State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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June 3, 2015

Mike Stifter UW River Falls River Falls WI

Subject:

Riverway Crossing Mitigation, Growth Management Advisory Team

Dear Mr. Stifter:

The department understands that your University is currently completing its most recent report for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System<sup>TM</sup> (STARS). We understand there is a section in the report where UWRF can detail partnerships or projects that are particularly innovative. One of the projects being detailed is the Growth Management Advisory Team (GMAT). This advisory team is a collaboration of local municipal and state agencies as well as economic development and business sector interests.

I am the department's lead for this project, and value what each member of the GMAT brings to the discussion. UW River Falls, under the previous expertise of Blake Fry, and now currently with Danielle Campeau, has been a valued contributor to this effort. As I know you are aware, UW River Falls is a named entity within the Bridge Mitigation Memorandum of Understanding to receive \$50,000. Because of the rich history UW River Falls has, and the proven track record to facilitate and encourage intergovernmental collaboration, these monies were directed to them for continuation of that work.

To date, UWRF has directed a portion of these funds to informational and educational opportunities benefiting a vast array of partners working or interested in the St. Croix River Watershed. These dollars have sponsored a workshop on the water as well as the 2015 annual watershed summit. Each of these opportunities resulted in several hundred participants to learn more and play a larger role in issue management on the River. These mitigation dollars will continue to support these two annual events throughout the life of the MOU (5yrs).

On behalf of DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, I want to extend my appreciation for UWRF's involvement and leadership on this important effort, and I look forward to our continued work over the duration of this project.

Sincerely,

Dan Baumann, P.E. Secretary's Director

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

