

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE BLUFFLAND COALITION
REGARDING BLUFFLAND INITIATIVES**

I. PARTIES.

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is made and entered into by and between

The Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska in Wisconsin and La Crescent in Minnesota;
The Villages of Holmen and West Salem in Wisconsin;
The Towns of Campbell, Medary, Shelby, Onalaska, Barre, Greenfield, Holland, Hamilton in Wisconsin; and the Towns of La Crescent and Dresbach in Minnesota;
The Mississippi Valley Conservancy, the Outdoor Recreation Alliance, the La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Friends of the Blufflands

Collectively referred to as the Bluffland Coalition (Coalition).

II. RECITALS.

- A. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, the La Crosse Area Planning Committee adopted the Blufflands Plan on July 15th, 2016 to guide Coalition Members decisions regarding long-term efforts to preserve and protect valuable bluffland properties, enhance conservation and recreation within said blufflands and develop a significant network of recreational trails within said Bluffland.
- B. The Blufflands Plan adopted Mission: This plan will be used by public and private stakeholders throughout the region to guide the acquisition of conservation land and easements, coordinate restoration activities and recreation access improvements such as trailheads and trails, and establish an organizational structure for continued regional coordination and action.

III. PURPOSE. The purpose of this MOU is to clarify the expectations of the Members of the Blufflands Coalition regarding the area described in “Exhibit A” with regard to the following:

- A. Working together, to make Bluffland Plan implementation decisions consistent with the adopted Bluffland Master Plan, attached in Exhibit A;
- B. Working together, to promote safe recreational access to the Blufflands throughout the project area;
- C. Maintaining fixed municipal boundaries while creating a seamless system of bluffland projects: including environmental restoration, preservation areas and recreational access in this project area;
- D. Promote consistency in bluffland development regulation amongst the municipalities within this project area;
- E. Maintain a cooperative and mutually beneficial intergovernmental relationship that treats officials and staff of the Coalition with courtesy and respect;
- F. Working together to clearly outline bluffland goals for each organization;
- G. Working together to address issues related to public funding of projects within this project area.

H. The Coalition will especially focus on transitional areas between municipal boundaries to ensure a well-connected, seamless network of bluffland projects.

I. Whereas all parties agree that working together to preserve and develop for public benefit the blufflands within this area is a legitimate public interest and is conforming to the respective comprehensive plans and therefore hereby agree to base policy decisions over the next ten years on this effort as outlined in Exhibit A.

IV. **AREA OF PLANNING INTEREST.** The project area considered in this MOU is that portion as further described in Exhibit "A".

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES.**

A. Signing parties will continue to participate in the Bluffland Coalition, and work toward the preparation of a Bluffland project implementation under the provisions of Exhibit A.

B. Signing parties will support joint planning efforts to prepare a detailed multi-use trail plan for the area described in Exhibit A.

C. Signing parties will participate jointly in funding the necessary administration and implementation projects generally described in Exhibit A.

D. Signing parties will cooperatively draft standards for development in this project area, and will not make decisions on proposed project scope details within this area until these standards are complete and the proposed action is shown to meet the standards as drafted, without the written consent of the other parties to this MOU.

E. Signing parties will provide timely communications with regard to progress on their bluffland planning process.

VI. **TERM OF THE MOU.** The term of this MOU shall be effective upon signature of the parties and remain in effect until July 15, 2023, unless terminated. This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by any party upon ninety (90) days written notice, which notice shall be delivered by hand or certified mail to the clerk, administrator or chief executive officer of all other parties. This MOU may be amended or extended at any time by mutual agreement by all the parties.

VII. **SEVERABILITY.** Any provision of this MOU determined to be invalid as a matter of law is severable from other provisions of this agreement.

By: _____

By: _____
