



MONROE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
803 WASHINGTON STREET
SPARTA, WISCONSIN 54656
(608) 269 - 8740 / 269 - 8831 (FAX)
highways@co.monroe.wi.us

DAVID H. OHNSTAD
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

WILLIAM PIEPER
FLEET MANAGER

BROOKE ADAMS
OFFICE MANAGER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 JUNE 2025

**LITTLE LA CROSSE WATERSHED INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY INITIATIVE
PROJECT KICK-OFF OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH**

The Monroe County Highway Department, the Monroe County Land Conservation Department and the towns of Jefferson, Portland, Wells, Leon and Sparta, along with other project stakeholders and engineering and environmental consultant Emmons & Olivier Resources, invite you to the Project Kick-Off Open House for the Little La Crosse Watershed Infrastructure Resiliency Initiative. **The Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th at the Leon Community Hall, 20638 Jameson Road, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Monroe County has been awarded a \$506,000 project through the *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient & Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)* program of the Federal Highway Administration, United States Department of Transportation, to complete an assessment of the stream crossings and other infrastructure in the Little La Crosse Watershed and identify strategies for increasing resiliency of the structures to extreme weather and high water. This project is the first, and only, **PROTECT** project awarded in Wisconsin.

The objective of the project is to identify practical, nature-based and cost-effective actions to reduce potential future impacts, including, but not limited to, stream crossing structure replacements and upstream/watershed mitigation. The project will produce the scope and cost estimate of future projects to implement the strategies identified in the planning and development phase and provide the basis for future construction proposals. The project will review the condition of existing stream crossings and land management practices in the subject sub-watersheds and prioritize recommended action.

Another objective of the project is to restore stream connectivity, natural habitats, and encourage natural stream behaviors, which will also benefit efforts to reduce the volume and velocity of stormwater carried by the stream. Outfall treatments will be installed as necessary to ensure that water is discharged through the structures in a manner that complements downstream efforts to manage the effect of large rainfall events. Appropriate design and placement of upstream mitigation and outfall treatments will also support efforts to improve soil stability, habitat health and water quality of the watershed.

The Little La Crosse Watershed Infrastructure Resiliency Initiative has attracted nation-wide interest! The Volpe Center, the research and technology transfer program of the United States Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, has selected the Little La Crosse project as a case study in resilience excellence.

Please join us to kick off this exciting project. The informal, open-house format will provide opportunities for questions, comments and participation. Displays on Watershed Attributes & Challenges and Project Objectives will be available. Light refreshments will be provided.

Presentations by Emmons & Olivier Resources, Monroe County Land Conservation and Monroe County Highway Department will begin at 6:30 pm.

For additional information please contact the Monroe County Land Conservation Department at (608) 269 - 8973, the Monroe County Highway Department at (608) 269 - 8740 or via e-mail at highways@co.monroe.wi.us, or visit the project website at <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/highway/protect-grant>.

###