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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local communities receive financing to respond to extreme weather events

MADISON- Today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) provided financing for communities across Wisconsin to respond and adapt to an increasingly volatile climate.

The small village of Melvina, in Monroe County, received \$50,000 to address road construction their community needed after severe flooding damaged their infrastructure last summer.

The town of Willard, in Rusk County, has needed a snow plow to address the record-breaking snow fall of this winter. They're receiving a loan of \$37,000 so they can purchase this needed equipment and keep their streets clear and safe.

Board chair, Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, said, "As our state experiences increasingly severe weather from record-breaking winter snow falls to spring and summer flooding, I'm glad the BCPL can be a resource for communities in need of quick and affordable financing to address the impacts of climate change."

Last month, the BCPL lifted a gag order that prevented staff from discussing climate change in the course of their work. Treasurer Godlewski continued, "Climate change has already impacted our state's communities and we will continue to see it impact our environment and our bottom line. I'm glad that our staff can again consider the facts of a changing climate when managing our trust funds, timber lands, and loan program."

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The BCPL operates entirely on program revenue, without taxpayer money, and distributes more than 96 cents of every dollar of interest earned on BCPL State Trust Fund investments to Wisconsin's public schools. The 2018 earnings of \$35.7 million provide the sole source of state funding for K-12 public school library materials.

A list of 2018 library aid received by each public school district is available at:

<https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/Shared%20Documents/Agency%20Info/Library%20Aid%20Distribution%202018.pdf>

Established in 1848 by the State Constitution, the BCPL consists of Board Chair and State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, Secretary of State Doug La Follette, and Attorney General Josh Kaul. The BCPL manages the [Common School Fund, which was created in Article X of Wisconsin's Constitution, as a permanent endowment to benefit public education.](#)

To learn more about the agency, visit bcpl.wisconsin.gov.