



## NWI UW Meeting this THURSDAY January 20



Join the NWI Urban Waters Federal Partnership for our first meeting of 2022! The [agenda](#) includes partner input on the 2022 Work Plan & 2021 Accomplishments.

### Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Meeting

January 20th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

<https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/91630136783?pwd=QnpiVmM2RXRiSkIhN0dISkNsZVpEZz09>  
Meeting ID: 916 3013 6783 - Passcode: 725797  
Phone: (312) 626-6799

## So Long from Jen

Dear partners,

I have bittersweet news to share. The bitter is that after January 28, 2022, I'll no longer be your NWI Urban Waters Ambassador. The sweet is that beginning January 31, I'll be the Natural Resource Planner for the NWI Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). Since NIRPC is an integral partner in NWI Urban Waters, I hope to stay engaged with Urban Waters and all the partners' incredible work to restore waters and revitalize communities.

The Urban Waters team is working hard to find a new NWI Ambassador, and you can expect a position posting soon. Please help them find excellent candidates by sharing the posting widely within your networks.

In four years as your NWI Urban Waters Ambassador, I've learned from and been inspired by the hard work of all our partners. Our partnership is stronger than ever as we approach our 10th year, and I look forward to working with you in my new role.

I hope to see you and say "so long, but not goodbye" this Thursday, January 20th at the first NWI Urban Waters meeting of the year!

Sincerely,

Jen Birchfield

## Funding: Sustain our Great Lakes RFP

The Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) program is soliciting proposals to benefit fish, wildlife, habitat and water quality in the Great Lakes basin. The program will award approximately \$11.2 million in grants in 2022 in six categories:

1. Restore and Enhance Stream and Riparian Habitat
2. Restore and Enhance Coastal Habitats
3. Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities
4. Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control
5. Restore and Preserve Natural Areas and Biodiversity in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed
6. Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

Details about this funding opportunity are provided in the [Request for Proposals](#). Additional application information is available at [www.nfwf.org/greatlakes](http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes).

The submission deadline for pre-proposals is February 25, 2022



## Treasury Confirms Communities Can Use ARPA Funds to Address Vacancy

The Center for Community Progress applauds the U.S. Treasury Department's [Final Rule](#) on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF).

The Final Rule explicitly authorizes services to address vacant or abandoned properties as eligible ARPA SLFRF expenditures in areas disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 health and economic crisis. This \$350 billion ARPA recovery package passed in March 2021 provides state, Tribal, territorial, county, and municipal governments flexible resources to respond to the pandemic and rebuild impacted communities.

Eligible activities include costs related to rehabilitation, renovation, and securing of vacant or abandoned properties; remediation of environmental hazards; demolition or deconstruction of vacant or abandoned buildings; greening of vacant lots; conversion of properties to affordable housing, and more.

## Funding and Assistance Opportunities

*The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership may be able to provide assistance to further your initiatives by exploring grant opportunities, building partnerships, and helping you to develop competitive proposals. Contact [Jen Birchfield](#) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.*

### [American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance](#)

EDA's ARPA EAA NOFO is designed to provide a wide-range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to, and recover from, the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, including long-term recovery and resilience to future economic disasters. EDA expects to fund a number of projects under this NOFO that support communities negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, supporting transitioning away from coal.

\*EDA encourages eligible applicants to submit their applications as soon as possible and strongly advises applicants to submit complete applications no later than March 31, 2022

\*Award range: \$100,000 to \$10,000,000. EDA generally expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100%, of eligible project costs.

### [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program](#)

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Funding priorities for this program include:

- On-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration
- Meaningful education and training activities, either through community outreach, participation and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum
- Measurable ecological, educational and community benefits

\*Awards range: \$20,000 to \$50,000

\*Applications due: January 25, 2022.

### [American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge](#)

This ARPA Good Jobs Challenge NOFO is designed to help get Americans back to work by developing and strengthening regional systems to develop and execute sectoral partnerships that will lead to well-paying jobs. The goal of regional workforce training systems is to create and implement effective employer-driven training programs that will connect the existing and emerging skills needs of employers with workers and will help workers find and keep quality jobs and advance along their chosen career path.

\*Applications due: January 26, 2022

Award range: 1,000,000 to \$25,000,000 with match encouraged but not required

### **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**

The BRIC program makes federal funds available to states, territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards. These include acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in the future.

\*Applications due: January 28, 2022

\*National competition award cap \$50,000,000 with 25% match.

### **Great Lakes Biology Monitoring Program: Phytoplankton & Chlorophyll-a**

The U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office has issued a request for applications to implement the Great Lakes Biology Monitoring Program. Applications are requested to undertake and implement a project consisting of sample collection and analyses in support of the phytoplankton and chlorophyll-a components.

\*Applications due: February 8, 2022

\*EPA expects to fund one agreement of up to \$3,000,000 over approximately five years.

### **DOI FWS Coastal Program 2022**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Coastal Program habitat improvement projects strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats.

\*Applications Due: September 22, 2022

\*Award ceiling:\$200,000 with no match requirement

*The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership focuses on the Lake Michigan watershed in Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, Indiana.*

*Urban Waters works to connect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and state and local partners. The goals are to improve the Nation's water systems and to promote their economic, environmental and social benefits.*