



April 9, 2021

Mayor David Ward
City of Sturgeon Bay
421 Michigan St.
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Mayor Ward,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Door County Maritime Museum (DCMM) for locating the Green Bay Ecosystems NERR in Sturgeon Bay. I also wish to explain how we, as a maritime museum, see incredible opportunity for synergy in educational programming with a NERR facility located on the working waterfront of Sturgeon Bay.

The Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. has been an educational presence in Door County for more than half a century. We are currently in the midst of a \$9 Million museum expansion project. Our interpretive plan calls for the creation of immersive, experiential exhibits that will inspire stewardship of the unique resources that surround the Door Peninsula.

Our museum's educational programs emphasize the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM) in the area's rich maritime economy. May 2019 saw the launch of a cardboard regatta program for area middle school students, along with the SeaPerch underwater remote-operated vehicle program (focused on a clean environment). The cardboard regatta teaches engineering, problem-solving and teamwork, while SeaPerch provides students with a deeper understanding of marine science and technology.

The STEAM-focused exhibits planned for the Jim Kress Maritime Lighthouse Tower museum expansion will incorporate interactive digital displays focused on the science of the water that surrounds us. The educational program will emphasize the STEAM perspectives inherent throughout the maritime and marine industries locally as well as across the state of Wisconsin. We see great opportunities that will inspire even more learning with a National Estuarine Research Reserve facility located along the waterfront we share.

In curating, and presenting the rich maritime history of Door County we have learned that the water truly defines us. It touches every aspect of life, and we endeavor to underscore that message, and one of stewardship to our museum guests. The people of our city understand the impact of water on every aspect of our life. They are very much aware of issues facing our environment and actively support educational initiatives surrounding that. With a NERR facility located here, the knowledge of what an estuary is and why it's important will extend to thousands more boaters, fishermen, and visitors every year. The impact of that can be nothing but positive.

We look forward to working with the UWGB NERR team in developing local partnerships and advancing the educational opportunities that will come as this project moves forward on the working waterfront of Sturgeon Bay.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Osgood", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Osgood

Executive Director

Door County Maritime Museum