



## MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 10:30am

**Meeting Location:** 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403 Conf Rm. 5

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 2490 743 8860. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

### **Park Commission Members -**

Commissioners: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski, Lou Larson, Vacant

***Marathon County Mission Statement:** Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

***Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement:** Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

### **Agenda Items**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting. Topics must be relevant to the Committee’s area of jurisdiction.**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 5, 2023 Park Commission Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Removal or Replacement of the Big Rapids Dam
    2. Marathon Park Usage and Campground Operations
    3. 2024 Commission Meeting Dates – January 4
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. None
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
    1. None
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
  - A. Acceptance of State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assistance
  - B. Discussion of Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee’s 2024 Proposed Budget and Possible Recommendations Regarding Modifications

**7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. Project Update (Bluegill Bay Path, DC Everest Restroom, Dells of Eau Claire, Marathon Park, Peoples Sports Complex, Nine Mile Events, Rib Falls Reclamation, Winterization)

**8. Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr. Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403
- B. Future Agenda Items – Bat HCP Enrollment Program

**9. Adjourn**

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley  
Presiding Officer or Her  
Designee

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.*

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD  
COURTHOUSE

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date September 29, 2023 Time 1:30 p.m.

By Jodi Luebbe

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA SUMMARY**

**4A1. Discussion and Possible Action on the Removal or Replacement of the Big Rapids Dam.**

The dam at Big Rapids Park was installed many years ago and utilizes stop logs to control the impoundment depth. The dam is not required for this section of river. It was installed to form a swimming area for the park. The dam structure has failed, and water is currently undermining the dam and the stop logs cannot be utilized. As a municipality/county, we would be eligible to apply for the Municipal Dam Grant for either removal or reconstruction. NR 335 is the section of administrative code that governs this program. Eligible and ineligible costs are discussed in NR 335.08 ([click here for link](#)), and it is noted there that engineering fees for design are eligible for reimbursement under the grant even if they are incurred prior to applying. This program is a 50% cost share from the department, so the county would have to fund the other half. Also, this program is competitive and may not fund all projects that are applied for. All costs must be paid up front and the grant reimburses eligible costs after construction is complete.

There is a separate program that is available to all persons for removal (not reconstruction) of dams, which is the Dam Removal Grant. NR 336 is the section of administrative code that governs this program. Eligible and ineligible costs are discussed in NR 336.09 ([click here for link](#)). Note here that engineering fees for design are eligible, but that costs for determining the fate of the dam are not. This program is 100% paid for by the WIDNR but is capped at \$50K.

Staff did seek proposals from local engineering firms to determine the cost of the engineering fees. One proposal was received from Becher Hoppe. Depending on whether the dam is repaired or removed engineering fees could range from \$31,880-\$39,315. As mentioned above one grant is a 50% match and one grant has a cap of \$50K. Staff is seeking the direction of the Park Commission on whether to repair or remove the dam and authorization to apply for the appropriate grant. Currently funding is not allocated with the 2023 or 2024 budget for this project. If a grant is successful and there is a funding responsibility by the County, staff will bring back funding options for the County's share.

**4A2. Discussion and Possible Action on Marathon Park Usage and Campground Operations**

Staff will update the Commission on current items that have been taking place within the campground and other areas of Marathon Park relating to vandalism and illegal activity by member of the public. Staff will also update the Commission on the City Council's recent passage of an ordinance that will restrict drinking in the city parks before 4:00pm without an event or rental permit and how this may affect the county parks within the city.

**4A3. Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 Commission Meeting Dates**

The tentative 2024 Park Commission meeting dates are attached. These dates are based on the tentative ERC meeting dates. It has been practice to have the Park Commission meeting before the ERC meetings in order to move items forward to the County Board in a timely manner.

**6A. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assistance**

Every year, tornadoes and other extreme windstorms cause numerous injuries and deaths in the United States. In the Marathon County Hazard Mitigation Plan that was updated in 2022, tornadoes and high winds were identified in the top three hazards likely to impact Marathon County. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partner in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Emergency Management, help protect people from severe wind events by promoting safe rooms. A safe room can be constructed or installed on a property to serve a residence or within the community to serve a larger number of people. FEMA and WEM have made grants available for all aspects of saferooms from the feasibility and design to construction. The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department in partnership with Emergency Management worked with WEM to apply for a grant to complete a

project scoping activity to determine the location, cost effectiveness, and the design of a future community safe room.

The County received notification that the grant application was awarded in the amount of \$300,000 in which \$225,000 is from FEMA, \$37,500 is from WEM and a required local match of \$37,500. The total grant award of \$300,000 will be utilized for the feasibility study, design, site testing, public outreach and a cost-benefit analysis. The County already planned to conduct a feasibility study for the ice arena which could serve a dual purpose as a saferoom. The \$32,500 secured of non levy funds to complete the study meets a portion of the local match and in-kind services in the amount of \$5,000 will fulfill the required local match requiring no additional county funding. This project could be similar to the Forensic Science Center by providing a valuable service to the community, enhance the uses of the facility and reduce the costs to the taxpayers. Conducting the project scoping project does not obligate the county to construct the facility. Additional State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grants are available for construction if or when that phase would occur.

The closest saferoom is in the Village of Spencer. The Spencer school district was awarded just under \$3 Million in 2019 towards an addition to their high school that they were planning to build as part of a successful referendum. The grant award allowed them to complete the saferoom and utilize the approved referendum funding for other critical district needs. The addition includes a gymnasium and fitness center and also serves as the community's saferoom. The FEMA press release is included in the packet.

The Park Commission is asked to recommend to the Environmental Resources Committee and County Board the acceptance of the State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assistance Agreement for the project scoping activity for providing a saferoom to the citizens of Marathon County.

**6B. Discussion of Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee's 2024 Proposed Budget and Possible Recommendations Regarding Modifications**

Staff has submitted a budget request for 2024 that has a 1% increase in operational expenses over 2023 to the County Administrator for his consideration and use in preparing his executive budget. The County Administrator's budget has been accepted by the Human Resources and Finance Committee (HRFC) for consideration. Each committee is asked to review the budgets of the departments that they work with and provide comments to the HRFC by November 6, 2023. Staff wishes to make the committee aware of the primary components of the proposed budget. Attached is a levy summary sheet of all County PRF budgets reflecting an overall 1.1% increase from 2023 to 2024 which meets the directive the County Administrator put forth. Below is a summary of the budgets with levy changes:

Snowmobile Trails Coordinator Budget: The overall levy is down \$1,708. In 2022 this position was in the first year of being full time and costs for 2024 have been allocated more efficiently to the grant and city/county recreation programs.

Peoples Sports Complex Budget: The levy support was reduced by \$14,534 due mostly to the purchase of a robotic line striper. The striper allowed us to decrease our part-time staffing cost by \$10,000 and our paint cost by \$3,000. The goal of the sports complex is to be 70% cost recovery. The budget for 2024 has the complex at 72.8% cost recovery.

County Park Budget: Attached is a 2023-2024 budget comparison of the County Park budget. The overall levy is up \$35,517. Personnel costs attribute to the majority of the increase. Staff was directed by the County Administrator to increase wages by 3% and increase revenue and decrease expenses

as much as possible with no more than a 1% increase to operational costs. Staff scrutinized each line item to ensure the funding requested was accurate and reflective of past year's activities.

Notable changes to expenditures include \$4,021 increase for a Sheriff's Department Recreation Deputy, \$20,690 increase for water, electric, sewer & gas, \$1,900 increase to refuse collection, \$2,475 (4%) increase in IT services, software and credit card fees, \$9,000 increase in gas & diesel fuel, \$5,850 increase registration and tuition for CDL training based on new requirements, \$3,000 increase in other raw materials for firewood, \$1,500 increase in concrete and \$15,240 (5%) increase in insurance and incremental increases/decreases in a handful of other expenditures.

Overall revenues increased by \$30,524. Notable changes include a \$26,776 decrease in balance fund transfer, \$11,400 in recreation fees, \$13,000 increase in shelter reservations, \$20,000 increase for ice rentals, and incremental increases/decreases in a handful of other revenues.

Also attached is a summary list of the 2024 PRF County Small Maintenance Projects.

The HRFC has recommended a 20% increase to rolling stock for 2024 as part of the budget process. This would increase the department's rolling stock allocation from \$173,460 to \$209,680. The County and the City split the rolling stock budget 50/50 so the requested amount from the City will be also \$209,680.

The Marathon Junction budget looks to have a substantial increase however in 2023 Marathon Junction was closed due to the water project within Marathon Park. This was a known activity and the revenue and expenditures were significantly reduced in 2023 to reflect this closure. The 2024 budget includes regular operation of the Marathon Junction.

Staff have met with the County Administrator and he accepted our 2024 budget as submitted and included it in the budget submitted to HRFC. If the committee so chooses they can make a motion to approve or amend the county park budgets and move them ahead through the annual budget process.

7A. Project Update

**Bluegill Bay** ADA path to playground, restroom, and shelter is complete (DPW)

**DC Everest** restroom installation begins 10/2

**Dells of the Eau Claire** beach parking lot paving is complete

**Marathon Park:** Hosted first US Hockey League game on rink 1.

Rink 2 goes in later in October.

Campground shower building doors vandalized to the point of replacement.

**People Sports Complex:** Hosted the MC United Fall Cub and will continue to hold games through mid-November.

**Nine Mile Events:** RAGNAR at Nine Mile was again a success with over 1700 participants.

**Rib Falls Reclamation:** The reclamation plan has been completed by REI and has been submitted to County Materials. County Materials is working internally to plan for the reclamation work that should begin yet this year and continue into 2024.

**Winterization:** Water winterization is underway

**DRAFT**  
**MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

Date and Time of Meeting: September 5, 2023 at 10:30am      Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski-(via Webex)

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director-(via Webex), Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations

Others present: Justin Horacek

**1. Call to Order** – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30 am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

**2. Public Comment** – Justin Horacek, 261 Parkside Drive, Dorchester – was interested in more walking paths being put in at Cherokee Park. He had thoughts about where they go and would volunteer his time and try to find others.

Commissioner Lou Larson questioned if the Department was planning to add a pre-school playground back at 3M Park and if there was any consideration for a restroom. Polley said the playground there should have features already for ages 2-12. Bathrooms are not being considered there at this time.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 1, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the August 1 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Reestablishing LuLu B Jacobs Memorial Park – Supervisor Gisselman, who also is part of the Marathon County Historical Society has brought to the Department’s attention that in 1982 the beautification committee of the Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce planned and created the Lulu B. Jacob Memorial Terrace located on the west end of the courthouse along Fifth St upon obtaining permission from the County for use of the area. The park was built with funds from the Thomas Jacob Foundation. Mr. Jacob was the founder of Hammerblow Tool Company and the park was named in memory of his wife. The park contained stone tables, benches, trees, and planters. In 1988 the new jail was constructed, and the park was enclosed within the walls of the jail and over time forgotten. Today the area is closed off to the public, utilized as a storage area and all that remains in the area is one, possibly two stone tables and a plaque. The Park Commission is asked to consider reestablishing the park on the courthouse grounds in the north-west corner near the entrance to the jail. This area already has a park-like feel and could be established to have the same feel as the intended LuLu B Jacob Memorial Terrace. Polley mentioned that the Department already maintains this area and costs to re-establish would be very minimal. She noted that per ordinance the Park Commission has the authority to establish this park. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Larson to support reestablishing the LuLu B Jacobs Memorial Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

2. 2024 – 2025 Facility and Program Fee Schedule - The proposed 2024 – 2025 Facility and Program Fee schedule is recommended to be approved at this time to set the shelter rates for the following year. This allows the department to allow users to reserve shelters 12 months in advance. Staff is recommending adjustments to the fees that include a 3% increase in the shelter fees (2025), the addition of an annual bike pass at Nine Mile, a Memorial tree fee, reduction to snowshoe annual pass, the addition of a skate sharpening fee, increased camping based on anticipation of ARPA project approvals, and implementing punch card options for train and tubing. The increases proposed are to keep in line with CPI increases and the increased departmental staffing and equipment costs. Discussion occurred on the reasoning why the Department was considering changing the disc golf fee to a suggested donation at Big Eau Pleine Park. Commissioners agreed it should become a suggested donation. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to accept the fee schedule as proposed. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None**

**7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion**

A. Project Update – Marathon Park – Ice is going in rink 1 on 9/10, Cyclones’ have arranged for the first ever United States Hockey League game on 9/16 between the Madison Capitals Hockey Club and the Green Bay Gamblers Hockey, setting up the park for Art in the Park 9/8-9/10. Sunnyvale – Softball is complete for the season. Shooting Range – Painting is being completed and the range is gearing up for hunting season. Peoples Sports Complex – Preparing the field for the MC United Fall Cup tournament in 2 weeks. DC Everest Park – A self-serve kayak station has been installed, the restroom will be replaced the first week of October. Dells of Eau Claire – The Highway Department assisted with the installation of a new culvert by the manager’s cabin, the Highway Department will also assist with the pulverizing, grading and paving of the beach parking area. Pulverizing and grading will begin the week of 9/11 and paving is planned for the week of 9/18.

**8. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., Oct., 3, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Bat HCP Enrollment Program

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Opall, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.



Big Rapids Dam 2023



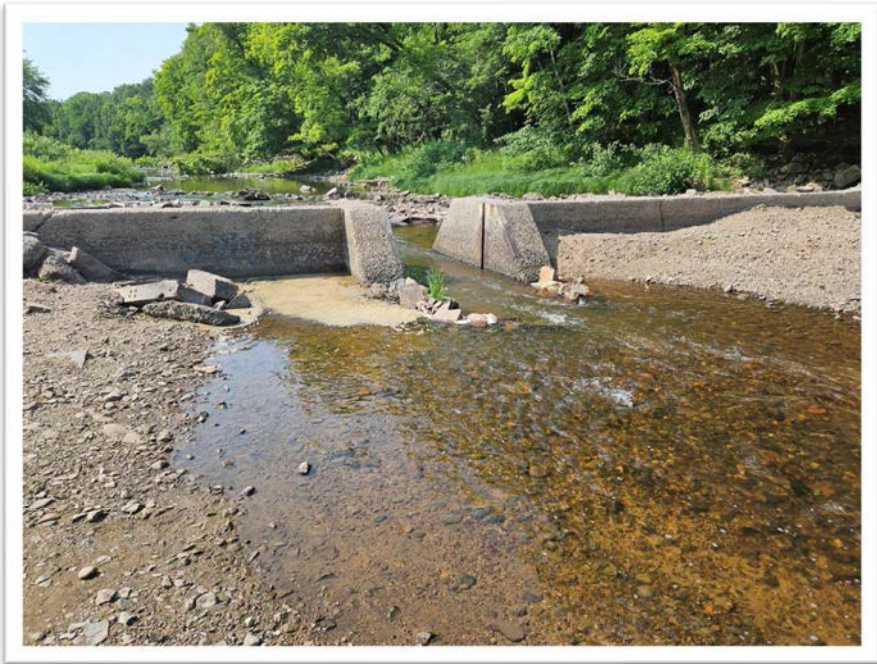


# Attachment 1

## Proposal

for Professional Engineering Services

**Big Rapids Park Dam, Marathon County  
Stratford, WI**



Presented to:

**Jamie Polley**  
Marathon County Parks,  
Recreation, and Forestry Director

Wausau, Wisconsin

**July 27, 2023**



330 N. 4th Street  
Wausau, WI 54403-5417  
715-845-8000

**[becherhoppe.com](http://becherhoppe.com)**



330 N. 4th Street, Wausau, WI 54403-5417  
715-845-8000 | becherhoppe.com

July 27, 2023

Jamie Polley  
Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Director  
Marathon County  
212 River Drive, Suite #2  
Wausau, WI 54403

Subject: Proposal for Engineering Design and Construction Services  
Big Rapids Park Dam Improvements

Jamie,

Thank you for the invitation to assist the County with the task of investigating potential improvements to the Big Rapids Park Dam located near Stratford, WI.

Becher-Hoppe Associates, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal for providing engineering design services. As you will see:

- ✓ Our team at Becher Hoppe has ample experience in dam inspections, dam removal plans, and dam reconstruction plans.
- ✓ We have a close working relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Staff through our recent projects in Marathon, Lincoln, Langlade, Portage, and Oconto Counties.
- ✓ In teaming with Becher Hoppe, Marathon County will be provided with ample information to make decisions that will best impact the waterway and the county residents that enjoy visiting the area.

We wish you the best in achieving all the goals for this project and please know that we are well suited to be a part of your team.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Wallner".

Aaron Wallner, PE  
Project Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew T Graun".

Matthew T Graun  
Vice President

## Membership

*American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)*

*American Public Works Association (APWA)*

*American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)*

*American Water Works Association (AWWA)*

*Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)*

*International Right of Way Association (IRWA)*

*National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)*

*National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)*

*Wisconsin Airport Management Association (WAMA)*

*Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS)*

## Awards

*2019 ACEC Engineering Excellence – Best in State for Special Project: Alexander Airport Park*

*2017 WisDOT Excellence in Highway Design – Best Rural Project: WIS 54 & CTH U Intersection*

*Engineering Excellence State Finalist Award (ACEC)*

*2023 – Central Wisconsin Airport Runway/Taxiway Improvements*

*2021 – City of Schofield Maryland/Radtke Roadways*

*2014 – Wausau Downtown Airport SRE Building*

*2013 – Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant*

*2012 – City of Wausau - 400 Block*

*Excellence in Airport Engineering (WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics)*

*2022 – Price County Airport*

*2021 – Central Wisconsin Airport*

*2014 – Price County Airport*

*2013 – Merrill Municipal Airport*

*2012 – Crandon-Steve Conway Municipal Airport*

*Project of the Year Award (APWA) 2012 – City of Wausau 400 Block*

## Our Mission

*To improve communities through engineering excellence.*

Becher Hoppe provides professional services to government, business, and individuals from our headquarters in Central Wisconsin. We offer planning, design, and construction services for civil engineering projects that involve airports, highways, roadways, trails, water and wastewater treatment systems, municipal utilities, stormwater management, dams, solid waste facilities, and agricultural site development. Other services include real estate appraisal and acquisition, mapping, land planning, and land surveying. We have been serving our clients since 1954.

## Our Core Values

*Service, Integrity, Excellence, Partnership*

The Associates at Becher Hoppe carefully assess each client's project needs to create innovative solutions. Our employee group is diverse in education, expertise and experience. Employees with construction review responsibilities also have substantial field experience. Our knowledgeable team works hard and enjoys the collaborative effort with our clients to fulfill their project goals.

## Company Information

Address: 330 N. 4th Street, Wausau, WI 54403-5417

Telephone Number: 715-845-8000

Website Address: [www.becherhoppe.com](http://www.becherhoppe.com)



## INTRODUCTION

Becher-Hoppe Associates, Inc. is pleased to provide this proposal for professional engineering services to analyze the Big Rapids Park Dam and provide construction plans, specifications, and bidding documents for either dam removal or repair. Becher Hoppe is a consulting engineering firm specializing in municipal/civil engineering services since our incorporation in 1954. Our office is headquartered in Wausau, Wisconsin and we have been serving clients throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest for over 69 years. Aaron Wallner, PE will serve as project manager and primary contact on this proposal with Archie Becher, PE as a secondary contact. Becher Hoppe specializes in dam safety related projects, and we look forward to the opportunity to provide our engineering expertise for the improvement of the Big Rapids Park Dam.

## STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Aaron Wallner, PE will serve as Project Manager and Archie Becher, PE will serve as project quality control engineer. Aaron has managed several dam removal and reconstruction projects and has a close working relationship with WDNR oversight staff. Mr. Becher has performed many similar projects in the past and both of their resumes are attached along with similar projects and references highlighted below.

Becher Hoppe recently completed a concrete rehabilitation project for the Jordan Pond Dam owned and operated by the Portage County Parks Department. Engineering services included repair evaluation, design, bidding, construction oversight, contract administration, grant application preparation/administration. Ryan Rose, Parks Director was the main contact on this project:

Ryan Rose  
Parks Director  
Portage County  
715-346-1435  
Email: roser@co.portage.wi.us

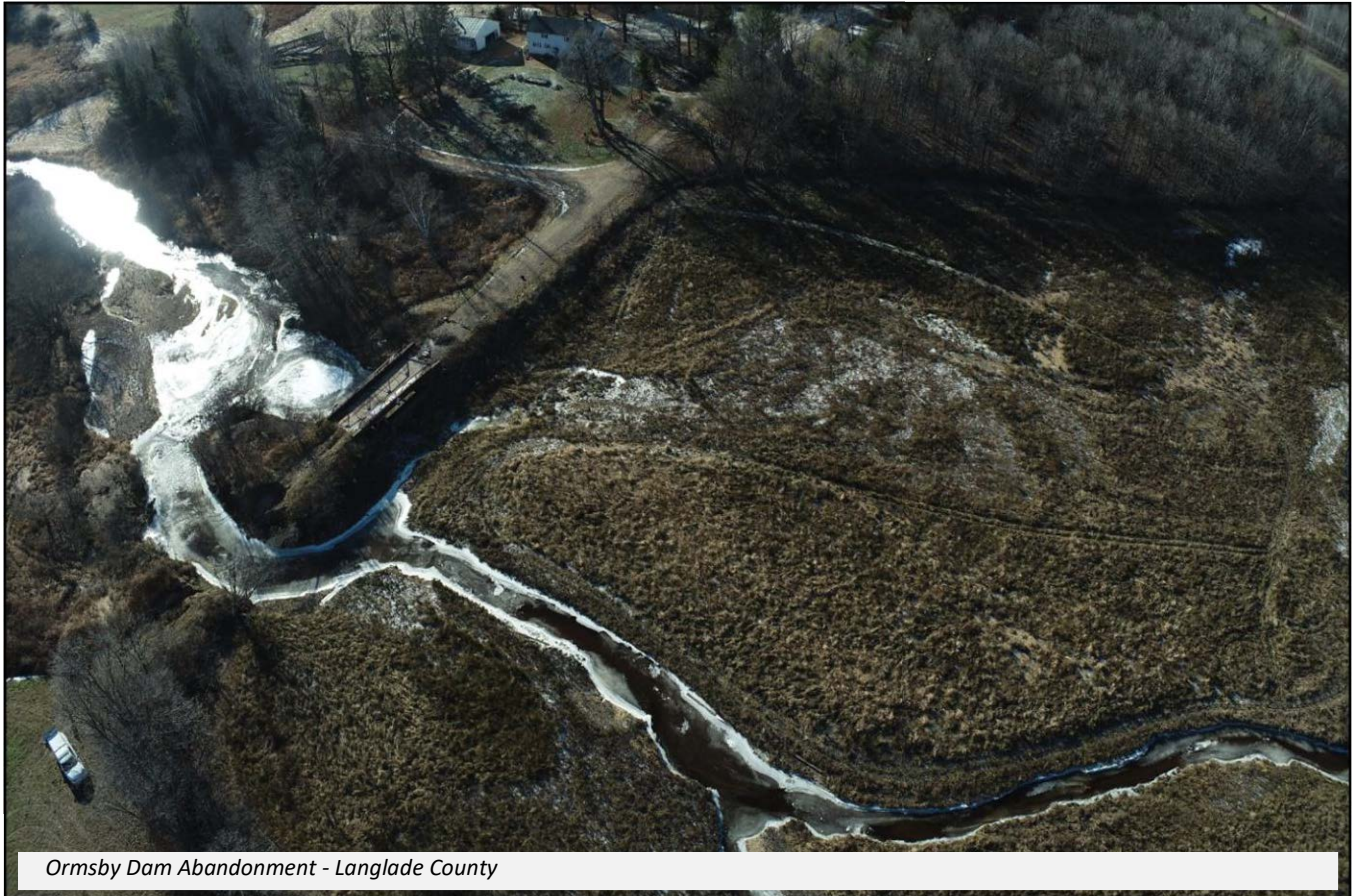


Since 2007, Becher Hoppe has provided Oconto County with dam safety engineering services for several dams owned by the Oconto County. Becher Hoppe has provided dam inspection and engineering services, including concrete rehabilitation projects on the Reservoir Dam, Chute Pond Dam, Leigh Lakes Dam, the Wheeler Dam, and the Weso Creek Dam. Monty Brink, Forest and Parks Administrator for Oconto County is the main contact for these projects:

Monty Brink  
Parks Director  
Oconto County  
920-834-6995  
Email: monty.brink@co.oconto.wi.us



Along with County owned and operated dams, Aaron and Archie have provided engineering services to private dam owners as well as dams that are owned and operated by state agencies. All of these projects have included regular inspections, removal/abandonment plans, and reconstruction plans. Through these projects, our staff has developed a working knowledge of regulatory expectations which allows us to efficiently serve our clients' needs. We have also attached general information about Becher-Hoppe Associates.



## PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND WORK PLAN

We understand that Marathon County desires to make improvements to the Big Rapids Park Dam so that it can operate as originally designed utilizing stop logs to control the impoundment depth. If this alternative is too costly, the County will fully remove the dam. The County plans to pursue funding assistance through the WDNR municipal dam grant programs, and the total project cost will determine which route will be pursued.

Below you will find our full approach to the project from initiation to completion. It is our understanding that the full scope of the work is subject to change depending on the nature of the construction work to be completed. Therefore, we want to give the County a comprehensive look at all the services that may be potentially provided. It is through this comprehensive approach that we will be able to explore all scenarios for the dam and can give the County the best possible product.



After discussing the project with WDNR staff, we have learned that WDNR staff are open to the concept of installing stop logs, however, they need to conduct further research to determine if this will officially be allowed by biologists and hydrologic specialists. Part of our investigation will be to address the dam failure which occurred several years ago. Preliminary review of stream gage data and discussions with WDNR and County Staff suggest that the dam failure occurred mid-March 2016. We will investigate further upon selection so that we can better identify which level of storm created the failure. Once the source of failure is identified, we will need to incorporate mitigation measures into the repairs plans to ensure that the dam does not fail again under similar conditions. Engineering services provided in the attached engineering cost estimate include:



*Middle Trappe Whistle Tube Replacement – Ackley Wildlife Area*

## Phase 1: Initial Analysis

- 1) Gather survey data required to complete hydraulic studies.
  - a. Topographic surface of dam and surrounding area, up to roughly 25' in all directions.
  - b. Stream Bottom data for roughly 1,000' upstream of dam and 100' downstream of dam.
  - c. Incorporate LIDAR surface information of the area from public sources.
- 2) Utilize existing gage data and hand calculations to determine river flow conditions along the Big Eau Pleine River.
- 3) Incorporate data gathered in pervious steps to create a HEC RAS river model.
  - a. Model existing conditions
  - b. Model proposed conditions with stop logs
    - i. Determine if any work is needed to the existing dam such that it can safely pass 100-year event with stop logs in place. This may include removing a portion of the dam to operate as an auxiliary spillway.

- 4) Determine high level preliminary construction cost to make repairs identified in proposed conditions river model.
- 5) Meet with County Staff to determine if the design team shall move forward with construction plans to repair OR remove the dam.

## **Phase 2: Design (Choose 2A or 2B)**

### ***2A: Dam Repair***

- 1) Create final plans, cost estimate, design report, and specifications for the repair of the dam as determined by the river modelling.
- 2) We will create the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plan (IOM) and any other permit documents including site ownership documentation, endangered resource coordination, wetland coordination, etc.
- 3) Upload bidding documents into Quest and make recommendations to the County based on the bid results.

### ***2B: Dam Removal***

- 1) Create a model to restore the river to pre-dam conditions and sufficiently stabilize the site.
- 2) Summarize findings in a report to be submitted with the dam removal permit application.
- 3) Create final plans, cost estimate, design report and specifications for the removal and restoration of the dam site.
- 4) We will create any other permit documents including site ownership documentation, endangered resource coordination, wetland coordination, etc.
- 5) Upload bidding documents into Quest and make recommendations to the County based on the bid results.

## **Phase 3: Construction**

- 1) Hold 1 on-site preconstruction meeting with County officials, WDNR staff, BHA staff, and contractor.
- 2) Review all contractor submittals.
- 3) 2 site visits during construction
- 4) 1 Final Punch List Walk through
- 5) Submit final, as-built plans to WDNR.

Our approach to the work process shall begin with a physical evaluation of the existing dam and surrounding area to determine the extent of repairs needed. The initial site visit will include a full inspection of the dam, principal spillway, embankment, and surrounding areas. Based on the initial investigation, further studies may be required. Our team visited the site on July 18, 2023, and is familiar with the County's goals for the project.

To determine the best course of action, the first step is to conduct a thorough investigation of the dam and determine an accurate cost estimate to replace the dam. It is our understanding that the County would prefer to repair the dam if the cost is within the County's budget. As requested in the original RFP, our proposal includes a fee estimate for engineering services to repair the dam and another fee estimate of engineering services for the cost to remove the dam.

The first step in either scenario will be to create a river model which will be representative of the existing conditions. This will be completed by utilizing survey data to establish the elevation of the riverbed both upstream and downstream of the dam. This information will be incorporated into County LIDAR data to create a surface model of the river and surrounding areas. Next, our team will review United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage data, historic rain data, land uses, and other sources to determine the river conditions for the 10-year, 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year flood events. The survey data and river data will be incorporated to create a river model for the existing conditions.

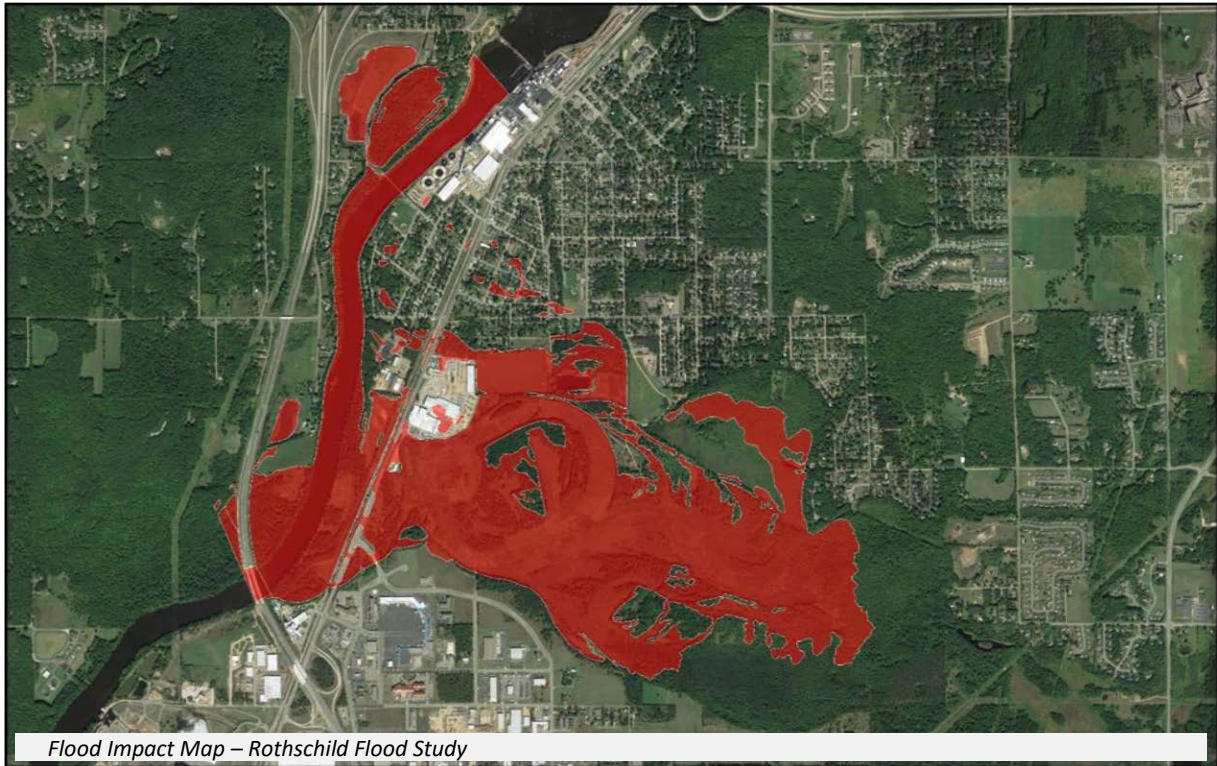
Our team will work with County and WDNR staff to determine what the new pond elevation will be when stop logs are installed. Based on this elevation, our team will determine how the dam will function and will establish the need for any additional improvements such as the installation of an auxiliary spillway. Once the hydraulic analysis and proposed improvements are complete, our team will review the rest of the dam and will make other repair recommendations such as concrete patching, crack filling, riprap reinforcement, etc. Any further investigations such as geotechnical studies or structural concrete analysis are not included in this proposal.



After all the hydraulic and structural repairs are determined, a construction estimate can be created. This estimate will be submitted to County representatives to determine if it is economically feasible to repair the dam as desired. County staff plan to use this estimate to apply for WDNR funding.

If the dam repairs are too costly and the dam is to be removed, a second model will need to be created to represent how the river will function without the dam in place. This model will determine the extent of work required to remove the dam such that the stream operates in a natural fashion.





For either scenario, our team will create a report which summarizes all the steps taken and assumptions made in creating the proposed plans. This report is a necessary step in any river analysis as it assists the DNR in their review of the project.

Construction plans and specifications will be drawn up for the preferred scenario. Once plans and specifications have been developed Becher Hoppe will prepare bidding and contract documents. We will assist with WDNR plan approval and submit the required permit applications, including a WDNR dam repair or abandonment permit, impoundment temporary drawdown permit, EAP, IOM, proof of ownership documentation, endangered species report, wetland impact determination, and other items associated with the respective permit. The County will be responsible for all advertising and WDNR permit fees in addition to our engineering fees.

Becher Hoppe will assist the County with bidding services using the online bidding service, Quest or another bidding vendor as desired. We will provide the County a bid advertisement to be placed in the local newspaper as a Class II notice for public bid. The project will then be let out for public bids by qualified contractors. We will assist the County in pre-qualifying bidders, and we will recommend the contract be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. The bidding documents will include contract documents for contracting with the successful bidder.

Park Commission Tentative Meeting Dates 2024

1/4/24 11 AM or 1PM                      ERC is tentatively meeting 1/5/24 1PM

1/30/24

3/5/24

4/2/24

\*4/30/24

6/4/24

7/2/24

7/30/24

9/3/24

10/1/24

11/5/24

12/3/24

\*All meeting dates after April 2nd are subject to change based on Rules Review Committee direction in April 2024

# Safe Rooms: Saving Lives When Tornadoes and High Winds Strike

## INTRODUCTION

Community resilience is the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Activities such as disaster preparedness include hazard mitigation planning and reducing community stressors and impacts from disasters.

Local hazard mitigation plans form the foundation of a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repetitive damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports local mitigation planning to foster partnerships among all levels of government, to develop and strengthen non-governmental and private partnerships, to reduce the costs associated with disaster response and recovery by promoting mitigation activities, and to promote more disaster-resilient and sustainable communities. A hazard mitigation plan creates the framework for state, local (counties and incorporated municipalities), tribal, and U.S. territorial governments to engage in hazard mitigation planning to receive certain types of non-emergency disasters. The development of the Marathon County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan 2022 fulfilled the federal requirement to update a local hazard mitigation plan every five years.

Every year, tornadoes and other extreme windstorms cause numerous injuries and deaths in the United States. In the Marathon County Hazard Mitigation Plan, tornadoes and high winds were identified in the top three hazards likely to impact Marathon County. See rankings below:

1. **Tornado**
2. Winter Storm / Extreme Cold
3. Thunderstorm / **High Wind** / Hail / Lightning

While we cannot stop these storms from occurring, we can respond by understanding the hazards and carefully planning to protect ourselves from their effects. FEMA and its partners, such as Wisconsin Emergency Management, help protect people from severe wind events by promoting safe rooms.

FEMA provides guidance and best practices on safe room design and construction, participates in safe room-related standards and building code development, provides funding for safe rooms, and monitors a safe room helpline to answer safe room-related technical questions.

### **FEMA's Safe Room Activities**

#### **Providing guidance and best practices on safe room design and construction**

A safe room is a storm shelter specifically designed to meet FEMA Funding Criteria and provide near-absolute protection in extreme wind events, including tornadoes and hurricanes. A safe room can be constructed or installed on a property to serve a residence or within the community to serve a larger number of people. FEMA produces technical publications, fact sheets, and training materials for engineers, architects, building officials, and prospective safe room owners on the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of safe rooms. To be considered a safe room, the structure must be designed and constructed to the guidelines specified in FEMA P-361, *Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms*.

#### **Participating in safe room-related standard and building code development**

FEMA works with the International Code Council® and National Storm Shelter Association to improve the storm shelter standard, *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters* (ICC 500). FEMA also recommends building code updates to improve the construction of and access to storm shelters and safe rooms for vulnerable populations.



## Providing funds for safe rooms

The federal government makes funds available to construct residential and community safe rooms. FEMA provides hazard mitigation funding to eligible states, tribes, and territories that provide funding to local governments to assist in reducing overall risk to people and property. FEMA's grant programs to fund eligible safe room projects include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program.



An above-ground residential safe room that was in the garage of a home hit by an EF5 tornado in Joplin, Missouri (2011). This saferoom was built to meet FEMA guidance, which offers near-absolute life-safety protection, so the occupants were unharmed even though their house was destroyed.

# Safe Rooms: Saving Lives When Tornadoes and Hurricanes Strike

---

Release Date: Jun 10, 2021

Every year, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other extreme windstorms cause numerous injuries and deaths in the United States. While we cannot stop these storms from occurring, we can respond by understanding the hazards and carefully planning to protect ourselves from their effects. FEMA and its partners help protect people from severe wind events through promoting safe rooms. FEMA provides guidance and best practices on safe room design and construction, participates in safe room-related standard and building code development, provides funding for safe rooms and monitors a safe room helpline to answer safe room-related technical questions.

## Summary of FEMA's Safe Room Activities

### Providing guidance and best practices on safe room design and construction

FEMA produces technical publications, fact sheets, and training materials for engineers, architects, building officials, and prospective safe room owners on the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of safe rooms (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/safe-rooms/resources>). A safe room is a storm shelter specifically designed to meet FEMA Funding Criteria and provide near-absolute protection in extreme wind events, including tornadoes and hurricanes. To be considered a safe room, the structure must be designed and constructed to the guidelines specified in FEMA P-361, *Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms*. A safe room can be constructed or installed on a property to serve a residence or within the community to serve a larger number of people.

### Participating in safe room-related standard and building code development



FEMA

Page 1 of 3

FEMA works with its partners in resiliency, the International Code Council® (ICC®) and National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA®) to improve the storm shelter standard, *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters* (ICC 500). FEMA also recommends building code updates to improve construction of and access to storm shelters and safe rooms for vulnerable populations.

### **Providing funds for safe rooms**

The federal government makes funds available to construct residential and community safe rooms. FEMA provides hazard mitigation funding to eligible states, tribes and territories that provide funding to local governments to assist in reducing overall risk to people and property. FEMA's grant programs to fund eligible safe room projects include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Funding may also be available from other sources such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Funds and Federal Housing Administration Mortgage-Insured Financing. You can find more information about various funding opportunities on the [Safe Room Funding webpage](#).

### **Assessing damage caused by extreme wind events**

After severe tornadoes, large tornado outbreaks, or hurricanes, FEMA may send a Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT) to assess the performance of affected buildings and develop recommendations for reducing injuries and loss of life following future events. Recommendations and findings have helped inform FEMA safe room guidance over the years. MATs are composed of subject matter experts and professionals from government agencies and private firms, including structural engineers, wind engineers, architects, building code officials and emergency planners. More information, as well as publications, can be found on the [Mitigation Assessment Team webpage](#).

### **Answering questions from the public, industry, and government**

FEMA hosts the Safe Room Helpline, responding to inquiries concerning FEMA's safe room publications and guidance. Inquiries can be sent to [Saferoom@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Saferoom@fema.dhs.gov) or made by calling 866-927-2104.



**FEMA**





*An above-ground residential safe room that was in the garage of a home hit by an EF5 tornado in Joplin, Missouri (2011). This saferoom was built to meet FEMA guidance, which offers near-absolute life-safety protection, so the occupants were unharmed even though their house was destroyed.*



**FEMA**

Page 3 of 3

# FEMA Awards \$2.9 Million Grant to Village of Spencer

---

Release Date: May 13, 2020

CHICAGO – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released \$2,926,153 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds to the Village of Spencer, for the construction of a safe room at the Village of Spencer High School.

“The Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program enables communities to implement critical mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the risk of loss of life and property,” said James K. Joseph, regional administrator, FEMA Region V. “This project will give the community a safe room that can be used to protect residents in Spencer during times of severe weather.”

“We are excited about these funds and the support it will provide,” said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator. “We are grateful to FEMA for their continued support!”

HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. Through PDM, FEMA will pay 90 percent of the \$3,251,281 eligible project cost. The remaining 10 percent of the funds, \$325,128 will be provided by the Spencer School District.

###



**FEMA**

Page 1 of 2

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.

Follow FEMA online at [twitter.com/fema](https://twitter.com/fema), [twitter.com/femaregion5](https://twitter.com/femaregion5), [www.facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema), and [www.youtube.com/fema](https://www.youtube.com/fema). The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.



**FEMA**



## FEMA Awards \$2.9 Million Grant to Village of Spencer

By Sierra Rehm May 13, 2020



By Sarah McGrew

SPENCER, WI (WAOW) - The Village of Spencer has received a \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The grant is Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds, and is intended for the construction of a safe room at the Village of Spencer High School.

"We are excited about these funds and the support it will provide," said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator in a news release. "We are grateful to FEMA for their continued support!"

FEMA will pay for 90 percent of the project, and the school district will pay for the remaining 10 percent.

"It will also serve the district and the community as a gymnasium," Spencer Public School District Administrator Mike Endreas said. "In addition to that we added a community fitness center. That'll be added to that structure as well."

Endreas said the space will help protect the 700+ students in the district, as well as residents in the area that don't have a basement or other safe tornado shelters within their homes in the case of a storm.

Construction is expected to begin sometime in the summer of 2020. It should take about a year to finish.

# Spencer Awarded \$2.9 Million Grant for High School Safe Room

By News Desk - May 13, 2020

*A rendering of the dome project for School District of Spencer.*

Spencer, WI (OnFocus) The Village of Spencer is the recipient of \$2,926,153 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The funds are for the construction of a 28,850 square-foot, dome-shaped safe room at Spencer High School, which can be used during times of severe weather by the community.

"We are excited about these funds and the support it will provide," said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator, in a release. "We are grateful to FEMA for their continued support!"

The grant covers 90 percent of the \$3,251,281 eligible project cost, of which the Spencer School District will pay \$325,128.

The allocated funds were greater than expected by the district a year ago and will have a significant impact on school improvements, which were approved through a referendum last April.

"It was a nice surprise," said District Administrator Mike Endreas.

Now that the grant dollars are allocated, the district will be able to proceed with the construction process, since it would otherwise have defaulted on the grant if work was completed. The dome will include a new gym and music rooms as part of the planned expansion.

Construction will begin mid-to-late summer, according to Endreas, with the goal of completion by the 2021-22 school year.

The grant money will also free up funds for additional projects, including bathroom renovations, upgrading the original elevator, and enclosing an unused outdoor area at the elementary school.

<http://focusonmarshfield.com/spencer-school-district-proposes-improvements-through-referendum/>

Author: [News Desk](#)

This piece was posted by our news team! Contact us or submit stories at [news@onfocus.news](mailto:news@onfocus.news).



# Marathon County 2024 Budget

## Levy by Org.

<u>Budget Section</u>	<u>2023 Levy</u>	<u>2024 Levy</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	
101-692 Snowmobile Trails Coordinator	30,301	28,593	(1,708)	-5.6%
101-710 County Park	2,053,787	2,089,304	35,517	1.7%
101-711 Playgrounds Summer Recreation	-	-	-	
101-712 Challenge Grant	-	-	-	
101-714 Mountain-Bay Trail	-	-	-	
142-726 Sports Complex	60,861	46,327	(14,534)	-23.9%
145-724 Marathon Park - Junction/Train	6,737	10,915	4,178	62.0%
147-716 Fairgrounds Maint	-	-	-	
150-722 Reclamation Rib Falls	-	-	-	
150-723 WI River Park	-	-	-	
151-725 Park Gifts	-	-	-	
152-727 Park Land & Products	-	-	-	
153-778 Segregated Land Purchase	-	-	-	
154-690 Nine Mile Trails	-	0	0	
174-759 Fema Cattail Removal 2011-2012	-	-	-	
254-751 County Conservation Program	4,314	4,314	-	0.0%
255-752 County Forest Road Aids	-	-	-	
257-755 Forestry State Aids	-	-	-	
258-756 Wildlife Habitat Management	-	-	-	
285-693 Snowmobile Trails 2016-2017	-	-	-	
297-718 Snowmobile Trails 2017-2018	-	-	-	
331-694 Snowmobile Trails 2007-2008	-	-	-	
355-696 Snowmobile Trails 2021-2022	-	-	-	
378-730 Special Projects RTA Grant	-	-	-	
404-760 Sustainable Forestry	-	-	-	
429-691 Snowmobile Grant 2018-2019	-	-	-	
431-697 Summer ATV/UTV 2022-2023	-	-	-	
433-699 Winter ATV 2022-2023	-	-	-	
434-700 Snowmobile Trails 2023-2024	-	-	-	
436-694 Snowmobile Trails 2020	-	-	-	
439-701 Snowmobile Trails 2022-2023	-	-	-	
440-702 Winter ATV 2020-2021 Snow	-	-	-	
441-731 Pittman-Robertson Grant	-	-	-	
454-703 Special Projects Snowmobile	-	-	-	
455-704 Summer ATV 2021-2022	-	-	-	
456-705 Winter ATV 2021-2022	-	-	-	
469-706 Special Projects ATV	-	-	-	
482-757 Co Forest Admin	-	-	-	
496-707 Snowmobile Trails 2020-2021	-	-	-	
497-708 Summer ATV/UTV 2023-2024	-	-	-	
498-709 Winter ATV/UTV 2023-2024	-	-	-	
000-000 GL DESCRIPTION	-	-	-	
000-000 GL DESCRIPTION	-	-	-	
000-000 GL DESCRIPTION	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<u><b>2,156,000</b></u>	<u><b>2,179,453</b></u>	<u><b>23,453</b></u>	<b>1.1%</b>

## **PARKS DEPARTMENT SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Several years ago, we instituted a practice of setting aside \$100,000 annually to fund small capital projects within our park system. The funds certainly do not cover large maintenance projects; however, this practice is important in that it allows us to do important small maintenance projects that prolong the life of our recreation infrastructure and mitigate the risk of small issues developing into significant cost projects. For purposes of the 2024 proposed budget, we have prioritized the small capital projects below. While the initial estimated costs for all of the projects exceeds the \$100,000 available within the budget, projects will be completed only as the available funds permit:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>1. Dells of the Eau Claire Dam Inspection</b><br>Inspection of the dam.   | <b>~\$6,000.00</b>  |
| <b>2. Dells of the Eau Claire Well</b><br>Convert hand pump to pitless adapted well due to vandalism   | <b>~\$20,000.00</b> |
| <b>3 . Engineered Wood Fiber</b><br>Material to maintain adequate thickness at county playgrounds  | <b>~\$10,000.00</b> |
| <b>4. Marathon County Sports Complex; path construction</b><br>Construct walking/cart path connecting concessions area to north end of complex           | <b>\$10,500.00</b>  |
| <b>5. Nine Mile Boiler System supply Line</b><br>Replace existing low efficiency insulated water supply line with improve efficiency lines               | <b>~\$8,500.00</b>  |
| <b>6. Big Eau Pleine Main Shelter Roof</b><br>Replace roof on main shelter by beach.   | <b>~\$10,000.00</b> |
| <b>7. Dells Group Campground – Upgrade sites and remove shelter</b><br>Raise campsites with granite, remove shelter for future replacement.              | <b>~\$5,000.00</b>  |
| <b>8. Dells Manager Cabin Upgrade</b><br>Restore existing interior, upgrade information kiosk, convert bedrooms to storage and segregate from main area. | <b>~\$10,000.00</b> |
| <b>9. Bluegill Bay Dock Rebuilds (3)</b><br>Replace existing to an ADA compliant system.   | <b>~\$15,000.00</b> |
| <b>10. Sunnyvale Softball Dugout and Score Booth Upgrade</b><br>Replace all existing dugouts and score booths. Price is per field.                       | <b>~12,000.00</b>   |