

Harbor Assistance Program *HAPPENINGS*

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Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association
2026 Annual Meeting – Green Bay

September 11, 2026



HAP Presentation overview

- First-year highlights
- HAP snapshot
- Transitions and new initiatives
- Looking ahead



Manitowoc/Konecranes

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS



Manitowoc/Briess

Two Rivers





Bay/Fincatieri Bay Shipbuilding



Sturgeon Bay





Detroit Harbor/Washington Island Ferry

Marinette Fuel & Dock



Cornucopia/Town of Bell



La Pointe-Bayfield/Madeline Island Ferry





Milwaukee/DeLong

Lock 8 – Welland Canal

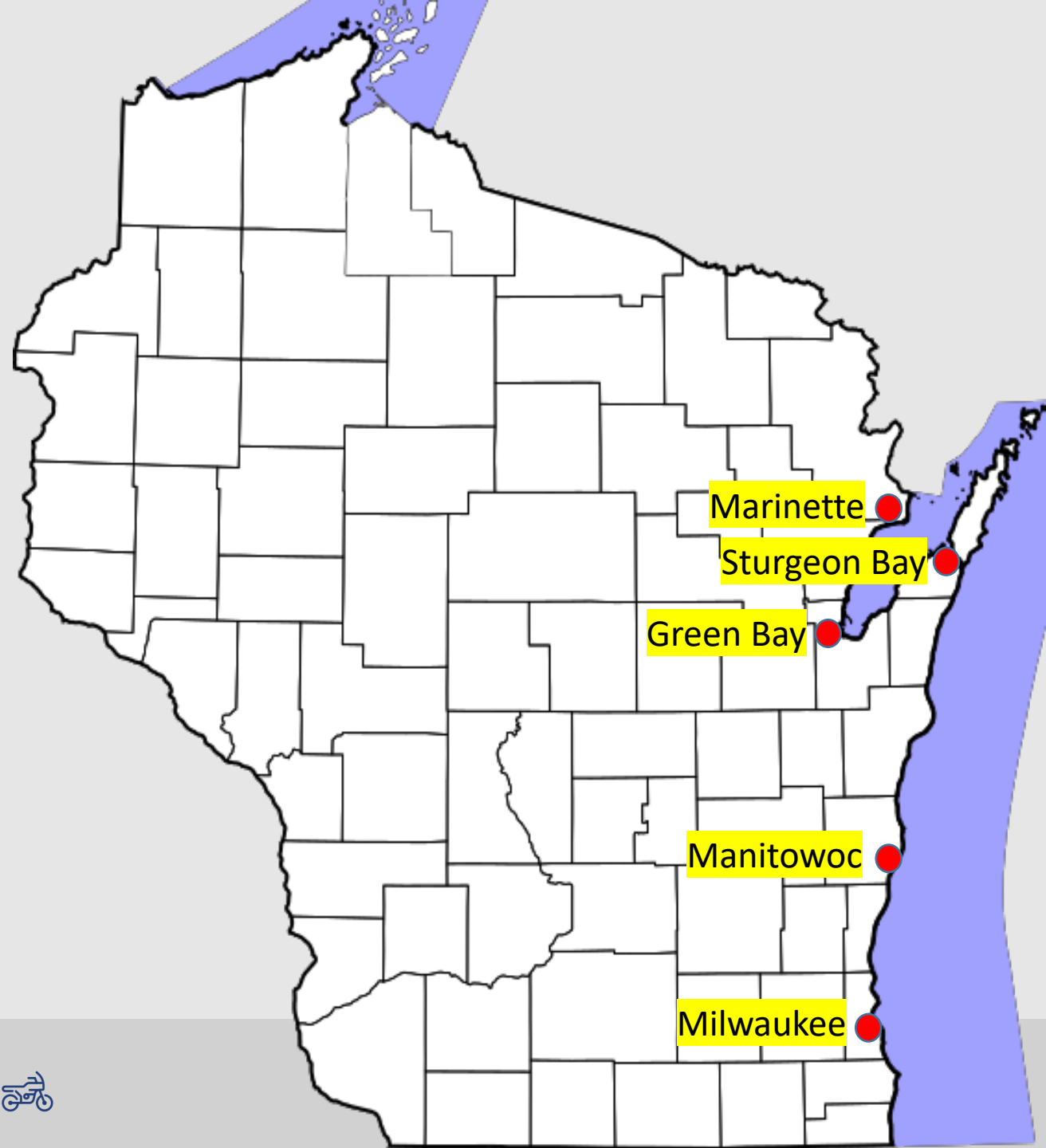


Milwaukee/Lake-
Express Ferry



2026 HAP awards snapshot

- 7 applications
- \$10,918,500 requested
- \$7.5 million budget
- 69% of need available
- All Lake Michigan ports

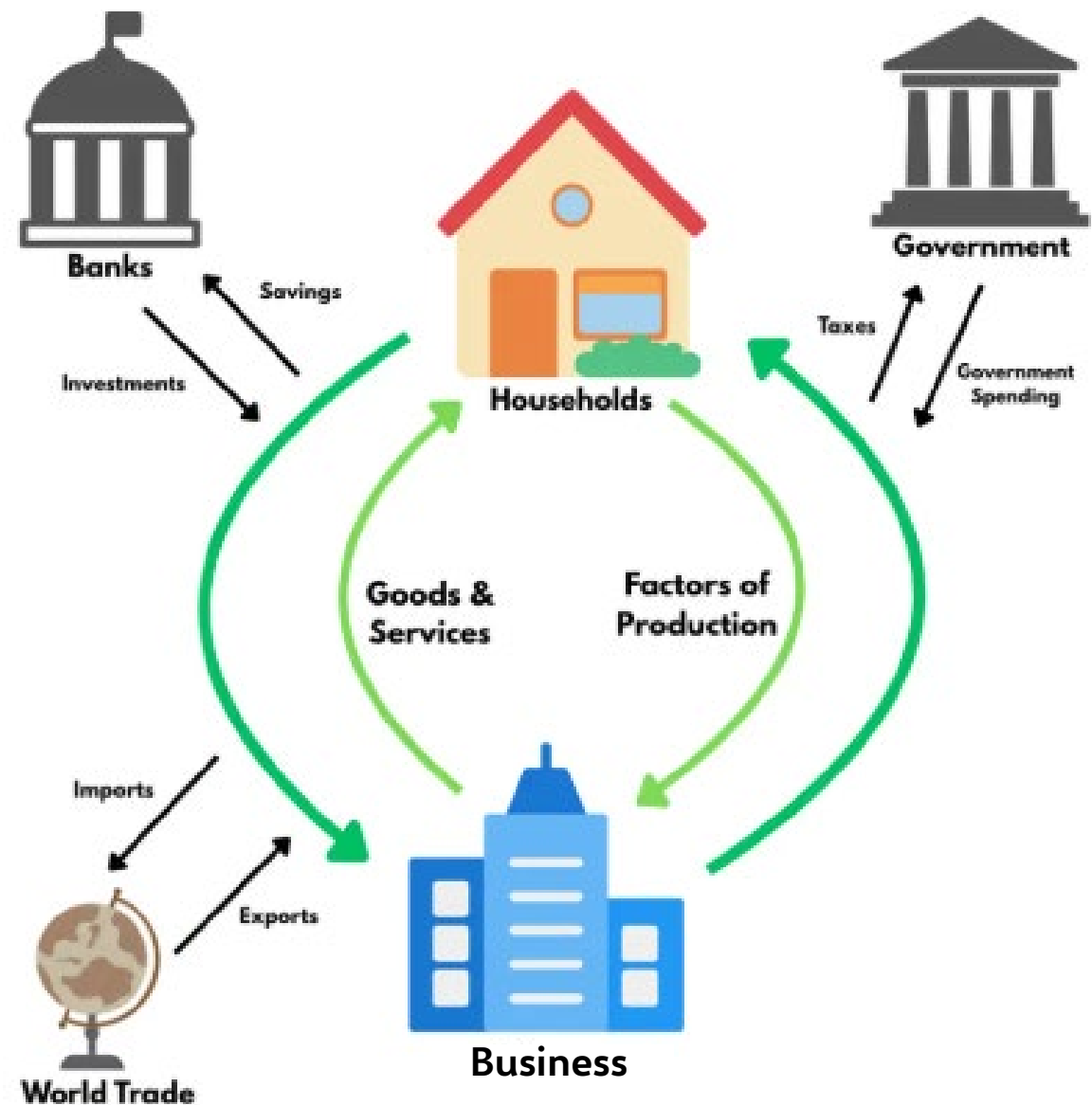


HAP

Cumulative impact

Since 1980:

- \$260M awarded
- 167 projects funded



HAP transitions



- New staff



- State audit



- Process improvements plans

HAP improvements underway

WisDOT internal systems

- Standard operating procedures
- Templates and checklists
- HAP requirements crosswalk
- Form updates



HAP improvements underway

Resources for grantees

- Summary invoice template
- Progress report checklist and template
- Grant agreement requirements checklist



Organization name				WisDOT HARBOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	
Contact name				REIMBURSEMENT INVOICE	
Contact email					
To:				Invoice #:	
Erika Kluetmeier				Date:	
Erika.Kluetmeier@dot.wi.gov				Grant Amount:	
HAP PROJECT ID	PO # (optional)	DATE RANGE INVOICE COVERS		RETAINAGE	
0495-XX-XXXX				☐ Final reimbursement request	
Sub/contractor names and descriptions of completed work if not included in invoices		Gross ELIGIBLE amount	80% HAP share	10% retainage (for 1st half of award)*	Total reimbursement
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Invoice # REIMBURSEMENT Total				\$ -	
Total HAP payments to date				\$ -	
*Total retainage to date				\$ -	
Remaining HAP funds				\$ -	
*10% retainage held for first half of award amount					

HAP Outreach

HAPPENINGS e-news

- 4 issues/year
- HAP reminders
- Other timely information

Port video stories, campaign

- Aiming for 1 video per year



Welcome to *HAPPENINGS*

Welcome to the Harbor Assistance Program's inaugural edition of *HAPPENINGS*, WisDOT's new quarterly harbors and waterways e-newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share updates, insights, and information with ports, harbors, HAP grantees, and interested stakeholders to stay informed about key initiatives related to Harbor Assistance Program grants, and waterway commerce and transportation more broadly.

We hope this newsletter serves as a useful resource and a consistent way to stay connected. If you received this newsletter, you are subscribed! You can [subscribe or unsubscribe](#) anytime and share these links with others.

We also welcome feedback, content suggestions, or photos, so [please get in touch](#) and share your ideas.

TOPIC 01 – HAP DEADLINES

April 1 –
Statements of
Intentions and
resolutions

August 1 – HAP
applications

TOPIC 02 – HAP 2026 awards

TOPIC 03 – Federal grant opportunities

Reminder: HAP Statements of Intentions, Resolutions Due April 1

[Statements of Intentions \(SOIs\)](#) and [resolutions](#) are due by April 1. As the first step in the Harbor Assistance Program (HAP) application process, SOIs provide critical data to help WisDOT assess future funding needs for Wisconsin's commercial ports and harbors. They also inform continued state investment levels for HAP project improvements that support maritime transportation and commerce. (continued)

Future process improvements

Resources and Tools

- Expand HAP guidelines
- Migrate HAP application online
- Build more webpages
- Evaluate data standardization format for applications



Expanded guidelines example:

HAP emergency application

Emergency funding requests follow the same application and selection process:

1. Applicants:

- Complete all HAP application requirements.
- *Provide urgency justification with evidence.

2. WisDOT confirms project eligibility and availability of funds.

3. Harbor Advisory Council meets to evaluate the project and recommend funding award to WisDOT secretary.

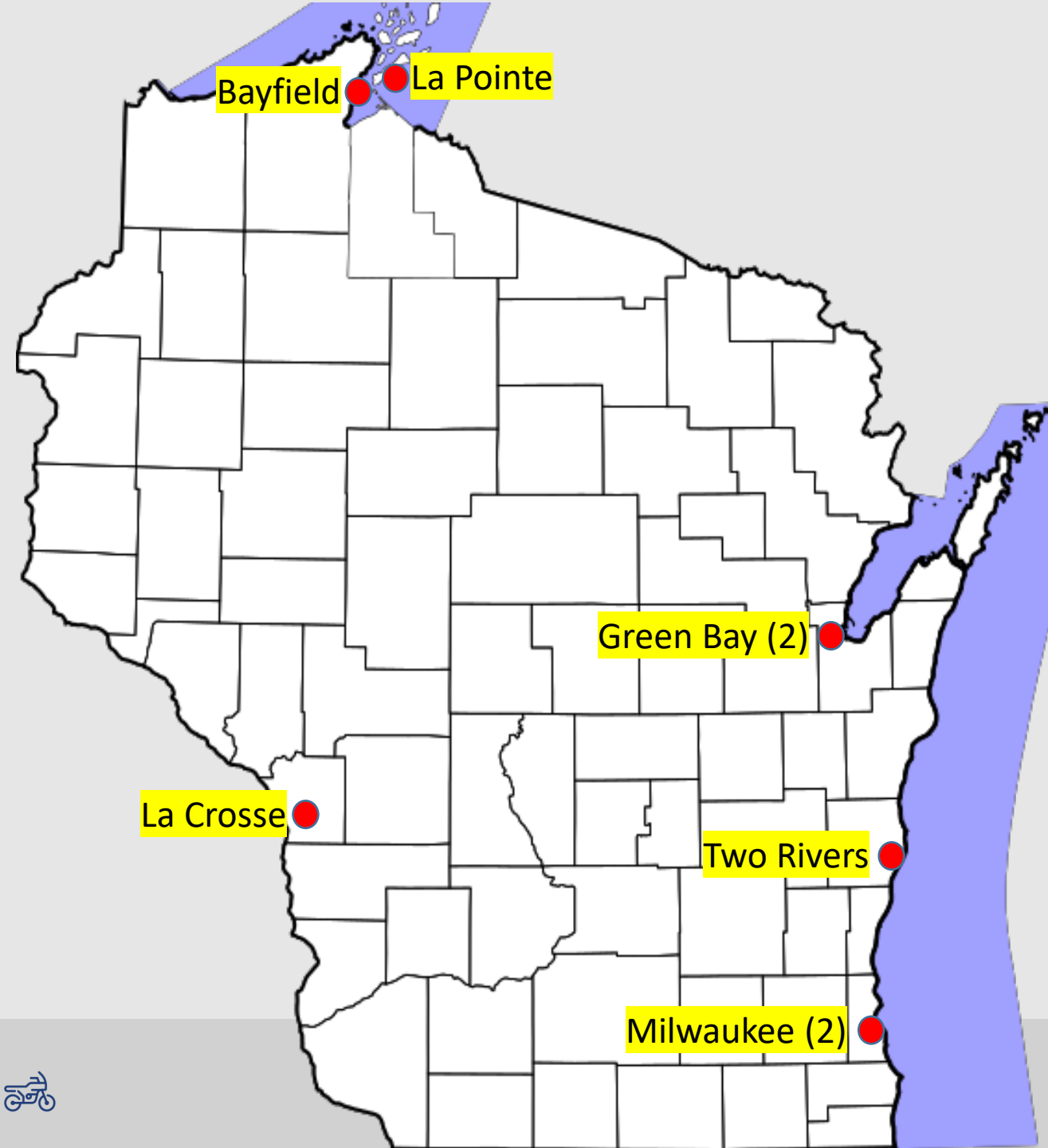
Expanded guidelines example: HAP selection process

1. August 1 application deadline
2. WisDOT reviews
3. Harbor Advisory Council reviews
4. Grant selection meeting
 - ✓ Discussion
 - ✓ Scoring and ranking
 - ✓ Decision
5. HAC recommends funding awards to WisDOT secretary
6. Governor announces awards by January 28

 PORTS & HARBORS GRANT SCORECARD		
Evaluation criteria		Points
	Project type	
	Economic benefits	
	Environment	
	Urgency	
	Jobs created	
	Tonnage	
TOTAL		

2027 HAP application snapshot

- 8 applications
- 5 ports
- \$13,830,619.40 requested
- \$7.5 million budget
- 54% of need available



THANK YOU!

Reach out with ideas: Harbors Assistance Program



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wisconsindot.gov/hap

