



Douglas La Follette, *Secretary of State*  
Dawn Marie Sass, *State Treasurer*  
J.B. Van Hollen, *Attorney General*  
Tia Nelson, *Executive Secretary*

125 S. Webster Street  
Room 200  
PO Box 8943  
Madison, WI 53708-8943

608 266-1370 INFORMATION  
608 266-0034 LOANS  
608 267-2787 FAX  
bcpl.state.wi.us

**Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education.**

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**For Immediate Release**

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CONTACT: Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary (608) 266-8369

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS APPROVES LOANS  
TOTALLING \$8.8 MILLION**

**MADISON** – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, as administrator of the State Trust Fund Loan Program, approved \$8.8 million in loans to eight Wisconsin municipalities at today's board meeting. The loans will provide financing for a variety of public purpose projects ranging from purchasing emergency response vehicles to funding economic development projects. Municipalities receiving funding for their projects include:

- Town of Bergen – Vernon County
- Town of Campbell – La Crosse County
- Village of Centuria – Polk County
- Village of Little Chute – Outagamie County
- City of Menasha – Winnebago County
- City of Onalaska – La Crosse County
- Town of Washington – Door County
- Village of Whiting – Portage County

In the last 12 months, including actions approved today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has approved 218 loans totaling \$212.9 million. That's a significant increase over the number of loans authorized in fiscal year 2007 (113 loans totaling just over \$72 million).

Over the past five years, Wisconsin citizens have benefited from over \$600 million in Trust Fund loans to support Wisconsin's public infrastructure. The loans can be made to municipalities and school districts for any public purpose.

Created in 1848 by the Wisconsin Constitution, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands was established to accept federal land grants and to manage trust funds for the benefit of public education in Wisconsin. The majority of Trust Fund assets are held in the Common School Fund, from which most State Trust Fund loans are issued. "Our cost of operations is very low so more than 95% of the interest collected on Trust Fund Loans is distributed as aid to the Common School Fund's beneficiaries, K-12 public school libraries. This aid is critical to many students and schools. For many schools, this is their only source of library aid. That's why we like to think of ourselves as the state-wide lender that pays local dividends," said Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary of the Board.

A complete list of Wisconsin municipal projects funded by today's Board action can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=16081&locid=145>).

The agency's biennial report can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=15317&locid=145>).

A list of loans approved in the last twelve months can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=16114&locid=145>).

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