Hello, my name is Lyndsey Tyznik, and I am the Winter 2024 Lake Wissota Stewardship Project (LWSP) Intern for the Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management Department (LCFM). I am very excited to be in this position and am so happy to be able to take part in making a positive impact on Lake Wissota and Chippewa County!

I am originally from Thorp, WI, and have spent much of my time in the Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls area. I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in Environmental Geography, where I was able to gain valuable experience in a variety of environmental disciplines. In my free time I enjoy fishing, kayaking, gardening, and taking care of my many houseplants.

During the beginning months of my internship, I have worked closely with various LCFM staff to become familiar with my responsibilities as the LWSP intern. I have been able to go out in the field on multiple farm visits and observe how government employees foster relationships with farmers and landowners. Additionally, I have attended multiple outreach events and meetings where I met farmers, individuals from different government agencies, and members of the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association.

I have also taken on the task of conducting monthly water sampling which analyze levels of total phosphorus and total suspended sediment. The samples are collected on Drywood Creek at the Cadott School Forest near the covered footbridge. After the water samples are collected, they are placed on ice and sent to Madison for analysis.

In the office, my tasks have included refining our Animal Waste Ordinance list by creating maps and preparing outreach mailings for farmers and landowners to inform them about available grant funding for properties with animal waste storage facilities. In the future, I am hoping to gain momentum on the fixed-point photography station project and create finished photo stations that can be placed around Lake Wissota.

As my internship continues, I am looking forward to the experiences and learning opportunities that will come as I further my understanding of conservation and land use practices. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity, and I would like to acknowledge and thank the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association for funding this position and making it possible for me to make an impact on Lake Wissota while developing my future conservation career. I would also like to thank Chippewa County LCFM for giving me valuable learning experiences and guidance that will stay with me long into the future.