our initial inventory efforts to complete a comprehensive brownfield inventory within the target areas that will include *all* of our counties. This will be done with our project partners' community involvement and the outreach leverage from our BAC. Inventory will focus on tax delinquent sites, with additional emphasis on private sites identified by municipalities in sensitive areas, rural areas, or along waterfront. We'll secure permission to add private sites to the inventory due to potential issues in perception from property owners. We'll utilize GIS databases from county treasurers in our region, filtering by property type, tax delinquency and other factors to assist with developing this unique approach to attempting to resuscitate these sites to productive job and tax revenue generating ventures.

Sites considered for investigation, including those that are not tax delinquent, will be prioritized by a cumulative scoring by the following factors: (1) short- and long-term economic development potential opportunities; (2) known/suspected threats to public health; (3) known/suspected environmental impacts; (4) degree of blight and underutilization; (5) tax delinquency status; (6) community concerns; and (7) site eligibility criteria. As previously mentioned, we will also consider landowner willingness and access issues when prioritizing privately owned sites. The true success of our comprehensive brownfields initiative will not only be measured by the number of brownfield sites prioritized or assessed but also by how well we can diminish or eliminate the environmental and social injustices caused by brownfield sites as they are remediated and redeveloped in our communities.

(c) **Obtaining and securing site access.** *Tax delinquent parcels can be accessed for environmental investigations through Wisconsin State Statute 75.377 for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of environmental pollution, even without landowner's permission.* For privately or publicly held sites, BLRPC and our partners have extensive experience identifying and resolving land ownership, liability, zoning, permitting, and entitlement issues. BLRPC will work cooperatively with EPA to ensure the eligibility of all selected assessment sites and will pursue site access authorization from each of the respective owners as

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necessary. In the event eligibility or authorization is not obtained, we will move down the list of priorities to the next highest ranking site where these can be obtained.

### **b. Task Descriptions and Budget Table**

#### i. Task Descriptions

**Task 1: Programmatic Costs:** BLRPC is providing all personnel to track and appropriately bill programmatic costs related to quarterly reporting, and updating and maintaining the ACRES database. If necessary, our contractor will provide programmatic assistance or training specific to this grant. Costs assume \$63/hour for 541 hours (~15 hrs/mo) over the course of the three year grant cycle for personnel. Once a site is deemed eligible, it will be entered into ACRES and the profile updated following completion of Phase I or II ESAs, remediation, and/or redevelopment. The grant includes attending one USEPA Brownfields Conference for one person at an estimated cost of \$1,700 for travel (\$800), lodging (\$600), and meals/incidentals (\$300) split evenly between Petroleum and Hazardous grants.

**Task 2: Community Outreach:** Cost includes \$1,069 for printing and mailing project information and documents to citizens and community stakeholders, and personnel costs of \$35,658 for conducting community outreach and stakeholder meetings, updating all BLRPC BAC member websites as new information is generated, drafting press releases, and other activities to complete the community outreach. We anticipate 4 community kickoff meetings, 5 semi-annual BAC meetings, and 5 community outreach meetings with select events (2 staff x ~\$63/hr x 280 hrs/ea), and 935 miles @ \$0.535/mi (~104 mi/mtg).

**Task 3: Site Inventory and Selection:** BLRPC has an initial inventory of ~18 sites that are tax delinquent commercial or industrial sites, as well as hundreds more (based on the BRRTs number of 318 open sites within the region) that aren't tax delinquent but don't meet the municipalities comprehensive plans or the residents would like to see a better reuse of the site. Our county treasurers will assist in identifying and providing further inventory on tax delinquent eligible sites, and our municipalities and counties will assist in other viable inventory selection, keeping contractual or personnel costs lower. Output=40 brownfield sites identified and scored on our site inventory list and assumes 88 hours of staff time (@\$57/hr), including BAC meeting time, and SEDs completed.

**Task 4: Site Assessment:** Sites will be evaluated through performance of Phase I and/or II ESAs (conducted in accordance with All Appropriate Inquiry ASTM E1527-13 and other appropriate state WDNR, Oneida Nation's Tribal Environmental Response Program (TERP), and federal standards). BLRPC estimates Phase I ESAs will cost between \$2,500-7,000 and Phase II ESAs at \$25,000-40,000 depending on the complexities and size of each site. The hazardous grant budget (\$200,000) includes contractual costs based on ten Phase I ESAs at a cost of \$4,000 each (\$40,000) and three Phase II ESAs at an approximate cost of \$32,000 each (\$96,000). The petroleum grant budget (\$100,000) includes contractual costs of five Phase I ESAs at a cost of \$4,000 each (\$20,000) and two Phase II ESAs at a cost of \$19,500 each (\$39,000). This task also includes QAPP, SAP, and HSP preparation related to subsurface assessment work, and are anticipated to cost approximately \$12,000 split as \$8,000 from hazardous and \$4,000 from petroleum.

**Task 5: Cleanup Planning** will conduct cleanup/redevelopment planning as required by the WDNR for brownfields where redevelopment is imminent and such activities will facilitate the redevelopment. This may include assessment and preparation of Remedial Action Options Reports or Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (RAOR/ABCAs), and evaluation of institutional and engineering controls. Contractual costs for this task are estimated at \$10,000 (hazardous substances) and \$5,000 (petroleum), based on completing one hazardous substances and one petroleum RAOR/ABCAs. Output=2-3 cleanup plans completed.

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ii. Budget Table

Budget Categories	Task 1 Programmatic	Task 2 Comm. Outreach	Task 3 Site Inventory	Task 4 Site Assessment	Task 5 ABCA	Total
<b>HAZARDOUS Substances Assessment Project Tasks (programmatic costs only)</b>						
Personnel	\$20,046	\$20,942	\$3,343			\$44,331
Travel	\$850	\$250				\$1,100
Supplies		\$569				\$569
Contractual				\$144,000	\$10,000	\$154,000
<b>Haz. Budget</b>	<b>\$20,896</b>	<b>\$21,761</b>	<b>\$3,343</b>	<b>\$144,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>PETROLEUM Substances Assessment Project Tasks (programmatic costs only)</b>						
Personnel	\$14,012	\$14,716	\$1,672			\$30,400
Travel	\$850	\$250				\$1,100
Supplies		\$500				\$500
Contractual				\$63,000	\$5,000	\$68,000
<b>Pet. Budget</b>	<b>\$14,862</b>	<b>\$15,466</b>	<b>\$1,672</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$35,758</b>	<b>\$37,227</b>	<b>\$5,015</b>	<b>\$207,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

c. Ability to Leverage

BLRPC has a long history of both securing funding that leverages additional efforts, projects and grants, and working with our municipal/county partners to find other funding strategies and use partner's venues for meetings free of charge. We anticipate the following funding sources to further move the needle:

Source	Purpose/Role	Amount (\$)	Status
Brown County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	Allows eligible businesses to perform demolition, renovation or rehabilitation of properties, all applicable to BF sites	\$100,000	Secured resource. See RLF information in attachments.
Manitowoc County RLF	Same as above	\$100,000	Secured resource. Same as above.
Oconto County RLF	Same as above	\$200,000	Secured Resource. Same as above.
WEDC Brownfield funds	Funds to further assess and clean up contaminated sites	Up to \$500,000	Potential, but easily secured once sites and reuse identified, used previously for \$5m over multiple region sites
BAC Members – In-Kind Volunteer	Municipal staff and volunteer hours for community meetings and providing meeting space.	Estimated as \$1,000 hours value leveraged	Secured – will track hours and rate if awarded
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grants	Addresses Great Lake issues such as contaminant-sediment transport from brownfield sites.	Varies- up to \$100,000	Potential, but have secured over \$2M in funding from this source in the past
Property Tax Forgiveness	Forgives interest, penalties, or principal on tax delinquent sites by County Treasurers to put sites back into reuse	Varies	Unsecured, but easily secured once sites and community use identified; precedents of forgiveness established.
CDBG – Oconto	Identified for former Oconto Hospital Site to assist with infrastructure upgrades,	\$100,000	Pending, In process of securing

3. Community Engagement and Partnerships

a. Engaging the Community

i. Community Involvement Plan

Our target community or audience includes: 1) rural and urban communities 2) economic development authorities, 3) impacted residents, 4) community workforce development boards, 5) business and labor

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associations, 6) Water resource boards, 7) Wisconsin groundwater association, and 8) other partners. As an RPC, standard communication practices with partners are already in place, including monthly activity reports, regular Commission meetings with our member counties, monthly newsletters, and social media. Once awarded funding, our BAC (made up of select governmental leaders, community based organizations, private interests, and other leaders in our RPC area) will continue meeting and implementing our outreach strategy for the region. The community involvement plan will include site tours of successful brownfield projects in our region, community meetings, and surveys. At a minimum, we plan to host three public meetings: 1) to announce the grant award and explain the process of being involved 2) at the end of the first year to gather additional public input regarding site inventory and prioritization and 3) at the end of the assessment phase to discuss results and gather input for reuse planning and specific revitalization options for selected sites. If any specific health implications for the public is identified, we will work with those affected communities to conduct educational outreach sessions for the affected populations. We plan to use a variety of communication methods due to our broad geographic area: social media poses (Facebook), e-mail, BLRPC website, piggy-backing flyers and other information on our communication infrastructure noted above, and press releases to local media and newspapers. Meeting dates, times, and venues will be chosen to accommodate residents and other stakeholders and will be ADA accessible. Written correspondence (fact sheets, meeting announcements) and oral meeting content will be translated as necessary. Finally, public outputs would be posted on our website and copies made available at local libraries where activity is occurring for residents without internet to review. Meetings may be piggybacked on local events throughout our region to get better participation due to often low attendance using the standard public meeting strategy.

### ii. Communicating Progress

Our multimedia approach is to advertise meetings, encourage community participation, and provide responses to community concerns. This will include announcements in local or regional newspapers, e-mail newsletter (nearly 1,200 subscribers), our BLRPC website, and will work with our partners and community-based organizations newsletters and websites. In addition, we currently have a Facebook page (120 followers) and Twitter (324 followers) that we'll disseminate information through. At sites with assessments occurring, we plan to have staff attend local council meetings to provide updates and gather further input, with minutes developed for posting on those city websites in addition to our own. We also have regular bi-monthly planning meetings open to the public where we will provide project updates and solicit input as a value-added approach already in place.

Following completing specific assessments, if health risks are identified, written notices will be sent to impacted citizen or neighborhood groups, such as Fritsch Park Neighborhood Association near the 1-Source Recycling tax-delinquent site in Table 2. This is a two-way communication process. While most in our region speaks English, we have a bilingual staff member at BLRPC that can translate materials to Spanish.

### **b. Partnerships with Government Agencies**

#### i. Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority

Close and positive cooperation already exists between BLRPC and our state environmental agency, WDNR, as well as the Native American tribe in our region - Oneida Nation. We regularly interact with WDNR in implementation of the EPA grants noted below 5.d.i. Our partnership with WDNR is well established, and the Oneida Nation has their own Tribal Environmental Response Law that will be an important part of the ongoing process as we work toward meeting Remediation and Redevelopment technical standards to achieve site assessment, and eventually closure. The WDNR will be present at our public meetings when possible, comment on the QAPP, the ABCA/RAP, have approval involvement in any remediation strategies, and will be provided remediation summary reports that will need to be approved through the state remediation and closure process if implemented. They've both included letters of support.

#### ii. Other Governmental Partnerships

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Our county partners (such as Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, and Sheboygan), municipalities, and Department of Public Health, are all part of our partnership strategy. Planning and economic development and treasury departments at the counties have also been involved in the project dialogue to move along those tax-delinquent parcels that have sat idle for years. Because BLRPC can't implement land use, ordinance, or zoning changes that may benefit outcomes from the grant, the planning partners have committed to partnering with us in identifying ordinance changes, and assisting with implementation or approving zoning or redevelopment plans for the sake of economic development projects on brownfield sites. The Department of Public Health will also assist in our pursuits of improving community health issues by addressing contamination at brownfield sites (letter of support included). Site specific issues will have input by BAC partners such as Brown County Planning, Door County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Manitowoc County EDC, Sheboygan County EDC, and Marinette County EDC, which will help guide our approach to specific sites.

### **c. Partnerships with Community Organizations**

#### **i. Community Organization Description & Role**

Marinette County Association for Business & Industry, Inc. - focused on assisting business and industry with expanding and finding new opportunities. They will provide outreach support members at meetings and will connect prospective new or expanding businesses with available brownfield sites.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program - dedicated to preserving and improving our Great Lakes coasts, will partner with us on outreach, and identifying and promoting brownfield sites that are adversely impacting Wisconsin's Great Lake coast in our Region, as well as supporting suitable grant opportunities on sites.

UW-Oshkosh - Our University partners will provide meeting space, as well as incorporate the grant into academic programming to promote environmental science, sustainability, planning, and/or water resources within this private/public partnership opportunity.

NEWCAP, a nonprofit community action agency that serves low-income families in 10 Northeast Wisconsin counties and partners with Job Centers and Health Clinics. They will promote meetings and outreach to their low-income community and provide meeting space at one of their eight clinics or offices.

#### **ii. Letters of Commitment – See attached letters of commitment**

### **d. Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs**

BLRPC has a long-term workforce partnership in place to collaborate with job training, job creation, and public-private partnerships. Bay-Area Workforce Development Board (see letter of support) serves Northeast Wisconsin, which encompasses the BLRPC area, promotes job training and helps to connect trained and skilled job seekers with local employers. As the redevelopment of brownfield sites continues in the BLRPC region, this group will work with site owners and developers to identify employment and attract qualified employees, many of which are gaining new skills through this organization and looking for employment due to the recent plant closures throughout our region.

## **4. Project Benefits**

### **a. Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Benefits**

An grant will help our communities promote equitable, livable, and healthy communities within the Great Lakes Basin through redevelopment and cleanup initiatives. The BLRPC member counties and municipalities all recognize that a healthy environment underpins economic, health, and social well-being of our communities, which in some of our anticipated assessment sites is seriously disadvantaged with low income and rural communities with limited resources. BLRPC's proactive approach to identify tax-delinquent properties as a key strategic point, and work to address environmental issues to put those types of properties back to productive use and back on the tax rolls, are consistent with the Bay-Lake [2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) that notes the declining property values and income taxes post-recession. This helps to align the property uses better with surrounding residential properties, *and* remove the public threat of hazardous materials.

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- Remove and reduce sources of airborne, direct contact, and groundwater contamination within the Great Lakes Basin. We know capping or removal of heavy-metals contamination (i.e. lead) will help to reduce some of the contamination risks associated with elevated mean blood lead levels that are higher in our communities (see Section 1.b.iii.), as well as asthma and exposure to known carcinogens through breathing or ingestion exposure causes higher bladder and lung cancer in our counties, as well as elevated childhood blood lead levels.
- Improved safety of youth and local residents. By remediating contaminated sites, demolishing blighted and structurally unsound buildings, and providing a new community use on these sites, future projects will remove attractive nuisances (that promote drugs and crime) and major safety concerns to local residents.
- Removal of sediment contamination source from rain or flood events. Green Bay has an internationally significant freshwater estuary that is one of the largest in the world. Estuaries act like huge sponges, buffering and protecting upland areas from crashing waves and storms and preventing soil erosion. People enjoy living near estuaries and the surrounding coastline where they can sail, fish, hike and enjoy bird watching. Because of their many benefits, estuaries are often the center of our coastal communities. Removing contaminated sediments from uncapped brownfield sites will improve the aquatic habitat and with that comes improved human health (such as reduced bioaccumulation of contaminants in fish thereby reducing human exposure risks from consumption) and recreation (and thus economic) opportunities.
- Greater Access to Daily Needs and Jobs. Sustainable and equitable reuse of sites will lead to greater access to facilities and services to meet the daily needs of residents, such as promotion of sites in our many micro-communities as redevelopment options with healthy food, health care, neighborhood-serving businesses, employment (replacing recent job losses), and parks and recreation - all of which contribute to improved livability, security, stability, and quality of life, which supports healthier residents.
- Increased Community Engagement. Public involvement of our target communities through site cleanup and redevelopment will help to ensure both short- and long-term engagement of residents most affected by brownfields. Additionally, this project will serve as an educational opportunity for faculty to engage students at the nearby UW-Oshkosh, which are identified in our letters of support.

BLRPC also has strong relationship with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) (see letter in attachments). DHS staff provides 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. As the project commences, it is our goal to continue to advance the green infrastructure planning identified in our [Environmental Corridors of the Bay-Lake Region](#), and within communities comprehensive plans to capture future public health and economic opportunities that are spearheaded by this project, and create a broader cumulative advancement of these priorities in the communities along with a well-engaged public.

### **b. Economic and Community Benefits**

As noted in 1a.i., some of our region’s challenges are the high percentage of rural populations, job loss, water impacts to the Great Lakes and groundwater from agricultural runoff, urban stormwater, and brownfields; and tax delinquent properties that lay idle for years on end representing contamination, safety risks, and lost opportunity. Our long-term vision is that assessing these properties will be the first step that ultimately leads to site redevelopment at selected sites in our communities aligning with the plans noted in the paragraph above. This will have the following potential positive economic and community impacts: 1) Removal and/or redevelopment of the abandoned commercial and industrial sites that will reduce the negative impact to home values, boost tax revenues, preserve/enhance greenspace, and reduce the financial strain on municipal protective forces (fire and police) caused by the need for increased monitoring at these facilities. 2) Move tax delinquent properties back to the tax rolls generating increased income for the

community and county where they reside. 3) Redevelopment will provide the opportunity for new businesses that will bring higher-paying jobs and alleviating some of the financial stress and burden from the large number of recent plant closings. Additionally, employers will be able to recruit from nearby educational institutions (UW-Oshkosh will incorporate this partnership as an academic training exercise), or our workforce team that will allow graduates or trained workers to live and work in the BLRPC area. 4) With new job opportunities, BLRPC residents will once again be able to support their families, and invest in their communities while increasing the tax base. The outcomes coincide with Livability Principles of valuing/supporting community neighborhoods and increasing economic competitiveness.

A [November 2015 study](#) by the Fiscal and Economic Research Center noted the following impacts from brownfields funds spent in-state: a \$27 leveraged to \$1 ratio in grant funds awarded; business investment of 14-fold investment return on brownfield sites; local WI governments generated \$88.5 million in new tax revenue on redeveloped brownfield sites; had 3.5 times higher property value compared to pre-development condition; 66% of sites redeveloped were in low-income areas; and 12,400 jobs have been created in our state. We expect to see this impact from future projects with the EPA Grant as leverage.

Finally, improved environmental corridors will result in less contaminated sediment transfer to sensitive tributaries that drain to Lake Michigan. We are recognized nationally as a [Regional Center of Excellence](#) by the National Association of Regional Councils due to our environmental corridor work. Continuing this initiative with brownfields would provide opportunities for improved parks and trails, improved walkability, and additional floodway buffers – preventing current and historical industrial operations from infringing on sensitive ecosystems. Assessment of brownfields along waterways will facilitate acquisition of the opportunity-rich land through the Tax-Deed process, developer recruitment, or land banking options available to our communities.

## **5. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance**

### **a. Audit Findings**

The BLRPC was created as a regional planning commission under provision 66.945(a) of Wisconsin State Statutes in 1972 (included in Threshold attachment). We are routinely annually audited (most recently on Dec. 31, 2016), by an independent auditing firm, and all findings have shown we remain in compliance with grant and funding requirements from local, state, and federal programs with no adverse audit findings.

### **b. Programmatic Capability**

Success on past projects has been realized through the BLRPC's solid public, private, and non-governmental organization partnerships throughout its region and beyond. The BLRPC is a multi-jurisdictional, intergovernmental agency that manages projects through a consensus of relevant stakeholders to ensure successful projects that meet the needs of the resources and the communities in the region. We are able to effectively complete all technical, administrative, and financial requirements and have the mechanisms to acquire outside contractors in select roles. [Angela Kowalzek-Adrians](#): A Natural Resource Planner and Project Manager at BLRPC will serve as grant and Administrative Project Manager for an awarded Grant. She has over 16 years of professional planning, project management, and grant administration experience, and was the project manager for the BLRPC's 2016 and 2013 US Forest Service projects, 2015 EPA GLRI project, 2012 EPA Urban Waters Project, 2010 GLRI project, and numerous NOAA WCMP projects noted in 5.d.ii. below. She'll be assisted by [Joshua Schedler](#), GIS Coordinator, who will help coordinate and implement the Assessment grant components. Mr. Schedler has 17 years of experience at the BLRPC and has extensive background working in public outreach and environmental corridors. In the unlikely event Ms. Kowalzek-Adrians couldn't carry out her duties, BLRPC Executive Director [Cindy Wojtczak](#) (over 30 years of in economic and regional planning, and grant administration of dozens of grants and funding awards) would step in.

**c. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes**

We will document, track, and evaluate the following outcomes on an on-going basis: (1) running tally of sites assessed, including a tally of tax delinquent sites; (2) number of brownfield sites that change ownership; (3) acres of land redeveloped and square footage of buildings positioned for adaptive reuse; (4) acres of parks or green space created; (5) length of walking or bike trails created; (6) private investment dollars leveraged; (7) other funding leverage, including other local, state and federal grant funds; (8) number of FTE/LTE jobs created or retained; (9) increased property and sales tax revenue generated; (10) number of buildings seeking LEED certification; and (11) reduction in stormwater impacts. For each of these categories, the information will be tracked for both tax delinquent properties and privately or municipally held properties to evaluate success with project goals. Progress will be reported to EPA via quarterly progress reports and ACRES database updates to maintain the schedule created in the work plan and cooperative agreement. Anticipated project outputs will include a Work Plan, accepted Site Eligibility Determinations, an EPA accepted QAPP, and an accepted ABCA with noted preferred option. Other outputs will include public meeting handouts, presentations, and minutes, website development and pages, and implemented social and print media strategy. Regularly submitted performance reports and ACRES reporting is also part of this.

**d. Past Performance and Accomplishments**

**ii. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements**

**1. Purpose and Accomplishments**

The BLRPC has not received an EPA Brownfield grant, but has administered the following federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to this proposed project:

Grant	Amount	Purpose	Outcome	Measurement Success
2016 – US Forest Service, GLRI	\$100,000	<i>Mitigating EAB Impacts WI Great Lakes Basin</i>	On-going, 3,145 trees planted thus far	Increasing tree canopy of diverse species; 830 trees is goal
2015 – US EPA GLRI	\$999,648	<i>Invasive Phragmites Control</i>	On-going, managed over 2,000 acres thus far	Number of acres managed; 1,500 acres is goal
2013 – US Forest Service	\$157,564	<i>Green Bay, Wisconsin EAB Mitigation</i>	Planted 1,747 trees and treated 2,350.	Increasing tree canopy of diverse non-host species
2012 – US EPA, Urban Waters:	\$59,995	<i>Restoration Action Plan for Bay Beach</i>	Water quality report, beach redesign	Action plan for restoration, moving forward – on-going
2010 – US EPA, GLRI:	\$777,009	<i>Lake Michigan Sanitary Beach Surveys in NE WI</i>	Sanitary surveys and redesign plans/BMPs 10 beaches	Improved beach water quality, prevent beach closings

**2. Compliance with Grant Requirements**

Over the past 45 years, BLRPC has received various grants that benefit the region’s eight counties. Our team in 5.b. has successfully managed these grants on-time and within budget. All reporting requirements have been met per agreements, and all progress reports and data noting achieved results have been filed as required by grantor in a timely manner. Acceptable semi-annual reporting, financial reporting, final technical reports, and other reports were submitted on time and approved under all agreements. All award funds, including USEPA programs like GLRI and Urban Waters, were drawn down in an efficient manner. We will use the funds in an awarded Assessment Grant in accordance with Work Plan requirements, and implement according to our approved schedule and in accordance with all requirements and conditions set forth by the EPA and in compliance with federal guidelines. We have properly implemented grant requirements historically, and will do so with this project, if awarded.