



August 31, 2023

Village of Black Earth  
c/o Tyler Munson  
1210 Mills St  
Black Earth, WI 53515  
*Sent via email*

RE: Black Earth Creek Watershed Stream Monitoring  
Request for Support of USGS Monitoring Program

Dear Village of Black Earth Board Members:

I am writing to request the Village of Black Earth's support for continuation of water quantity and quality monitoring along Black Earth Creek and Brewery Creek within the Black Earth Creek Watershed, on behalf of the Steering Committee for the Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan. Black Earth Creek is a Class 1 and 2 trout stream, carries both Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Water designations, and is prized for its recreational value by local community members and visitors alike. It is a focal point of the communities it flows through, but it also presents a flood hazard that was highlighted during the 2018 flooding.

As one of three Villages within the watershed, we are asking that you please consider contributing \$8,000 (or more if you are able), annually for 5 years, to support the continuation of this valuable monitoring program.

Stream monitoring provides crucial data to inform creation of flood resiliency and emergency management measures; understand the long-term effects of increased urbanization on the water quality and flow regime of Brewery Creek, Black Earth Creek, and the Black Earth Creek Watershed as a whole; help evaluate efforts to reduce effects of development and land use practices on these creeks; and identify effects on fisheries caused by runoff during large storm events.

For the last 5 years, the Village of Cross Plains and USGS have funded the costs of maintaining the three monitoring stations located on upper Black Earth Creek and Brewery Creek (Station ID: [05406469](#), [05406457](#), and [05406479](#)). For the next 5 years, other municipalities in the watershed, in addition to the Village of Cross Plains and USGS, will need to provide the funding to continue this valuable monitoring program. In addition to maintaining the current level of monitoring at these three sites, the Steering Committee has determined that adding water quality monitoring capabilities (in addition to existing flow monitoring) at a fourth station near the Village of Black Earth (Station ID: [05406500](#)) is a valuable and cost-effective way of enhancing the data collected to further the benefits to the entire watershed.

USGS has committed to a 25% cost-share over a 5-year period (2024 – 2028) for the proposed monitoring program. CARPC and Trout Unlimited have committed to assisting with installation costs of

getting the fourth station up and running (\$11,000 cost). The remaining yearly cost of the program requiring funding (cooperator cost) is \$66,000 per year. Dane County has also committed to providing funding, which will reduce the overall financial burden of others. Additionally, the Steering Committee is pursuing a DNR Surface Water Grant which could potentially provide funding of up to \$10,000 annually (requires re-application on an annual basis), further reducing the burden of others.

Monitoring data, together with watershed planning efforts such as the Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan (link to [website](#)), led by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) in partnership with a range of governmental, non-profit, and private consulting entities, are critical to maintaining, and even improving, the valued water resource that is Black Earth Creek. Vital to creation as well as continued implementation of the Plan, community stakeholders and steering committee members included representatives from: Village of Black Earth, Village of Cross Plains, Village of Mazomanie, Town of Cross Plains, Dane County, Wisconsin DNR, US Army Corps of Engineers, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Gateway to the Driftless, Groundswell Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

As we work to provide flood protection to communities, water quality benefits to Black Earth Creek and its tributaries, and recreational, economic, and ecological benefits to the entire watershed, we need your support to continue monitoring activities within the Black Earth Creek corridor.

We thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to myself or anyone else on the Steering Committee if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Bower, PE  
Environmental Engineer  
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

Attachments: USGS Cost Proposal  
Black Earth Creek Monitoring Overview Presentation

cc: Nic Buer, USGS  
Members of Black Earth Creek Green Infrastructure Steering Committee

## Black Earth Creek Watershed Green Infrastructure Plan

Planning for Flood Resilience and Water Quality

*"To identify specific projects and practices that provide a quantifiable level of flood protection to communities, water quality benefits to Black Earth Creek and its tributaries, and recreational, economic, and ecological benefits to the watershed as a whole."*