

03 January 2019

**DNR ruling on West Waterfront approved by City and Friends  
sets clear path for public and private development**

For immediate release

Contact: Shawn Fairchild 920 493 1894

The Friends of the Sturgeon Bay Public Waterfront are pleased to announce that the WDNR has issued a Declaratory Ruling establishing the exact location of the Ordinary High Water Mark (“OHWM”) on Sturgeon Bay’s Westside Waterfront. “This is a victory for Sturgeon Bay, for Wisconsin and defenders of the Constitution everywhere”, said Shawn Fairchild of the Friends. “Public rights matter. The Public Trust Doctrine has been championed by the Friends and the current City Council for the Westside Waterfront”.

Dan Collins of the Friends said, “The location of the OHWM at the US Government 1835 Meander Line for Parcel 92 has the support of both the City Council and the Friends. The City has provided a survey of the line. The DNR Ruling states: *‘The City of Sturgeon Bay and the Friends of Sturgeon Bay Public Waterfront et. al. subsequently conferred and negotiated and now agreed to settle the issue of the location of the meander line/OHWM on Parcel 92 as declared in this department ruling and as shown on the attached Site Plan’*” .

“This definitive line protects the City’s investments in future developments. A strong Public Trust Doctrine is an important tool for revitalization. Public open space along waterfronts is a rare commodity and the cornerstone of a strong, secure economy. It is also a gift to the future,” said Shawn Fairchild. “We are glad that the delineation will offer both an outstanding waterfront parcel for public space surrounding the former Granary location and ample lands available for commercial development”.

“For years we have not wavered from the best interests of the public, relying on science and the State’s Constitution to lead the way. We are very excited about this decision. It is a great start for 2019 and the opportunities ahead for the citizens of Sturgeon Bay”, said Kathleen Finnerty of the Friends.

You can find a copy of the DNR Ruling and other information at:

[www.friendsofsturgeonbaypublicwaterfront.com](http://www.friendsofsturgeonbaypublicwaterfront.com)