

**CITY OF RACINE BOARD OF HEALTH
MARCH 10, 2026**

DEPARTMENT: Laboratory Division

PREPARED BY: Adrian Koski – Grant Coordinator/Research Assistant III

MONTH: January & February 2026

Highlights

Date	Meeting	Purpose	Outcome
January 2026	Wisconsin qPCR User Group	Rapid Water Quality Methods	Connected with statewide practitioners which provided insights to guide the PHD 2027 implementation of new rapid water quality monitoring methods.
January 2026	Internal	Review Draft of the North and Zoo Beach Report Card	Summarizes water quality, shoreline trends, key threats, and provides recommendations to support long-term beach management.
January 2026	Great Lake Community Conservation Corps	North and Zoo Beach Dune Restoration	Five acres or 31 percent of dunes at North and Zoo Beach have been lost since 2018. In coordination with the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, a restoration plan was developed pending funding. Planting will occur 2026–2028, with full recovery expected as grasses spread and dunes naturally develop.
January 2026	Racine Yacht Club	Fire Rescue and Lifeguard Boat Dredging Operation	The Racine Yacht Club is coordinating with the City to dredge a passage for fire rescue and lifeguard boats. The City is accepting ~300 cubic yards of dredged material for shoreline restoration. The operation is planned for spring 2026.
January 2026	Wisconsin Coastal Management	Grant Progress Reports	Progress reports were submitted to the Coastal Management Program for the Root River Sensor and Samuel Myers Wetland Viewing Platform.
January 2026	Milwaukee – Area Health Center Education Center (AHEC)	Intern Request	Support the beach monitoring program by assisting with sample collection, lab work, data entry, posting timely beach updates, as well as developing social media messaging to increase public awareness.
February 2026	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	Racine Yacht Club Dredging Operation	PRCS approved the acceptance of dredged spoils from the Racine Yacht Club to build a dune and swale system at the south end of North Beach for stormwater management. PRCS will provide equipment to shape the material, and PHD will determine spoil placement, plant and fence the dunes. Oversight of the dredging project will be provided by USACE and WDNR.

February 2026	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Beach Monitoring Program Estimates	The Department submitted a Wisconsin DNR Beach Act funding request for \$34,900 to support the 2026 Beach Monitoring Program, which will monitor recreational water quality at 14 Great Lakes beaches in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee counties.
February 2026	Internal	Youth Employment Internship	Two interns to support water quality monitoring and assist with coastal restoration and stormwater improvement projects. These roles provide hands-on support while helping the department advance key environmental and public health priorities.
February 2026	PRCS and Community Partners	Root River Environmental Corridor Coordination	Representatives from the Root River Council, Weed Out! Racine, and Hoy Audubon are scheduled to meet with PRCS and PHD to discuss the Root River Environmental Corridor. PHD will provide strategic support using water quality data, stormwater insights, and expertise in habitat restoration, green infrastructure, and partner coordination. This involvement will focus restoration efforts for maximum impact and support long-term environmental and community benefits.
February 2026	Wisconsin Coastal Management Program	Samuel Myers Wetland Viewing Platform	Educational signs were installed on the wetland viewing platform at Samuel Myers Park. This completes planned PHD improvements with continued site maintenance.
February 2026	Root River Council	Board Member Request	Adrian Koski will join the Root River Council as a board member. The Council's goals include economic growth, creating a sense of place, improving water quality, and increasing public access to the Root River.