

Planning for an integrated assessment on water-level variability and coastal bluffs in northern Milwaukee County and southern Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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This planning grant will address the impact of changing water levels on an area of high coastal bluffs covering approximately 26 miles of the Lake Michigan coast of Wisconsin from the City of Port Washington in Ozaukee County on the north to the Village of Shorewood in Milwaukee County on the south. A group of ten investigators from Wisconsin Sea Grant, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Concordia University representing disciplines including coastal engineering, geology, urban and regional planning, law, policy studies, ecology, landscape architecture, sociology, economics and geographic information science will inventory and synthesize existing data and information sources. Established social science methods will be used to engage a diverse range of stakeholders from seven municipal governments, two counties, a regional planning commission, state agencies, non-profits, professional organizations and other relevant institutions to identify and document multiple perspectives on the impacts of variable water levels on coastal bluffs. The planning grant will feature a holistic perspective of coastal processes reaching from offshore to beyond the top of the bluffs. A final workshop in late summer will connect investigators and stakeholders to prioritize options to address water level impacts on coastal bluffs and explore a proposal for phase one of the Great Lakes Water Levels Integrated Assessment.