

RE: Grant Proposal by Calumet County, Wisconsin to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a FY2026 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant

Calumet County, Wisconsin (County) is pleased to submit the enclosed proposal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for a coalition assessment grant for \$1,500,000 as part of the USEPA Fiscal Year 2026 Brownfield Grant Competition. As an existing high-performing grantee, Calumet County is in a unique position to share lessons learned and build a regional comprehensive brownfield program across a two-county region (referred to as the Appleton Metropolitan Core-Based Statistical Area). The County has the experience and staff capacity to ensure the timely and successful expenditure of assessment grant funds to achieve the outcomes described in the proposal.

Per the grant guidelines, the following is provided.

1. Applicant Identification	Calumet County 206 Court Street Chilton, WI 53014
2. Website URL	https://www.co.calumet.wi.us/
3. Funding Requested	Grant Type: Assessment Coalition Federal Funds Requested: \$1,500,000
4. Location	<p>The geographic boundary of the project will be the Appleton Metropolitan Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA; total population of 244,163), which wholly consists of Calumet County (applicant) and Outagamie County (member) and the service area of the Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (non-profit member). The geographic boundary and connects Wisconsin’s largest inland lake to Lake Michigan through the Fox River. Note that a significant portion of the Oneida Nation is located in Outagamie County and is therefore included in the Project Area, but is not a coalition member as the Oneida Nation received a tribal assessment grant in FY25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lead Applicant: Calumet County, Wisconsin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cities: Appleton, Brillion, Chilton, Harrison, Hilbert, Kaukauna, Kiel, Menasha, New Holstein, Potter, Sherwood, and Stockbridge, and other communities in the County (Figure 1) b. County: Calumet County c. State: Wisconsin b) Coalition Member: Outagamie County, Wisconsin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cities: Appleton, Bear Creek, Black Creek, Combined Locks, Fox Crossing, Greenville, Harrison, Hortonville, Howard, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, New London, Nichols, Seymour, Shiocton, and Wrightstown, and other communities in the County (Figure 1) b. County: Outagamie County c. State: Wisconsin d. Tribal Land: The Oneida Nation; Town of Oneida c) Coalition Member: Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cities: Appleton, Combined Locks, Fox Crossing, Greenville,



	<p>Harrison, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Menasha, Neenah, Sherwood, and Wrightstown (Figure 1)</p> <p>b. County: Calumet and Outagamie Counties, and the northeast portion of Winnebago County</p> <p>c. State: Wisconsin</p>
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5. Target Area and Priority Sites

Coalition Member	Target Area	Priority Brownfield	Address
Calumet County (lead)	Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor	Former Gravel Pit	W520 Clifton Road Sherwood, Wisconsin
	City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor	Redevelopment Area 6	245 E Ryan St Brillion, Wisconsin
Outagamie County (non-lead)	City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor	Former Neenah Paper Mill	430 E South Island St, Appleton, Wisconsin
	Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor	Specialty Minerals	442 N Main Street Kimberly, Wisconsin
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (non-lead)	City of Kaukauna – Fox River Corridor	Former Railyard Rights of Way	Fox Shore Drive and the Fox River Kaukauna, Wisconsin
	Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route	Former Railroad Rights of Way	Butte Des Morts Beach Rd and the Fox River Fox Crossings, Wisconsin

6. Contacts	Project Director	Chief Executive
Name	Jason Pausma Economic Development Director	Todd Romenesko, County Administrator
Phone Number	(920) 849-1684	(920) 849-1448
Email Address	Jason.Pausma@calumetcounty.org	todd.romenesko@calumetcounty.org
Mailing Address	206 Court Street Chilton, WI 53014	206 Court Street Chilton, WI 53014

7. Population (2023) *	<p>Population of County and Target Areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calumet County = 52,626 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Target Area – Village of Sherwood = 3,231 b. Target Area - City of Brillion = 3,307 2. Outagamie County = 191,537 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Target Area - City of Appleton = 74,873 b. Target Area - Village of Kimberly = 7,432 c. Target Area – City of Kaukauna = 17,237 d. Additional Tribal Area - Oneida Nation (Outagamie County Only) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Tribal Members = 2,028 ii. Non-Tribal Members = 2,551 3. Winnebago County = 171,357 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Target Area – Village of Fox Crossings = 18,960 <p>* U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 (5-year Estimates), policymap.com with subscription</p>
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8. Other Factors	Narrative Page #(s)
Community population is 15,000 or less.	<u>YES (see p. 4)</u>
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States territory.	<u>YES (see p. 1, 8, 10)</u> Oneida Nation
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	<u>YES (see p.1)</u> Former Gravel Pit
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	<u>YES (see p.2)</u> Redevelopment Area 4 Former Neenah Paper Mill Specialty Minerals Former Railyard Rights of Way – Kaukauna Former Railroad Rights of Way – Fox Crossings
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	<u>YES (see p.2)</u> Former Neenah Paper Mill Former Railyard Rights of Way – Kaukauna Former Railroad Rights of Way – Fox Crossings
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	<u>YES (see p.3)</u> Former Railyard – Kaukauna. Community is targeting site to expand existing solar by municipal utility
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	<u>YES (see p.3)</u>
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	<u>YES (see p.7)</u>
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.(2), for priority sites within the target areas.	\$1,405,000 is budgeted for onsite work, including \$125,000 for reuse/area-wide planning.
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	
9. Letter from State Env. Authority	See attached letter from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10. Releasing Copies of Applications	n/a; the application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information





January 26, 2026

Jason Pausma
Economic Development Director
Calumet County
206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014
Via Email Mail Only to Jason.Pausma@calumetcounty.org

Subject: State Acknowledgement Letter for Calumet County
FY26 EPA Coalition Assessment Grant

Dear Jason Pausma,

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acknowledges the application of Calumet County, Outagamie County, and Fox Cities Greenways, Inc., (the Coalition) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brownfield grant identified above.

The DNR is fully committed to a collaborative partnership with the Coalition and is able to support your brownfield assessment and remediation efforts in many ways, including:

- The DNR can identify key state and federal contacts for your specific project and coordinate Green Team meetings with individuals in your community to answer questions and discuss local plans, options and best practices.
- The DNR can assist you in identifying and obtaining additional financial assistance from state-managed grant and loan programs.

Obtaining U.S. EPA funding for this grant application is consistent with community needs, is vital to the local economy and will help bring needed improvements to the quality of life for residents. Federal funding will also help initiate cleanup activities, create jobs and leverage local investments in brownfield redevelopment.

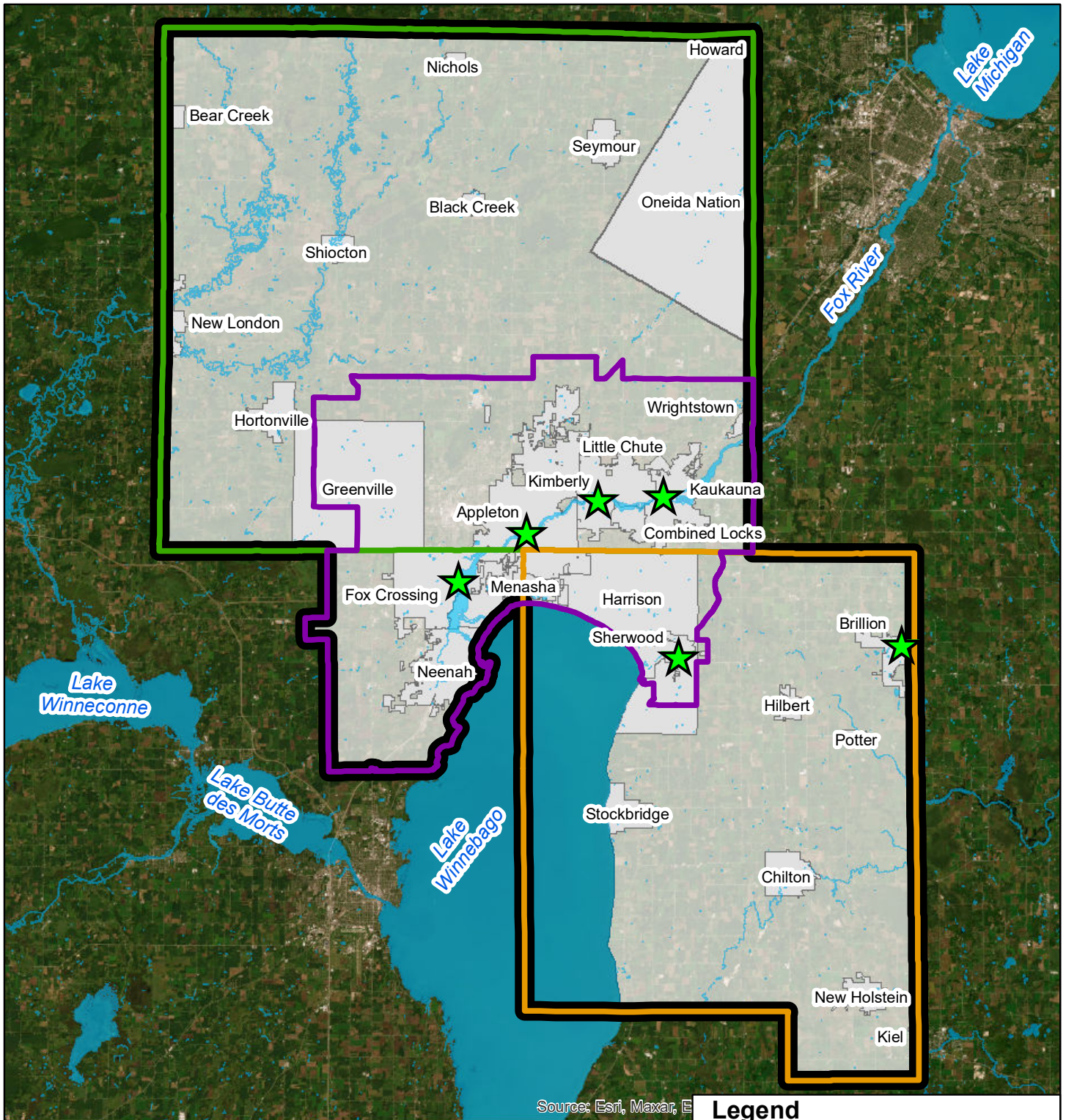
Sincerely,

Christine Sieger

Christine T. Sieger, Program Director
Remediation and Redevelopment Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc:

Tauren Beggs, DNR NER – Tauren.Beggs@wisconsin.gov
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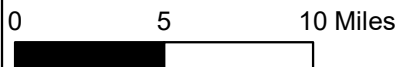


Source: Esri, Maxar, E

Calumet County Assessment Coalition Project Area



- Priority Brownfields
- Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor
 - City of Brillion - Iron Works Corridor
 - City of Appleton - Neenah Paper Mill Corridor
 - Village of Kimberly - Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor
 - City of Kaukauna - Fox River Corridor
 - Village of Fox Crossings - Fox River Paper Route



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Legend

- Priority Brownfields
- Calumet County
- Outagamie County
- Fox Cities Greenways, Inc Service Area
- Communities
- Waterbodies
- Coalition Project Area

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION & PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

1.a. Coalition Members. The Appleton Metropolitan Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA¹) (total population of 244,163) wholly consists of **Calumet County** (lead applicant) and **Outagamie County** (which includes the Oneida Nation) and connects Wisconsin's largest inland lake to Lake Michigan through the Fox River. The area has experienced devastating economic consequences from the collapse of natural resource-based industrial economies (e.g., paper, lumber, steel, machinery, metalworks) beginning in the 1980s and exacerbated by the slow post-COVID pandemic recovery. The massive regional need for economic recovery gave these Counties a unique opportunity to partner together to implement two large grants funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program within the Appleton CBSA which grew into a FY23 assessment coalition consisting of **Calumet County** (lead grant applicant), **Outagamie County** (non-lead member), and **Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.** (non-lead member; community-based nonprofit creating greenways/multi-modal trails in the Appleton Metropolitan Planning Area²). These members were identified because of their ongoing partnerships with Calumet County and collective regional goals.

Lack of Capacity and Access. As an existing high-performing grantee, Calumet County is in a unique position to share lessons learned and build a regional comprehensive brownfield program across the Appleton CBSA. Outagamie County has one of the highest concentrations of brownfields in the State, along with aging populations, low-income individuals with developmental challenges, and a decreasing tax base. There is a disproportional stress on the County budget to provide basic services to the community, and compounded by staff shortages, Outagamie County does not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own brownfield grant. As a non-profit, Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. relies solely on donations, membership dues, and grants to operate. As such, non-lead coalition members do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own brownfield grants, which limits their access to resources needed to address the brownfields plaguing their communities.

1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Area. Our brownfield inventory identified more than 7,300 potential brownfields in our project area. Our communities have identified six Census Tracts (CTs) with staggering visual reminders of a once-prosperous past that together define our "Target Areas" for this project (**Table 1**). The density of brownfields in these Target Areas has resulted in considerable need for US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) funding to facilitate redevelopment.

Table 1. Coalition Member	Target Area (Census Tract)	Target Area Name (see details further below)	Potential Brownfields
Calumet County (lead)	CT 55015020306	Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor	77
	CT 55015020100	City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor	223
Outagamie County (non-lead)	CT 55087010700	City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor	109
	CT 55087011700	Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor	53
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (non-lead)	CT 55087012200	City of Kaukauna – Fox River Corridor	84
	CT 55139002401	Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route	138

- **Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor (Calumet County Target Area):** This coalition grant will target the Main Street corridor, which includes documented impacts from bulk petroleum storage and a vacant gravel mine/pit.
- **City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor (Calumet County Target Area):** The City of Brillion Target Area includes an expansive 145-acre former ductile iron foundry with documented impacts from buried foundry sand, chlorinated solvents, and bulk petroleum storage. Other brownfields include gasoline stations and dry cleaners.
- **City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor (Outagamie County Target Area):** The Neenah Paper Mill Corridor is a 21-acre island in the middle of the Fox River with documented and suspected solvent (and other) impacts from numerous former paper mills, historic fill sites, and tar waste associated with a former manufactured gas plant.
- **Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor (Outagamie County Target Area):** The Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor is 0.5-mile corridor along the Fox River with documented and suspected solvent impacts from numerous former paper mills, areas of historic (contaminated) fill, and petroleum releases.
- **City of Kaukauna - Fox River Corridor (Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. Target Area):** The target corridor consists of large former industrial properties located along the Fox River and includes a large former railroad yard adjacent to the Fox River, a former drycleaner, large polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) release areas, and a waste oil recycler.
- **Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route (Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. Target Area):** The target corridor consists of 0.5-mile long former railroad corridor crossing the Fox River, likely a waste disposal area.

Brownfields in the Appleton CBSA have led to significant blight, poor economic conditions, and a welfare risk to the community as described in Section 2.a. However, much deeper, the brownfield sites within each of the Target Areas have long posed an economic, environmental, and psychological drain on the communities, while representing an insurmountable financial challenge that neither lead nor non-lead coalition members are capable of addressing. As described in Section 1.e, *Comprehensive Plans* developed by each community will guide this project and inspire

¹ https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/stcbsa_pg/Feb2013/cbsa2013_WI.pdf

² <https://wisconsin.gov/Documents/projects/data-plan/plan-res/functional/mpa/appleton.pdf>

Select acronyms: Target Area = (6) Census Tracts; see Section 1.a; Priority Brownfields = (6) properties; see Section 1.c); Non-Leads: Outagamie County; Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.; LMI = low to moderate income; ESA = environmental site assessment; WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; [blue underlined text](#) are active hyperlinks

meaningful and strategic community growth. The greatest needs to be addressed by redevelopment of Target Area brownfields with the aid of this grant are (1) increased residential workforce and low-to-moderate income (LMI) housing options to support rebuilding the downtown commercial districts, (2) expanding attractive and diverse commercial opportunities for small business growth, and (3) increased greenspace connecting local and regional multi-modal trails. Site assessment is a crucial next step towards addressing brownfields challenges.

1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites. Our inventory identified thousands of potential brownfields including several former paper mills, foundries, plating facilities, gasoline stations, drycleaners, and other vacant/underutilized sites. As described in **Table 2, Priority Sites** from each of the six Target Areas were nominated by our local communities for brownfields known to pose risks to human health and groundwater/surface water from multiple hazardous substances and petroleum spills. The Fox Cities Greenways and Outagamie County Priority Sites are on rivers that discharge to Lake Michigan (see Figure 1). These Priority Sites were recognized by our communities as having the greatest potential to develop workforce and LMI housing, build appealing retail amenities, and increase greenspace connecting local and regional multi-modal trails along waterways, which is why assessment and reuse of these brownfield sites are priorities.

Table 2. Priority Site & Address	Size	Site Description & Environmental Concerns	Contaminants of Concern	Funding Needs
Calumet County (Lead); Target Area: CT 55015020306; Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor				
Gravel Mine/Pit W520 Clifton Rd Sherwood, WI	3 Parcels (110 acres)	Past Use: Former gravel mine/pit with nearby bulk petroleum storage/distribution. Current Use/Conditions: Mine abandoned; site is vacant.	PAHs, VOCs, metals	Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, SI, RAP
Calumet County (Lead); Target Area: CT 55015020100; City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor				
BIW (Area 6) 200 Park Ave Brillion, WI	20 Parcels (145 acres)	Past Use: Former ductile iron foundry with multiple industrial waste areas and solvent release areas. Current Use/Conditions: Buildings razed, and site is vacant. Developer agreement signed and plans finished.	Metals, PAHs, VOCs, PCBs, solvents, waste areas	Supplemental Phase II ESA, SI, RAP
Outagamie County (Member); Target Area: CT 550870107000; City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor				
Neenah Paper 430 Island St, Appleton, WI	20 Parcels (21 acres)	Past Use: Former paper mill, including pulp processing, paper manufacturing, and paper treating. Current Use/Conditions: Buildings vacant and poor cond.	VOCs, metals, PAHs, PCBs, Asbestos	SI, RAP, Reuse Planning
Outagamie County (Member); Target Area: CT 55087011700; Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor				
Spec. Minerals 442 N Main St Kimberly, WI	5 Parcels (7 acres)	Past Use: Portion of a former paper mill, including paper manufacturing and paper treating. Current Use/Conditions: Buildings razed; site is vacant.	VOCs, metals, PAHs, PCBs	Supplemental Phase II ESA, SI, RAP
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (Member); Target Area: CT 55087012200; City of Kaukauna – Fox River Corridor				
Fmr. Railyard Fox Shore Drive Kaukauna, WI	6 Parcels (11 acres)	Past Use: Former railroad switch yard and spur lines Current Use/Conditions: Buildings razed; site is vacant. Site adjacent to Fox River but significant impacts remain.	PAHs, metals, PCBs, waste areas	SI, RAP, Reuse Planning
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (Member); Target Area: CT 55139002401; Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route				
Fmr. Railyard Butte Des Morts Beach Rd Fox Crossings, WI	0.5-Mile RR ROW	Past Use: Former railroad rights of way/corridor crossing the Fox River with multiple adjacent industrial uses Current Use/Conditions: Railroad corridor abandoned.	PAHs, metals, PCBs, waste areas	Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, SI, RAP,

1.d. Identifying Additional Sites. Our inventory has identified over 7,300 potential brownfields and our current collaborative rubric has efficiently catalogued Priority Sites for assessment under our current FY23 USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant. As described in Section 3.a, *Task 2* of this project will update the our Brownfields GIS database to identify additional brownfield properties within the geographic boundaries of the Coalition. Identified properties will then be ranked for prioritization using the Coalition’s current rubric, which has been developed over the past 6 years and shown to be highly successful in facilitating meaningful redevelopment. The prioritization rubric includes a combination of screening level and detailed ranking criteria that considers: (1) if the property is located in a disadvantaged CT; (2) eligibility for assessment based on the requirements of USEPA; (3) property significance relative to achieving existing planning/reuse strategies and priorities; (4) willingness of property owners to partner with the Coalition on environmental studies and provide access; (5) marketability of the site and the potential for redevelopment emphasizing multi-family residential, commercial and neighborhood stabilization; (6) extent and/or perception of contamination threatening public health and/or the environment and hindering development; and (7) potential positive impact on the surrounding community to be realized via site reuse. To provide for continued community input, the Coalition will involve the existing Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC; Section 2.e-f) in site identification and prioritization activities.

1.e. Reuse Strategy & Alignment with Revitalization Plans. Redevelopment plans developed by the grantee (e.g., *Calumet County Comprehensive Plan*) supplemented by focused revitalization plans for the Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor and City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor will guide redevelopment in the Calumet County Target Areas. Redevelopment plans of the coalition member (e.g., *Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan*) and associated

local municipalities (e.g., *City of Appleton Comprehensive Plan* and *City of Kaukauna Comprehensive Plan*) will guide work in the Outagamie County Target Areas. The recently approved *Fox Cities Paper Trail Plan* will guide multimodal trail work by Fox Cities Greenways. Common established goals for all Priority Sites include **providing affordable multi-family housing, generating business opportunities that stabilize the area, and enhancing recreational opportunities through connectivity with multimodal trails**. In alignment with these goals and objectives, reuse plans and strategies for each of the **Priority Sites** summarized on **Table 3** include:

Table 3. Priority Site	Reuse Plans/Strategy	Alignment with Revitalization/Land Use Plans/Community Priorities
Calumet County (Lead); Target Area: CT 55015020306; Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor		
Former Gravel Mine/Pit	Reclaim mine/pit for residential reuse tied by new roadways into revitalized downtown area	Support critical goals identified in the (2024) <i>Sherwood Comprehensive Plan</i> and the (2019) <i>Village Master Plan</i> to expand housing and commercial options in downtown Sherwood.
Calumet County (Lead); Target Area: CT 55015020100; City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor		
Brillion Iron Works (Site 6)	Planned urban development focused on residential workforce and commercial reuse	Support critical goals identified in the <i>Brillion Comprehensive Plan</i> and the (2022) <i>Brillion Iron Works Strategic Reuse Plan</i> for expanding workforce housing and new commercial redevelopment.
Outagamie County (Member); Target Area: CT 550870107000; City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor		
Neenah Paper	Adaptive reuse of historic buildings for multi-family residential	The (2025) <i>City of Appleton Comprehensive Plan</i> focuses on expanding residential redevelopments adjacent to the Fox River.
Outagamie County (Member); Target Area: CT 55087011700; Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor		
Specialty Minerals	Redevelopment for multi-family workforce/LMI residential reuse	The (upcoming, 2026) <i>Village of Kimberly Comprehensive Plan</i> will focus on expanding healthy workforce and LMI housing options through brownfield redevelopment adjacent to the Fox River.
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (Member); Target Area: CT 55087012200; City of Kaukauna – Fox River Corridor		
Former Railyard	Critical extension of multi-modal trail to connect to regional trail network leading to downtown	Aligns with <i>Kaukauna Comp. Plan</i> expanding multi-modal trail along the Fox River in the south side business district. Expanded trails will increase commercial traffic downtown support shops.
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (Member); Target Area: CT 55139002401; Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route		
Former Railyard	Essential bridge/trail crossing the Fox River to connect the Fox River Paper Route to the regional trail	Aligns with <i>Fox Crossings Comp. Plan</i> and the (2026) <i>Fox River Paper Route Plan</i> expanding multi-modal trail along the Fox River. Expanded trails will increase commercial traffic through the Village.

1.f. Outcomes & Benefits of Reuse Strategy. The Coalition’s revitalization plans are focused on vacant and underutilized sites and projects proposed will not cause the displacement of residents or businesses. Priority Site redevelopments are anticipated to provide the following outcomes/economic benefits in the Target Areas. Four priority brownfields are on the Fox River, which is seeing increased flooding due to extreme weather events. Cleanup/reuse of these Properties will include a variety of novel stormwater BMPs to improve local resilience to flooding:

- **Provide affordable multifamily workforce and LMI housing:** Affordable modern housing projects at the **Brillion Iron Works** will generate 20 dwelling units in 2026 and 60 units in 2027-2028. Redevelopment of the 21-acre **Neenah Paper** site could generate 150 to 200 units in 2029-2030 and redevelopment of the **Specialty Minerals** site (7 acres) could generate 75 units in 2028-2030. Proposed multi-family residential reuses will address the area’s workforce and LMI housing burden, and will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant to accommodate needs of sensitive populations (i.e., disabled or elderly; Section 2.b). New construction will incorporate energy efficiency measures to qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. A recent study noted buildings constructed to LEED standards contributed 50% fewer greenhouse gases³, an added benefit of this reuse strategy.
- **Generating business opportunities through commercial redevelopment:** The **Brillion Iron Works** mixed-use redevelopment includes eight large parcels targeted for commercial redevelopment. This reuse is anticipated to leverage \$128,000,000 in private development, generate an increase of \$2,700,000 in annual tax base, and generate 850 full-time jobs plus 640 temporary construction jobs.
- **Expanding multi-modal trail to support communities:** The **Brillion Iron Works** redevelopment includes 1.5 miles of new multi-modal trail to connect the new residential areas to the regional trail network, Brillion’s downtown commercial district, and additional parks/greenways for recreation. The **Former Railyard – Kaukauna** and the **Former Railyard – Fox Crossings** will allow critical connectivity to continue the current offroad paved trail network to the Kaukauna and Fox Crossings commercial districts.
- **Support adaptive reuse & energy efficiency projects in all Target Areas:** Several Target Area brownfields are ideal for adaptive reuse to highlight historic preservation, infill development, and sustainable building design (e.g., LEED

³ <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/935461rm>

Select acronyms: Target Area = (6) Census Tracts; see Section 1.a; Priority Brownfields = (6) properties; see Section 1.c); Non-Leads: Outagamie County; Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.; LMI = low to moderate income; ESA = environmental site assessment; WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; [blue underlined text](#) are active hyperlinks

certification). These measures include new high-efficiency heating systems, replacement of single pane windows, and electrical upgrades. New construction will align with energy efficiency requirements and will include innovative technologies such as air source heat pumps and hybrid water heater systems.

- **Renewable energy generation.** The City of Kaukauna operates an electrical utility using solar, hydroelectric, and geothermal in the Kaukauna Target Area and expressed interest in adding solar to the **Former Railyard – Kaukauna.**

1.g Strategy for Leveraging Resources/Resources Needed for Site Reuse. Calumet and Outagamie Counties are eligible for a broad array of federal, state, and other funding sources that can support reuse of the Priority Sites. Many of the funding sources identified below were secured to support environmental assessment, cleanup and/or reuse of sites assessed under the USEPA FY23 Coalition Assessment Grant. This grant will provide a catalyst for securing additional external funds, especially where those external funds require a match.

Eligible and Secured – Tax Incremental Financing District (TID). Perhaps the most important source of funding to begin redevelopment are TIDs which can be used for environmental cleanup, demolition of buildings and infrastructure improvements needed to support redevelopment of brownfield sites. Multiple local TIDs valued at well over \$20,000,000 are available to support redevelopment in Calumet County. There are 36 TIDs in Outagamie County with a current value of \$753,000,000⁴. Specific to Priority Sites, the City of Brillion approved a \$1,000,000 environmental TID for the **Brillion Iron Works** Priority Site and Kimberly established a TID including **Specialty Minerals** (Attachment B2).

Eligible and Pending – Private Investment. Private investment is the critical source of funding to facilitate Site redevelopment and new construction. As noted in Attachment B1, **a developer is already active on the Brillion** Priority Site and has invested \$29,800,000 to date completing 4 spectacular projects, with (2) \$5,000,000 projects already funded/scheduled for 2027 and 2029. As noted in Attachment B2, at completion, the full redevelopment of the **Kimberly Paper Mill** will have leveraged \$268,000,000 in private investment. With the Paper Trail design complete, Fox Cities Greenways will begin the capital fundraising campaign in December 2026 with the goal of raising \$3,000,000 by 2029.

Eligible and Pending – State/Fed. Calumet and Outagamie Counties in partnership with local municipalities will pursue funding (as applicable to an individual project) from potential sources including, but not limited to Federal (USEPA, USDA) and State (WEDC SAG and WAM [assessment]; WEDC [cleanup]; and WDNR [cleanup loans/grants]) agencies. State grants require a match, which is impossible to fund internally. As demonstrated with the County’s FY18 CWA, this grant will serve as the match to secure at least (2) \$250,000 State brownfield assessment grants annually.

Eligible and Potential – Insurance Recovery. The coalition will investigate historic insurance policies that may have resources available to pay for assessment and remediation of impacts at brownfield properties. Insurance recovery investigations are currently underway at the **Brillion Iron Works** Priority Site.

1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure. The Target Areas are among the oldest developed areas in the region which are well-served by existing infrastructure (water, sewer, electric, natural gas, etc.). Reuse and leverage of existing infrastructure for each Priority Site is summarized below on **Table 4.**

Table 4. Priority Site	Reuse and Leveraging of Existing Infrastructure
Former Gravel Mine/Pit	Redevelopment of the mine/pit for residential reuse will leverage massive new utility and roadwork (by WisDOT), including new traffic patterns in the Village’s downtown.
Brillion Iron Works (Site 6)	Brillion is redeveloping its City Center near the Priority Site property, which includes capital improvement investments of over \$8,000,000 to renovate its Community Center and exercise facility and upgrade sanitary/storm/water lines to meet future needs.
Neenah Paper	The hydroelectric power plant at the mill remains active, which can provide a unique alternative energy source for the future residential redevelopment.
Specialty Minerals	Redevelopment of the former mill complex continues to leverage over \$22,000,000 in new infrastructure and roadways constructed in the past 5 years using TIF funding.
Fmr. Railyard - Kaukauna	Redevelopment of the railyard and track bed for multi-modal reuse will support the large multi-family residential redevelopment adjacent to the Priority Site.
Fmr. Railyard – Fox Crossings	Reusing/redeveloping the existing railroad trellis bridge to cross the Fox River would be an extreme cost savings vs. designing/permitting/constructing a completely new bridge.

Future infrastructure investments at the Priority Site properties could include expansion of utilities and/or road/transportation projects, which can be accomplished using WisDOT, local TID, and/or County CDBG RLF funding. This project will leverage recent stormwater infrastructure and broadband internet upgrades underway in the Target Areas and throughout the County funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Additionally, the City of Brillion just secured a WisDOT grant for new infrastructure at the **Brillion Iron Works** Priority Site.

⁴ <https://www.outagamie.org/home/showpublisheddocument/63471/636832397733800000>

2. COMMUNITY NEED & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding. The coalition takes a regional view of redevelopment, and this grant will meet the needs of small low-income communities in Calumet County (all Cities/Villages less than 5,000 population) and Outagamie County (only three Cities with population greater than 10,000). Demographic data provided in the table below demonstrates lower than average tax revenues due to high poverty, below-average median household income, and lower home values. Together these factors indicate much lower than average discretionary income, which results in less spending, and decreases local business revenues and taxes (**Table 5**). Please note, the community need in Kimberly and Fox Crossings are similar to Kaukauna and Appleton and therefore demographics are not duplicated on the table below.

Table 5. Demographic Indicators⁵	Sherwood (City)	Brillion (City)	Appleton Target CT	Kaukauna Target CT	Appleton CBSA	State of WI	U.S.
Population	3,231	3,307	74,873	17,237	244,163	5.9MM	332M
Median Family Income (BG) (Change in the last Decade)	\$105,729 (-34%)	\$75,313 (-23%)	\$81,100 (-8%)	\$79,583 (-3%)	\$104,775 (+3%)	\$97,261 (+4%)	\$78,538 (+30%)
Poverty rate	3.1%	13.0%	15.3%	17.9%	6.3	10.1	12%
Single Mothers in Poverty	61.7%	(unknown)	36.8%	40.0%	26.6%	29.4%	Unk
Home value <\$100,000	5%	20%	26.7%	9%	5.4%	9.8%	Unk
High School Graduate (only)	18.5%	44.9%	27.6%	39.7%	30.8%	29.6%	26%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35.7%	17.4%	24.4%	15.6%	23.2%	21.6%	35%

Closing the Petroleum Tank Fund: Wisconsin established the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award program to investigate and remediate releases from eligible petroleum tanks; however, the program closed in 2020; therefore, this funding source is no longer available to fund assessments and cleanup of petroleum-impacted brownfields.

Limited State/Local Funding – General and Shared Revenue.

As previously noted, initial inventories indicate there are upwards of 7,300 identified brownfields in the project area. Using costs from the FY23 USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant, it will cost over \$250,000,000 just to complete the first two phases of due diligence at these sites, which is more than triple the amount spent on public safety and highway maintenance in the Counties in 2025. Directly impacting tax revenue **Table 6** documents the significant reduction in residential property values, the primary source of local municipal tax revenue, within 1,000 feet of a brownfield in four communities in Calumet County. The decrease in property value due to the presence of brownfields undoubtedly reduces tax revenue that could be used to fund brownfield assessment and cleanup.

Table 6. Calumet Community	Decreased Fair Market Value of Residential Properties Within 1,000 ft of Priority Site
Brillion (Target Area)	-21%
Chilton (Target Area)	-30%
New Holstein	-31%
Stockbridge	-50%

Limited Local Funding – Cost of Groundwater Quality. Calumet County directly spends \$200,000 per year to manage the extraordinary risk to groundwater quality from shallow bedrock., including groundwater sampling and working on mitigation strategies with homeowners and farmers through outreach events.

Loss of Jobs/Tax Revenue. Calumet and Outagamie Counties have faced many economic challenges over recent decades associated with the impact of globalization on the manufacturing sector which provided the foundation for the regions prosperity. For example, in Calumet County, closing of one plant resulted in loss of more than 1,200 manufacturing jobs (which equaled 30% of the working population of the community) and vacancy of 40 acres of industrial land valued at \$5,000,000 and formerly generating over \$250,000 in annual tax revenue. Bankruptcy and closing a paper mill in Outagamie County resulted in a loss of 690 jobs and \$40,000,000 in employee retirement funds⁶. This decrease in economic strength limits local government revenues, further limiting resources available to self-fund assessment work. EPA grant funding for assessment and remediation in the Target Area is a critical step toward reinvestment in our communities to transform brownfields into healthy, affordable multi-family housing redevelopments, parks, and **generate business opportunities for economic stability within the Coalition boundaries.**

2.b Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations. Demographic indicators of economically impoverished and disproportionately impacted populations are reflective of a gradual decline in economic condition (**Table 7**). Due largely to the ongoing collapse of the manufacturing sector (32% of population work in manufacturing), the Target Area experiences high poverty rates for disabled individuals, children, Hispanics, and Native Americans, which is why the Target Areas are critical. Since 2002, minority populations increased 50-fold and the Latino population is expected to keep growing due to a relatively large percentage of young persons and higher rates of immigration. Native American poverty is astonishingly high (43% in Calumet County), and has increased 15-fold over the past decade alone (from 2.8%), another indicator of economic disparity for sensitive populations. Note: the welfare of the community in Kimberly

⁵ Data from policymap.com based on ACS, 2019 - 2023. **Bold** indicates worse conditions than WI/US; underline is worse than or equal to Appleton CBSA.

⁶ <https://www.posttrecrescent.com/story/news/2018/07/08/>

Select acronyms: Target Area = (6) Census Tracts; see Section 1.a; Priority Brownfields = (6) properties; see Section 1.c); Non-Leads: Outagamie County; Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.; LMI = low to moderate income; ESA = environmental site assessment; WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; [blue underlined text](#) are active hyperlinks

and Fox Crossings is similar to Kaukauna and Appleton and therefore data are not duplicated on the table below.

Table 7. Sensitive Populations⁵	Sherwood (City)	Brillion (City)	Appleton Target CT	Kaukauna Target CT	Appleton CBSA	State of WI	U.S.
Elderly (75 and older)	9.0%	4.5%	<u>6.9</u>	5.0	6.3%	7.1%	18%
Elderly in Poverty (75 and older)	<u>9.1%</u>	0%	7.5	2.1	8.1%	9.8%	9%
Disabled	8.4%	7.0%	<u>11.0</u>	<u>17.4</u>	10.6%	12.0%	12%
Disabled in Poverty	0	25.9%	10.9	33.51	22.2%	21.5%	21%
Children (< 5 years)	2.8%	5.0%	<u>7.7</u>	5.5	5.7%	5.4%	5%
Poverty rate for children (< 5 years)	<u>11.7%</u>	0%	34.7	28.9	9.1%	14.3%	19.1%

In the Target Areas, 24 churches, 34 schools/clinics, and 40 daycares⁷ are near the Priority Sites, which puts sensitive groups who frequent these locations more susceptible to impacts from the high risk at the brownfields.

Fish Consumption Advisory. Directly impacting the community due to PCB concerns, the WDNR issued a complete ban on fish consumption for the Manitowoc River in Calumet County extending downriver from a brownfield (Former Chilton Plating where PCBs are known constituents). An additional PCB advisory for all fish in the Fox River was issued by WDNR through the Outagamie County and Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. Target Areas due to papermill operations releasing an estimated **600,000 pounds of PCBs, contaminating 11 million tons of sediment.**⁸ There are an estimated 47,000 anglers affected by the fish advisory¹¹, and sensitive populations (e.g., non-English speaking population and the Native American community) may not fully understand the risk posed by PCBs putting disadvantage groups at risk.

Lack of Healthy Housing: A significant need in the region is healthy workforce and LMI housing. Housing stock is very old in the Target Areas (80% of homes constructed prior to the ban on consumer lead paint in 1978) which impacts children in the area and complicates finding healthy housing. The median home value in the Outagamie County Target Area (\$109k) is approximately half of the State median. And with 38% of households with income less than \$25,000 and a Gini Index of Income Inequality of 0.48⁶ confirming that income is not fairly distributed, finding healthy housing, especially for single mothers with children in poverty, is an insurmountable challenge. The Census Bureau estimates that upwards of 40% of homeowners and 60% of renters are burdened by housing costs. This unfortunately forces sensitive populations to residential areas similar to those adjacent to the priority sites where lead-based paint is present and the fair market values are significantly less compared to areas away from brownfields (see analysis on Table 7).

Improve Welfare. Redevelopment of brownfield sites for workforce and LMI residential reuse (e.g., **Brillion Iron Works** and Oneida Street Priority Sites) will decrease contaminant source areas, thereby reducing health threats to sensitive populations (e.g., children, women of child-bearing age, elderly, and low-income populations) while increasing healthy housing options. Assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of properties associated with historic releases (including PCBs) to surface waters (e.g., Chilton Plating and Outagamie County Priority Sites) will improve sediment and surface water quality and restore fishery health.

2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions.

Childhood Disabilities. The rate of childhood (age <18 years) cognitive disability in the Target Area is more than double the rate in Wisconsin (4.4%) and in the US (4.1%) and the overall rate of disability in the Target Areas (17%) exceeds the rate in Wisconsin (12%)⁹. The lead poisoning rate in children in Calumet County is nearly triple the rate in the adjacent county¹⁰. Although the precise cause/source of cognitive disabilities in children is likely due to a multitude of factors, known/suspect contaminants of concern identified at the catalyst priority brownfield sites (Section 1.c) are known to cause severe neurological damage and birth defects. Further, cognitive disabilities (especially in children) could be partially attributed to the abundance of lead paint as summarized on Table 8.

Asthma. The 2021 National Toxic Release Inventory¹¹ report by USEPA indicates a total of 16,000,000 pounds of toxic chemical waste released from 40 regulated facilities in the Coalition Area. Of critical note, the most common chemicals discharged are methanol, heavy metals, and acids at facilities in close proximity to sensitive populations, which put at-risk populations in close proximity to generators. The legacy of heavy industrial activities and associated releases has resulted in disproportionate burden to the community. Air quality is significant, and although no monitoring locations are located in Calumet County, the adjacent county received an "F" for air quality due to ozone¹². Although data is not available for the Target Area, the adult rate of asthma is greater in Calumet County (10.7%) and Outagamie County (10.6%) than the national average (9.8%)⁹, which could explain why CDC identified several census tracts in the Project Area as having a high prevalence of asthma. WDNR, air quality impacts from wildfires are becoming more frequent and

⁷ <https://www.usgs.gov/u.s.-board-on-geographic-names/download-gnis-data> and <https://def.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing>

⁸ <https://dnr.wi.gov/FCSEExternalAdvQry/FishAdvisorySrch.aspx> and <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/environmental/foxriverpha31406.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/places/tools/interactive-map-tool.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p80017-2020-county.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

¹² <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/wisconsin>

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particulate matter pollution from wildfire smoke is a growing health concern. When inhaled, symptoms can range from throat irritation to severe heart and lung concerns, which are **especially dangerous for children, elderly, and people with respiratory conditions** (including asthma). Poor air quality has a disproportionate impact on our sensitive populations (**Table 5**), with the increase in extreme weather events accompanied by more poor air quality days.

Birth Defects. Although birth defect rates are not available for the Target Area. The *Wisconsin Department of Health County Profile* indicates the rate of congenital anomalies in our County is 0.8%, which is greater than the rates of four different adjacent counties¹³. Groundwater contaminated with high levels of nitrates from agriculture is a well-known water quality issue in the County and has been linked to some birth defects; per the *2023 Calumet County Community Health Assessment*, **over 20%** of groundwater samples collected in the County have nitrate concentrations greater than health-based standards, nearly twice the rate of the State (10.9%)¹⁴. The health assessment also indicated that infant mortality rate for the County is 38% greater than the State. The March of Dimes indicates Calumet County has only “moderate access”¹⁵ to maternity care as there are limited hospitals providing obstetric care and limited OB/GYN providers, indicating expecting mothers must travel long distances access healthcare.

Overall Health and Cancer Rates. Obesity remains a significant challenge in our communities, with **40% of adults in Calumet and Outagamie Counties considered obese**, compared to 34% nationally¹⁶. The most current report from the Population Health Institute at University of Wisconsin¹² indicates the Project Area ranks below the State average for health based on characteristics associated with sensitive populations: lower number of primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers, higher healthcare costs and increased rates of adult obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking and alcohol-impaired driving deaths. The Target Area is in the upper 71st percentile for cancer risk due to inhalation of air toxics, which may partially explain why the Wisconsin Department of Health County Profile indicates the upper confidence interval for age-adjusted cancer rates in our County for female breast, melanoma, colorectal, lung and bronchus, and prostate cancers are all greater than the State¹³. Poor groundwater quality is a known risk in the community which could also explain the poor health outcomes of the population (further described in Section 2.d).

Reduction of Health Risk. Assessment and redevelopment of Priority Sites under this grant would mitigate these health conditions by decreasing contamination source areas and direct risks to groundwater quality, and through community development, increase opportunities for healthy living as summarized in **Section 1.b** by creation of multi-modal trails. Redevelopment will also increase alternative energy/transportation options while preserving groundwater quality.

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations. While manufacturing activities at Priority Sites in the Target Areas once provided much-needed jobs in the region. the associated pollution from prior heavy industrial activity has resulted in a disproportionate burden to sensitive populations (women, elderly, children). Given the abundance of agricultural land uses, it is not surprising that the percentage of **wells with significant nitrate contamination in Calumet and Outagamie Counties is 10 times that of the adjacent county**, which is a significant health and environmental issue. The frequency of emergency room visits due to carbon monoxide poisoning in Calumet is **double** the adjacent county, which could be due to lack of maintenance of home heating systems due to limited personal finances. **Table 8** summarizes negative environmental impacts to sensitive populations amongst the Coalition’s Target Areas (community vulnerability in Sherwood is similar to Brillion; therefore, data are not duplicated on **Table 8**). These communities have been burdened by abundant risks from exposure to residual soil and groundwater contamination (e.g., proximity to potentially hazardous and toxic sites), poor air quality (e.g., Toxic Release Inventory sites), increased risk to children from lead exposure (lead-paint burden), and lack of local parks and walkability.

Table 8. Indicators of Community Vulnerability ¹⁷ (% in US with lower risk vs. target neighborhood)	Brillion Target Area	Appleton Target Area	Kaukauna Target Area	Kimberly Target Area	Fox Crossings Target Area
Cumulative Environmental Burden	23	75	77	73	62
Potentially Hazardous & Toxic Sites	25	85	76	87	98
Risk Management Plan Sites	0	90	90	79	84
Treatment, Storage and Disposal Sites	0	59	0	73	79
Toxic Release Inventory Sites	55	78	86	86	76
Lead-Paint Burden (Houses before 1980)	62	68	85	83	36
Lack of Parks and Lack of Walkability	88	61	55	55	72

The majority of Coalition Target Areas have high ranks of environmental burden, with **Fox Crossings** identified as being in the **98th percentile** when compared to other US communities for its proximity to potentially hazardous and toxic sites. Seeing our community economic condition (**Table 3**) and the challenges of our sensitive populations (**Table 4** and **Table 5**), in combination with environmental burdens to our community from brownfields (**Table 6**), it is clear that our Target

¹³ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p45358-21.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.co.calumet.wi.us/DocumentCenter/View/9233/2023-Calumet-County-Community-Health-Assessment?bidId=>

¹⁵ <https://www.marchofdimes.org/research/maternity-care-deserts-report.aspx>

¹⁶ <https://datacommons.org/place/geoid/55015?category=Health>

¹⁷ <https://atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/>; bold and red text indicates burden in the target census tract is greater than 60 percent of all census tracts in the US.

Select acronyms: Target Area = (6) Census Tracts; see Section 1.a; Priority Brownfields = (6) properties; see Section 1.c); Non-Leads: Outagamie County; Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.; LMI = low to moderate income; ESA = environmental site assessment; WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; [blue underlined text](#) are active hyperlinks

Areas are a network of rural communities facing significant resultant economic issues. The combination of these conditions has disproportionately left low-income residents living near former industrial operators and brownfield sites without financial means to relocate, thus rooting families in neighborhoods with highest health threats.

Addressing Economically Impoverished / Disproportionately Impacted Populations. Cleanup and redevelopment in the Target Areas will address the disproportionately impacted population by increasing the availability of affordable, healthy housing; creating healthy livable/walkable neighborhoods; and promoting reduced commute times, which will improve air quality by decreasing air toxins. Newly constructed homes will reduce community exposure to lead paint, and increasing housing security are directly associated with healthier communities, decreased crime rates and increased quality of life. New trails will provide for increased recreation, which will decrease obesity and improve overall health.

2.e Project Involvement and 2.f. Project Roles. The existing Calumet County Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC) established to provide for input during implementation of the FY18 CWA and FY23 Coalition Assessment Grant will be expanded to represent a regionally diverse combination of community stakeholders directly involved with housing equity and commercial/economic growth in disadvantaged communities, lending institutions, developers, health experts, and environmental stewardship. Non-lead members will remain on the BAC so they are effectively engaged and informed throughout the project. The regional BAC summarized on **Table 9** will work with Calumet County to inform and involve the community and other stakeholders during the planning, implementation, and other Brownfield assessment activities described in this proposal. BAC members will represent the interests and needs of the community discussed in Section 1; specifically, increased residential workforce and LMI housing options to support rebuilding the downtown commercial districts, expanding attractive and diverse commercial opportunities for small business growth, and increased greenspace connecting local and regional multi-modal trails along waterways. Given the wide geography, Groundwater Guardians and Multi-Cultural Coalition, Inc. are the best community-based organizations to reach the community. As noted in Section 1, a portion of the Oneida Nation extends into the Project Area; therefore, a representative of the Oneida Nation's Environmental Response and Compliance Program will be added to the BAC if potential brownfields are prioritized for assessment on the Oneida Reservation. The BAC (**Table 9**) will collaboratively prioritize sites for funding using feedback from the community during combined BAC/outreach meetings.

Table 9. Organization	Point of Contact	Role in Project
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce	Becky Bartoszek, President (920) 734-7101 ebroten@foxcitieschamber.com	Assist with site identification/prioritization and facilitate redevelopment of brownfield opportunities within Sherwood, Appleton/Kimberly business community.
Brillion Chamber of Commerce	Keith Krepline, President (920) 540-1322 info@brillionchamber.com	Assist with site identification/prioritization and facilitate redevelopment of brownfield opportunities within Brillion business community.
Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce	Nicci Sprangers, Director (920) 766-1616 nicci@heartofthevalleychamber.com	Assist with site identification/prioritization and facilitate redevelopment of brownfield opportunities within Kaukauna and area community.
Habitat for Humanity	Amy McGowan Vice President (920) 954-8702	Provide guidance on redeveloping brownfields for residential reuse. Possibly partnering with a unit of government to acquire/redevelop sites.
Multi-Cultural Coalition, Inc.	Lisa Cruz; Exec. Director (920) 365-4086 lisa@ourmci.org	Outreach and coordination within <u>disadvantaged communities</u> through a network of 25 active multicultural organizations.
State Bank of Chilton	Matt Meyers, Vice President (920) 756-2181 mmeyers@statebankofchilton.com	Provide guidance to BAC on identifying/prioritizing sites with greatest potential for securing funding and achieving project objectives.
Mosaic Ventures	Marissa Downs, President (920) 602-6679 downs@mosaicpropertyventures.com	Developer of LMI housing will serve on BAC to assist in identifying/prioritizing sites with greatest potential for multi-family (LMI) residential reuse.
New North	Renee Torzala, Vice President (920) 336-3860 Renee.torzala@thenewnorth.com	Support project outreach as part of 18-county economic development organization with experience in brownfield redevelopment projects.
Healthiest Calumet County Coalition	Catherine Ellis, RN (920) 849-1432 Catherine.ellis@calumetcounty.org	Assist with site identification/prioritization and facilitate outreach and coordination to <u>disadvantaged target populations</u> .
Groundwater Guardians	Judith Harl [REDACTED] Duwayne Klessig [REDACTED]	Provide outreach to increase awareness and encourage protection of groundwater resources. Assist in gaining access to private wells if work identifies health threats warranting well sampling.

Table 9. Organization	Point of Contact	Role in Project
USEPA and WDNR VPLE Project Managers	To Be Determined - Provide technical assistance and review/approval of eligibility determinations, sampling analysis plans, and project deliverables completed in Section 3, <i>Task 3 and 4</i> (e.g. Phase II ESA, Supp. SI, RAP). Aid with coordination with other federal and State agencies, if warranted.	

2.g. Incorporating Community Input. The cornerstone of Calumet County’s high-performing brownfields program developed during a FY19 USEPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant and continued during the FY23 USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant is public education and communication. Information dissemination, community feedback, and public meetings are integral elements of the process to engage and inform community members and provide an avenue for feedback from the community through workshops, resident questionnaires, and web-based engagement. Within one month of award, Calumet County (grantee) will develop a site-specific Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to leverage the expertise and networks of the BAC. The CIP will be designed specifically to engage and inform the underserved community members and to provide an avenue for input/feedback from the community. The CIP will also discuss how community input (including input from the Oneida Nation) will be considered and responded to. The approved CIP will be implemented in Fall/Winter 2026 to integrate community involvement utilizing the BAC to engage the community and local businesses in the assessment and overall redevelopment of Priority Sites. The timeline for community meetings will be outlined in the CIP. The County will hold at least one combined BAC/community meeting per quarter and/or at key points during the project, including: 1) upon grant award to discuss project initiation, tasks, schedule, and expectations with the community; 2) at the completion of Section 3, *Task 2*; 3) meetings in the community when assessment work begins or ends at Priority Sites, and; 4) at the completion of the project to highlight accomplishments. The County will host four targeted outreach activities/meetings in the groundwater protection area. Community input is critical during prioritization, and the County will consider input from the community when determining how to initially allocate funds towards assessment and prioritize sites. Additional community input will be considered as the County completes reuse plans and makes determinations on the need/justification for supporting supplemental investigation or remedial planning activities.

In-person and virtual outreach options will be provided and are well accepted by the community. Community meetings will be held in the evenings to accommodate work schedules of stakeholders. In addition, meetings will be held at a location served by the mass transit system and within walking distance of the Target Areas and Priority Sites. The meeting facility will be ADA-compliant to accommodate needs of sensitive populations (i.e. disabled or elderly). Copies of project outputs will be made available on the Calumet County and Outagamie County websites. Hard copies of all project outputs will be made available at the Calumet County Courthouse and at the Outagamie County Courthouses to ensure access.

Although it is anticipated that most communications will be in English, it is important that non-English speaking households are aware of environmental activities that directly impact them. Thus, the County will work with the project partners to develop and distribute information in Spanish as well as offer translation and interpretation services as needed. Spanish speakers will be reached through the regional Spanish radio station (92.7 FM) and translated materials provided through local retailers. The local newspaper will likely be a significant source of information dissemination. Printed materials will be placed in local businesses within the Target Areas (e.g. ethnic grocery stores and restaurants, churches, laundromats, retail outlets, etc.). Pop-up displays of site renderings at summer farmer’s markets will allow for socially-distant feedback. The displays will have QR Codes to allow cell phone users direct access to the project website to leave comments. The BAC will work with the Oneida Nation, if translation services for members are needed.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3. Description of Tasks/Activities & Outputs. Calumet County has developed the appropriate tools and procedures to immediately begin implementation of this grant and execute key project activities within the performance period. The County retained a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) firm per the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.317 - 200.326 and 2 CFR Part 1500 to perform the environmental assessment tasks described herein. The following table summarizes project activities and responsibilities:

Task 1 - Program Management
a. Project Implementation: Extend current contract with a QEP consulting firm; prepare Quarterly Reports and update ACRES; prepare Annual Financial Reports; prepare Grant Closeout Report.
b. Anticipated Project Schedule: QEP contract extended by the time the Cooperative Agreement is issued (estimated October 1, 2026). Quarterly progress reports will be submitted and ACRES updated by January 30th, April 30th, July 30th, and October 30th of each year, with the first quarterly report and ACRES update due on January 30, 2027. Annual financial reports will be submitted by October 30th of each year, with the first due on October 30, 2027. Grant closeout report expected by October 30, 2030.
c. Task/Activity Leads: Calumet County Project Manager with input from QEP.
d. Outputs: Administrative records; extended QEP contract and procurement documentation; (15) Quarterly Reports; (3) Annual Financial Reports; (1) Grant Closeout Report/Financial Report.

Task 2 – Brownfield Inventory and Prioritization							
a. Project Implementation: Update Calumet and Outagamie County dynamic federal and state geographic information system (GIS) database records with sites of potential concern, update collection of historic brownfield-related maps, update prioritization scoring for priority sites, update cloud-based brownfields GIS Database.							
b. Identifying Additional Sites: As noted in Section 1, we have identified over 7,300 potential brownfields. Task 2 will be a coalition-wide task and will undoubtedly identify additional brownfield Sites for prioritization under this grant.							
c. Anticipated Schedule: Begin in Q1 FY27 and complete by Q2 FY27, with annual updates by Q1 of FY28 to FY30							
d. Task/Activity Lead: Calumet County PM with support from County GIS staff and QEP							
e. Outputs: Inventory GIS Files; Inventory Report (tables, maps, # of sites identified); Prioritization Memorandum							
Task 3 – Phase I and II ESAs, Supplemental Site Investigations, Remedial Action Plans, Revitalization Planning							
a. Project Implementation: This task includes completion of (17) eligibility determinations (EDs) and access agreements; (17) Phase I ESAs followed by up to (17) Sampling and Analysis Plans (SSSAPs); and (17) Phase II ESAs on the priority sites identified in Section 1.c and other sites prioritized for assessment in Task 2. The task includes (10) Supplemental (Supp.) SSSAPs & Supp. Site Investigations (SIs) followed by (6) Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) at the Priority Sites and/or other sites prioritized for assessment in Task 2. Site-Specific Revitalization/Reuse Plans with public charrettes will be completed at the (6) Priority Sites identified in Section 1.c. Area-wide plans (AWP) based on market studies and focusing on supporting the housing needs will be completed in the (6) target census tracts. ED requests will be submitted to the USEPA (for hazardous substance brownfields) or the WDNR (for petroleum brownfields) for approval. Phase I ESAs will comply with the All Appropriate Inquiry Final Rule and the ASTM E1527-21. Phase II ESAs will be conducted per ASTM 1903-19. SIs and RAPs will be prepared per the requirements of the WDNR found in ch. NR 700 Wisconsin Administrative Code. This task also includes updating the existing quality assurance project plan (QAPP) and completing annual QAPP reviews.							
b. Identifying Additional Sites: Six priority sites are summarized in Section 1.c. Additional sites identified in Task 2 (including potential sites on the Oneida Nation) will also be targeted for work under Task 3.							
c. Anticipated Schedule: First EDs and Phase I ESA by Q1 FY27 with work through the grant performance period.							
d. Task/Activity Lead: Calumet County PM to coordinate work with coalition members and the QEP, prepare/execute access agreements, and complete review of all reports and plans. The QEP will complete the ED's, Phase I ESAs, QAPP updates, SSSAPs, Phase II ESAs, Supplemental SIs, RAPs, and Revitalization Plans, AWP.							
e. Outputs: Up to 17 EDs + access agreements; (17) Phase I ESAs; 17 SSSAPs + 17 Phase II ESAs; 10 Supp. SSSAPs+10 Supp. SIs; 6 RAPs; 6 Site-Specific Revitalization Plans; (6) AWP; QAPP Updates							
Task 4 – Community Outreach							
a. Project Implementation: This task includes: preparation of the CIP; hosting up to (16) combined BAC/community meetings in neighborhoods within the Target Areas; hosting (5) focus meetings for each Priority Site; preparation of fact sheets and press releases; preparation of a project webpage and maintaining with updates; and present at the 2027 and 2029 National Brownfields Conferences and several Regional/State brownfield meetings.							
b. Anticipated Schedule: First BAC/community meeting in Q1 FY27; then quarterly through FY30. Meeting in Priority Site neighborhoods in Q2 FY27; with (2) meetings in Q1 FY28. Regional/State/National meetings in 2027-2029.							
c. Task/Activity Lead: County PM and BAC.							
d. Outputs: CIP; meeting agendas, notes, sign-in sheets; project fact sheets and press releases; project webpage, with updates; presentation materials for National/Regional/State Brownfields Conferences.							

3.e. Cost Estimates. The proposed budget for grant funded activities is provided below, followed by an explanation for how cost estimates were developed and applied, including unit costs as applicable. Unit rates for project deliverables and QEP hourly rates are based on the County’s FY23 Coalition Assessment Grant. Personnel (\$38/hr) and fringe (\$12/hr) are averages of County staff. The budget assumes the project will be completed in four years (i.e. Q4 FY30).

Line #	Budget Categories	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Admin. Costs	Total
		Program Management	Inventory & Prioritization Update	Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, Supp. Site Investigations, Remedial Planning, Revitalization Plan	Community Outreach		
1	Personnel	\$7,296	\$9,120	\$11,856	\$6,384		\$34,656
2	Fringe	\$2,304	\$2,880	\$3,744	\$2,016		\$10,944
3	Travel				\$12,000		\$12,000
4	Supplies				\$1,900		\$1,900
5	Contractual	\$18,000	\$10,500	\$1,408,500			\$1,437,000
6	Other				\$3,500		\$3,500
TOTAL BUDGET		\$27,600	\$22,500	\$1,424,100	\$25,800	\$0	\$1,500,000

Select acronyms: Target Area = (6) Census Tracts; see Section 1.a; Priority Brownfields = (6) properties; see Section 1.c); Non-Leads: Outagamie County; Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.; LMI = low to moderate income; ESA = environmental site assessment; WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; [blue underlined text](#) are active hyperlinks

Task 1 – Program Management: Total Budget = \$27,600

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel/Fringe Costs of \$9,600 is budgeted for an estimated 192hr of work @ \$50/hr by County PM and staff in completing various Cooperative Agreement oversight and reporting activities/deliverables for *Task 1* described in Section 3.a-d (4hr/month x 48 months). Contractual Costs of \$18,000 are for an estimated 120hr of work by QEP @ \$150/hr in to provide assistance in completing various reports (2.5hr/month x 48 months).

Task 2 – Brownfield Inventory and Prioritization Update: Total Budget = \$22,500

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel/Fringe Costs of \$12,000 are budgeted for an estimated 240 hr of work @ \$50/hr by County GIS staff to expand expand/update the current GIS inventory and prioritization rubric. Contractual Costs of \$10,500 for 70hr of work by QEP @ \$150/hr to support the County's identification and prioritization efforts.

Task 3 – Phase I and II ESAs, Supp. Site Investigations, Remedial Action Planning, Revitalization Planning: Total Budget = \$1,424,100

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel/Fringe Costs of \$15,600 are budgeted for an estimated 312 hr of work @ \$50/hr by County PM and staff for preparing/executing access agreements, coordinating QEP work, and reviewing deliverables (12hr/site for 17 sites), and organizing/hosting six charrettes/meetings as part of Revitalization Planning (108 hr). Contractual Costs of \$1,408,500 include costs for the QEP to complete QAPP updates (\$10,000); 17 ED forms (@\$2,000 each = \$34,000); 17 Phase I ESAs (@\$7,000 each = \$119,000); 17 SSSAPs (@\$2,500 each = \$42,500); 17 Phase II ESAs (@\$23,000 each = \$391,000); 10 Supp. SSSAPs and Supp. SIs (@\$32,000 each = \$320,000); 6 RAPs (@ \$7,000 each = \$42,000); 6 Site-Specific Revitalization Plans (@ \$25,000 each = \$150,000); 6 AWP's (@ \$50,000 each = \$300,000). Note that planning is 30% of the project budget.

Task 4 – Community Outreach: Total Budget = \$25,800

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel/Fringe Costs of \$8,400 are budgeted for an estimated 168 hr of work @ \$50/hr by County PM and staff to develop the CIP (24hr), organizing and hosting quarterly outreach events (3hr/quarter*16 quarters); presenting at local community meetings (12hr/meeting*5 meetings); and attending/presenting at regional/state meetings (12hr/meeting*3 meetings). Supply Costs of \$1,900 are budgeted for printing costs (\$1,000) and mailing costs for public notices (\$900). Travel Costs of \$12,000 are for (2) Calumet County staff and (3) Coalition members to attend (2) three-day National Brownfield Conferences in 2027 and 2029 [\$7,800 for meals and for lodging (@\$260/person/night); \$3,500 for air travel (@\$350/person/conference); and \$700 for ground transportation (@ \$70/person/conference)]. Other Costs of \$3,500 are registration fees for (2) Calumet County staff and (3) coalition members to attend (2) three-day National Brownfield Conferences in 2027 and 2029 (\$350/person/conference).

3.f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results. Project outputs and schedule will be tracked weekly to ensure the grant funds are expended in a timely and efficient manner to the greatest benefit of the community. Outputs will be compared to the project schedule proposed in Section 3.b; if a deviation of more than one fiscal quarter is reached, interventions (ex. increased team meetings) will be implemented to maintain the project schedule. Project results and outcomes will be tracked, and progress measured/evaluated monthly using existing tools developed by the grant applicant and summarized in quarterly progress reports and annual financial reports prepared during the project under *Task 1*. Project outcomes and accomplishments, including project milestones/deliverables, and leveraged resources will further be tracked on a monthly/quarterly basis in the ACRES database. Overall project outcomes will be tracked/quantified in the final progress report by comparing future community demographics/welfare characteristics to current conditions and will include: 1) increased sustainable manufacturing through generation/retention of new businesses and jobs, 2) increased housing opportunities; 3) stabilized downtowns by increasing appealing retail amenities and removing vacant properties that often harbor criminal activity, and 4) elimination of health and safety threats to sensitive populations through improved drinking water quality. If the timelines for advancing one or more phases of work are not well aligned with the USEPA grant project period, the County and QEP firm will work with WDNR/USEPA to adjust the approach to maintain progress on achieving the project outcomes. Outcomes will be tracked long term on a five-year basis by the County and reported in future brownfield conferences/fact sheets/County website.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY & PAST PERFORMANCE

4.a. and 4.b Organizational Capacity/Organization Structure. Calumet County has the programmatic and administrative capacity to successfully manage and complete the grant within the four-year performance period. This grant will be managed by the same team of high performing staff members from the County currently managing the FY23 Coalition Assessment Grant and currently leading business retention and development activities targeting redevelopment of the catalyst priority brownfield properties. The County retained a QEP consulting firm per the requirements of 2 CFR 200.317 - 200.326 to assist in managing grant activities and perform the environmental assessment tasks. The Calumet County Economic Development Program will be the lead agency on the project. The County Planning Department will provide brownfield project coordination and inventory management. The County Finance Department will provide financial tracking to ensure that grant requirements are met.

4.c Description of Key Staff.

Mr. Jason Pausma, Calumet County Community Economic Development Director, currently serves as the Brownfield Project Manager for the County's high performing and highly successful FY23 USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant.

Mr. Pausma will continue to serve as the Brownfield Project Manager for this project to leverage lessons learned while ensuring the timely and successful expenditure of funds to complete all technical, administrative, and financial requirements of the grant. In this role, Mr. Pausma will continue to be responsible for coordination with coalition members, project performance, and coordination with USEPA/WDNR. Mr. Pausma has 20 years of professional experience working on projects that include brownfields, hazardous waste management, air and groundwater quality, community and real estate development, organizational development, and business support. His expertise will result in the successful administration of the grant. In 2021 Mr. Pausma stepped into the role as the project manager for the City of Oshkosh's high performing and highly successful FY19 USEPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant. Mr. Pausma also has experience in overseeing the City of Oshkosh HUD CDBG program, as well as managing a talent attraction grant for Calumet County. His expertise will result in the successful administration of the grant.

Mr. Rick Sense, Economic Development & Tourism Specialist, currently serves as the Assistant Brownfield Project Manager for the County's high performing and highly successful FY23 USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant. Mr. Sense has 10 years of US congressional experience working with constituents on grant applications and grant-funded projects. Additionally, in the not-for-profit arena, he has been involved in program management, tracking compliance with workplans/cooperative agreements, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders on numerous grant projects and initiatives focused on supporting veterans' workforce programming.

Mr. Pausma and Mr. Sense will also capitalize on the expertise of six additional Calumet County staff including a Groundwater Specialist, two Zoning Administrators, a GIS Specialist, a Planner, and an administration specialist, as well as working in collaboration with similar staff in Outagamie County and the Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.

As noted in Section 2.e-f, Mr. Pausma and Mr. Sense will be supported by two exemplary coalition members and a regionally diverse BAC of community stakeholders directly involved with housing equity and commercial/economic growth in disadvantaged communities, lending institutions, developers, health experts, and environmental stewardship.

4.d Acquiring Additional Resources. The County retained a QEP consulting firm per the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.317 - 200.326 and 2 CFR Part 1500 to perform the environmental assessment tasks described herein. If needed, additional contractors can be procured following these methods. The County will utilize the expertise of the BAC, to provide guidance on strategic use of grant funds to complete the project.

4.e Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant.

USEPA Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substances (FY23; \$1,000,000)

1. Accomplishments: The County and coalition members are accomplishing more than required in the workplan ahead of schedule. Outputs to date include (33) Phase I ESAs, (31) Phase II ESAs, (13) supplemental investigations, and (13) cleanup plans at 26 properties. Several property transactions are complete, leveraging \$3,500,000 in private redevelopment and \$150,000 in State assessment grants. The grant was catalytic in continuing work at a 145-acre foundry set to leverage well beyond \$20,000,000 in investment for multi-family residential and industrial redevelopment in the next five years. Funding was used by a small rural village to acquire a large brownfield and redevelopment is underway for a new mixed-use commercial/public Village Center. All project milestones continue to be updated in ACRES. Outcomes are working toward meeting the need of creating new healthy housing and sustainable job creation.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements: The County is maintaining compliance with the workplan/schedule and the terms/conditions of the cooperative agreement. The County continues to submit the required annual financial reports, quarterly reports, and project deliverables in a timely manner per the workplan and cooperative agreement schedule. All remaining funding is committed to eligible grant activities. The County will keep the ACRES database up to date and anticipates finishing the project by Q4 FY26, at which point no funds will remain.

USEPA Communitywide Brownfield Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substances (FY19; \$300,000)

1. Accomplishments: The County accomplished more than required in the workplan ahead of schedule. Outputs include (7) Phase I ESAs, (2) geophysical surveys, and (15) Phase II ESAs at 16 properties. Several property transactions are complete, leveraging \$2,920,000 in private redevelopment, \$300,000 in State assessment grants, and creation of (4) full-time jobs and several part-time positions. The grant was catalytic in starting work at a former ductile iron foundry set to leverage well beyond \$50,000,000 in investment in the next five years. Critical to groundwater protection, a major GIS output from this project used existing remote sensing data to identify karst areas, which pose serious risk to groundwater quality. The County and BAC members are using this data to focus education/outreach efforts to protect the community. All project milestones continue to be updated in ACRES. Outcomes are working toward meeting the need of sustainable job creation/preservation in Calumet.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements: The performance period for this grant was October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022. The County met all schedule and reporting milestones and maintained compliance with the work plan, schedule, and all terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement. The County prepared and submitted all quarterly performance and grant deliverables on schedule and all project milestones were recorded using the ACRES database. The County made timely progress towards achieving the expected results with reports submitted on a timely basis. The grant has been expended and the grant closeout package was submitted and accepted.

ATTACHMENT A: THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Name of Applicant: Calumet County, Wisconsin

1. Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members

- a. Coalition Lead – Calumet County, Wisconsin.** Calumet County, Wisconsin is a “general purpose unit of local government” as that term is defined in 2 CFR 200.64 and is therefore eligible to receive a USEPA cooperative assessment agreement and serve as the lead member of a brownfield assessment coalition.
- a. Coalition Member – Outagamie County, Wisconsin** is a “general purpose unit of local government” as that term is defined in 2 CFR 200.64 and is therefore eligible to be a member in a brownfield assessment coalition.
- a. Coalition Member – Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is therefore eligible to be a member in a brownfield assessment coalition. Documentation of nonprofit status is provided in Attachment A1.
- b. 501(c)(4).** Not applicable; neither the lead applicant nor coalition members are exempt from Federal taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the IRC.

2. Target Areas

Priority brownfields are located in (6) distinct local municipalities, as summarized below:

Coalition Member	Target Area	Priority Brownfield	Address
Calumet County (lead)	Village of Sherwood - Main Street Corridor	Former Gravel Mine	W520 Clifton Road Sherwood, Wisconsin
	City of Brillion – Iron Works Corridor	Redevelopment Area 6	245 E Ryan St Brillion, Wisconsin
Outagamie County (non-lead)	City of Appleton – Neenah Paper Mill Corridor	Former Neenah Paper Mill	430 E South Island St, Appleton, Wisconsin
	Village of Kimberly – Kimberly Paper Mill Corridor	Specialty Minerals	442 N Main Street Kimberly, Wisconsin
Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (non-lead)	City of Kaukauna – Fox River Corridor	Former Railyard Rights of Way	Fox Shore Drive and the Fox River Kaukauna, Wisconsin
	Village of Fox Crossings – Fox River Paper Route	Former Railroad Rights of Way	Butte Des Morts Beach Rd and the Fox River Fox Crossings, Wisconsin

3. Non-Lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant

- 1. **Outagamie County, Wisconsin** has never received a MARC grant.
- 2. **Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.** has never received a MARC grant.

4. Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members

- a. The lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.
- b. Given multiple overlapping local jurisdictions (i.e., the City of Appleton's municipal boundary extends across multiple county lines), Calumet County has a long history of providing a variety of governmental services (including emergency response, utilities, etc.) to neighboring communities through intergovernmental agreements.

5. Coalition Agreement

The existing Memorandum of Agreement is provided in Attachment A2. The MOA will be amended following award of the FY26 Coalition Assessment Grant to align with current cooperative agreement terms and conditions.

6. Community Involvement

The existing Calumet County Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC) established to provide for input during implementation of the Calumet County current Coalition Assessment Grant will be expanded to represent a regionally diverse combination of community stakeholders directly involved with commercial/economic growth, housing equity, social/environmental justice in disadvantaged communities, lending institutions, developers, health experts, and environmental stewardship. The regional BAC will work with Calumet County to inform and involve the community and other stakeholders during the planning, implementation, and other Brownfield assessment activities described in this proposal.

Within one month of award, Calumet County (grantee) will develop a site-specific CIP to leverage the expertise and networks of the BAC. The CIP will be designed specifically to engage and inform the underserved community members and to provide an avenue for input/feedback from the community. The CIP will also discuss how community input will be considered and responded to. The approved CIP will be implemented in Fall/Winter 2026 to integrate community involvement utilizing the BAC to engage the community and local businesses in the assessment and overall redevelopment of priority brownfields. The timeline for community meetings will be outlined in the CIP. The County will hold at least one combined BAC/community meeting per quarter and/or at key points during the project, including: (A) a meeting after grant award to discuss the project/grant with the community to discuss the process/what they can expect and timeframe of key activities; (B) a meeting at the completion of Task 2; (C) meetings in the community when assessment work begins or ends at prioritized Sites; (D) meeting at the completion of the project to highlight accomplishments. The County will host 4 targeted outreach activities/meetings in the groundwater protection area. Community input is critical during prioritization, and the County will consider input from the community when determining how to initially allocate funds towards assessment and prioritize sites. Additional community input will be considered as the County completes reuse plans and makes determinations on the need/justification for supporting supplemental investigation or remedial planning activities.

In-person outreach is slowly returning to the region following the COVID pandemic; however

virtual options will continue to be provided and are well accepted by the community. Community meetings will be held in the evenings to accommodate work schedules of stakeholders. In addition, meetings will be held at a location served by the mass transit system and within walking distance of the target neighborhoods. The meeting facility will be ADA-compliant to accommodate needs of sensitive populations (i.e. disabled or elderly). Electronic copies of project outputs will be made available on the Calumet County and Outagamie County websites. Hard copies of all project outputs will be made available at the Calumet County Courthouse and at the Outagamie County Courthouses to ensure access to stakeholders.

Although it is anticipated that most communications will be in English, it is important that non-English speaking households are aware of environmental activities that directly impact them, thus the County will work with the project partners to develop and distribute information in Spanish as well as offer translation and interpretation services as needed. Spanish speakers will be reached through the regional Spanish radio station (92.7 FM) and translated materials provided through local retailers. The local newspaper will likely be a significant source of information dissemination. Printed materials will be placed in local businesses within the Target Areas (e.g. ethnic grocery stores and restaurants, churches, laundromats, retail outlets, etc.). Pop-up displays of Site renderings at summer farmer's markets will allow for socially-distant feedback. The displays could have QR Codes to allow cell phone users direct access to the project website to leave comments.

7. Expenditures of Existing Grant Funds

Calumet County has an open coalition assessment grant. As noted in Attachment A3, the County drew down and disbursed 71% of the funding by October 1, 2025; therefore, the County is eligible to apply under this funding opportunity.

8. Contractors and Named Subrecipients

a. Contractors. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. was retained in compliance with 2 CFR 200.317-200.326, 2 CFR Part 1500, and USEPA's Best Practices Guide to Procuring Services to serve as the QEP consulting firm to assist with implementation of this cleanup grant, if awarded.

The Calumet County issued a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for comprehensive brownfield services on September 1, 2023, with a due date of October 2, 2023 (31 days). The RFQ was published on the County's website and the County reached out directly to 47 potential contractors. The RFQP scored responses by six criteria, **with cost weighted 25% of the total score**. The County received 7 responses and selected Stantec.

The September 1, 2023 RFQP and Stantec's contract are all available through OneDrive. Please email the grant applicant (Jason Pausma; Jason.Pausma@calumetcounty.org) for the login and password.

b. Subrecipients. n/a; a subrecipient has not been named in this grant proposal.