**Devils Lake Water Improvement District**

**Community Profile**

*Population*: 9,000  
*Location*: Lincoln City

**Position Description**

*Sponsor*: Devils Lake Water Improvement District  
*Supervisor*: Paul Robertson, Lake Manager

**Assignment**

The RARE participant working with the Devils Lake Water Improvement District (DLWID) is focusing on a variety of projects related to the long-term protection of the district and its residents. The RARE participant is developing and implementing a septic tank revitalization program for the watershed. The program will create a septic tank inspection mechanism and establish a revolving loan program to retrofit existing septic systems.

The RARE participant is also leading the Shoreline Sharing Campaign to facilitate better stewardship practices on the landscape. The RARE participant is responsible for creating and assembling best practice resources for property owners which includes the development of a webpage for outreach and education in addition to public presentations for stakeholder groups.

Finally, the RARE participant is responsible for the summertime monitoring of E. coli levels and cyanobacteria blooms in Devils Lake. The project involves field sampling, equipment calibration as well as database and website management.

**RARE Participant**

*Seth Lenaerts* is entering his second year of the RARE program and his first year working with the Devils Lake Water Improvement District. Seth grew up in Wisconsin and graduated from University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point with a BS in Land Use Planning and a concentration in Soil Science. Throughout his life, Seth experienced many small, rural communities: his hometown, a town in Southwestern France, and a village in Kenya. These experiences formed and strengthened his desire to assist rural communities. Prior to RARE, Seth worked at the Center for Land Use Education and interned for Global Environmental Management both located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.