

# NOTICE OF ADVISORY REFERENDUM

## Village of Waldo, Wisconsin

November 5, 2024

### Referendum Election Details:

At the general election to be held in the Village of Waldo, Wisconsin, on November 5, 2024, the following proposed advisory referendum question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

Which of the following options should the Village of Waldo pursue:

- Dam Repair: Repair and improve the Onion River Dam and retain the Waldo Mill Pond by borrowing and repaying up to \$350,000 over the next 20 years.
- Dam Removal: Remove the Onion River Dam and Waldo Mill Pond and rehabilitate the Onion River (provided the Village were awarded the dam removal grant) with the Village responsible for additional rehabilitation costs.

### Explanation:

The Onion River runs through the northeast portion of the Village of Waldo. Over a century ago the Onion River Dam was constructed to produce power, creating the 40-acre Waldo Mill Pond, which extends north into the Town of Lyndon. The impoundment is no longer used to produce power, but the Dam is still enjoyed for its aesthetic benefits and aquatic recreation. Inspections of the Dam within the past decade indicate that the Dam poses a significant safety hazard due to its present condition. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently directed the Village to either REPAIR the Dam (to withstand future significant flood events) or REMOVE it (which would eliminate the Millpond too).

Repair Option: The Village has been awarded a DNR (Department of Natural Resources) grant to cover half the cost to repair and improve the Dam to DNR requirements, which could cost up to \$700,000. The Village would be responsible for the remaining half, which it would borrow and repay over the next 20 years.

Removal Option: The Village could apply for a DNR grant, which would cover 100% of dam removal and stream rehabilitation, up to \$1,000,000. However, there could be additional costs (not covered by the grant) to rehabilitate the area around the Mill Pond and Onion River, which would be the responsibility of the Village. The Village would obtain estimates before proceeding.

Done in the Village of Waldo, Wisconsin on  
August 27th, 2024

*Lisa Gillette*

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Lisa Gillette, Village Clerk/Treasurer