Dear wetland supporter,

Thanks to your support, communities across the state are seeing wetlands in a new light. You’re helping spread the knowledge and awareness that Wisconsin needs wetlands.

Together, we’re bringing about change and are helping put wetlands to work addressing the issues we face in our ever-changing world. We’re moving toward the day when wetlands are abundant on the landscape and providing important habitat and biodiversity benefits, keeping our waters clean, reducing flood impacts, and restoring our groundwater.

As we continue this important work, we need to stay connected to the wetlands we care so much about. So let’s keep our feet in the mud and enjoy the beauty of these natural treasures!

Tracy Hames, Executive Director

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Promoting wetland science, practices, and tools.

We promote and advance the latest and best wetland science and practices through all of our work in order to improve management and decision-making. Including:

- Organizing an annual forum for wetland knowledge exchange for professionals and enthusiasts from across the region through our Wetland Science Conference. The 2017 conference in Stevens Point highlighted the theme *Wetland Connections*.
- Implementing a new initiative with NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement program landowners that identifies effective practices they can use to help keep their wetlands healthy
- Leading an effort to study watersheds in Wisconsin's far north to tell the story of how upper watershed wetland loss contributed to costly flood damage following big storms in the summer of 2016.

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Working with communities.

We provide training, technical support, and field-based outreach to help communities understand and act on opportunities to put wetlands to work to improve local water and watershed health. Including:

- Working closely with partners in Mequon identifying opportunities to protect and restore wetlands and other open spaces and conducting outreach to build broad public support for the City’s plan for open space protection.
- Helping the Village of Plover and local growers incorporate strategic wetland restoration, soil conservation, and water use reduction in an ambitious effort to restore river flows, conserve groundwater, and improve watershed health.
- Collaborating with the UW-Extension Environmental Resource Center to help their Educators integrate wetland training and technical support into their community-based work.
Engaging Policy Makers.

We work in Wisconsin’s capitol and beyond to build relationships with decision-makers and other interest groups and to help them see how wetlands relate to the issues they care about. This groundwork elevates our efforts to sustain and expand policies and programs that promote wetland conservation and restoration. Including:

- Increasing our capacity to defend wetlands and advance pro-active wetland legislation with the strategic addition of policy liaison Brian Vigue to our staff.
- Employing a collaborative, non-partisan, solution-oriented approach to improve outcomes for wetlands in bills related to aquaculture, drainage district management, and other issues.
- Researching and advocating for policy changes to streamline regulatory review of wetland restoration projects.

“Before collaborating with WWA, I had a very narrow view of what wetlands looked like and what role they played in the landscape,” recalls Kris Tiles, Natural Resources Educator in Central Wisconsin. “Now, I understand more broadly the definition of a wetland and how they can help us solve some of our water quality issues.”

To keep our wetlands healthy we need informed and engaged communities, and to reach these communities WWA has connected with educators and community leaders like Kris and the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX).

UWEX educators are leaders in helping people and communities understand their natural resources. When it comes to wetlands though, UWEX educators like Kris want some help communicating the benefits wetlands provide to their communities.

Last summer, we hosted a workshop exclusively for UWEX educators to help them identify and implement locally-led wetland conservation strategies. Since then, we have continued to support and build a cohort of UWEX educators to deliver wetland programs in Iowa, Portage, and Marathon Counties.

We will continue supporting Kris and other UWEX educators who deliver educational experiences that demonstrate why wetlands are community assets, empowering people and communities to protect and restore wetlands.
**Heritage Circle**

*Members who gave $2,500 or more*

Anonymous
H.J. Hagge Foundation Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin
Robert S. Hagge, Jr. & Elke Hagge
Ronald Horn
Tracy & Victoria Hames
R. Tod Highsmith
Gary & Penelope Shackelford
Tim Thousand
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$2,500 or more

Brookby Foundation
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Fund for Lake Michigan
Madison Community Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Midwest Access Solutions
Patagonia—Chicago
Stantec
US Environmental Protection Agency
Village of Plover
We Energies
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

**Fiscal year 2017**

*July 2016–June 2017*

**Total Revenue:** $547,615

- Other/Fees 10%
- Grants: Private 17%
- Grants: Public 30%
- Individuals and Families 35%

**Total Expenses:** $509,997

- Administration/Fundraising 11%
- Advocacy 14%
- Membership Services 8%
- Outreach Programs 39%
- Policy Programs 28%

**Wisconsin Wetlands Association**

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy.

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