



School District of Sturgeon Bay

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Dan Tjernagel Superintendent
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September 6, 2021

Dear City of Sturgeon Bay Ad Hoc NERR Advisory Committee Representatives:

I am reaching out to you in support of Sturgeon Bay's efforts to become the site of the Bay of Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). As the Superintendent of Schools in the School District of Sturgeon Bay, I understand the importance of concepts such as partnerships, life-long learning, and ongoing efforts around clean water. The City of Sturgeon Bay and the greater Door County community are full of examples of partnerships that strive to make a difference in the lives of others and our world. The importance of life-long learning can also be seen in our City and the County, from our youngest residents and visitors, to our most seasoned residents and visitors. Water is the lifeblood not only of our daily lives, but in many ways, it is also the lifeblood of our economy, working waterfront, tourism industry, and much more.

Every one of these examples, and certainly many more, highlight reason why the City of Sturgeon Bay would be a great choice as the site of the Bay of Green Bay NERR. Additionally, the very organization I represent and the many students, families, staff members, residents, and tax payers we both serve and are supported all would be a wonderful part of the designation and ongoing efforts months, years, and decades into the future. In addition to this letter, I have personally pledged my support as superintendent in a conversation with Mayor Ward. He knows that our district is happy to support the efforts and that I am also happy to serve as a liaison to the other school districts in Door County when the time is right.

Although I was not born and raised in Door County, I appreciate the uniqueness of this special place and the responsibility associated with keeping this as a productive, special place into the future. I was born and raised in Marinette, Wisconsin. I thoroughly enjoyed growing up in Marinette and my parents still live there. However, while there are some similarities between the communities, there is no question in my mind that what Sturgeon Bay would bring to this NERR designation would far outweigh Marinette, or Green Bay for that matter, as we think of the close connection to the water both in terms of the Bay of Green Bay and key connection to the uniqueness of the overall link to Lake Michigan, tourism around enjoying the water and unique geography much more than visiting Green Bay for a Packer game, and the list could go on.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts regarding the pursuit of the special designation and the positive results that would result for residents, visitors, and our environment well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Tjernagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

Dan Tjernagel, Superintendent of Schools