



## **Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda**

**August 2, 2022**

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **August 2, 2022**. The board will hold its official business meeting at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams. This agenda will be updated if an in-person attendance option is available. To attend the meeting, join by telephone at +1 608-571-2209 with Conference ID 637191002# or click the following Teams [hyperlink](#). The agenda for the meeting is shown below.

### AGENDA ITEMS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 1 Call the Meeting to Order – **Mark Cupp, LWCB Chair**
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Pledge of allegiance
  - c. Open meeting notice
  - d. Introductions, Acknowledgements
  - e. Approval of agenda
  - f. Approval of June 7, 2022 meeting minutes

- 2 Public appearances\*

*\*Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes or less. Each speaker must complete a Public Appearance Request Card and submit it to a DATCP representative before the start of the meeting*

- 3 Overview of Wisconsin Septage Program  
**Steve Warrner, WDNR Site Review Coordinator**
- 4 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM Plan review for Sauk County -  
**Lisa Wilson, Director, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Dept. and  
Melissa Schlupp, Conservation Manager, Marty Krueger, Land Resources &  
Environment Committee Chair**
- 5 Funding Sources for Soil and Water Conservation Programs  
**Andrew Potts, DOA**
- 6 Presentation of 2023 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan -  
**Jenni Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP and Joanna Griffin, DNR**

*Mark Cupp, Chair; Bobbie Webster, Vice-Chair;  
Monte Osterman, Secretary*

*Members: Andrew Buttles; Ron Grasshoff; Mike Hofberger; Bob Thome  
Andrew Potts; Brian Weigel; Jill Schoen*

- 7 DNR Presentation of Preliminary Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2023  
**Joanna Griffin, DNR**
- 8 DNR Presentation of Preliminary Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2023  
**Joanna Griffin, DNR**
- 9 Presentation 2021 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report  
**Coreen Fallat, DATCP**
- 10 Introduction to Land and Water Resource Management Program Evaluation  
**Coreen Fallat, DATCP**
- 11 LWCB Standing Committee for Advising the UW-System - Update and Recommendations  
**Ron Grasshoff, LWCB and Zach Zopp, DATCP**
- 12 Agency reports
  - a. FSA
  - b. NRCS
  - c. UW-CALS
  - d. UW Madison - Extension
  - e. WI Land + Water
  - f. DOA
  - g. DATCP
  - h. DNR
  - i. Member Updates
- 13 Planning for October 2022 LWCB Meeting -  
**Mark Cupp, LWCB**
- 14 Adjourn

**MINUTES**  
**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**June 7, 2022**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Item #1      Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of April 5, 2022 LWCB meeting minutes.**

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**Call to Order**

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met via videoconference on **June 7, 2022**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

**Members and Advisors Present**

**Members:** Mark Cupp, Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Buttles, Brian Weigel, Andrew Potts, Brian McGraw and Coreen Fallat. A quorum was present.

**Advisors:** John Exo (Division of Extension – UW Madison), Francisco Arriaga (UW-CALS), Eric Allness (NRCS) and Ian Krauss (FSA).

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

McGraw motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

Osterman motioned to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

**Item #2      Public Appearances**

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No public appearance cards were submitted.

**Item #3      Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Adams County**

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Dustin Grant, Director of Zoning and Land Conservation, Anna James, Water Resource Specialist, Chuck Sibilsky, Resource Conservationist, Adams County, and Jodi Schappe, Land & Water and UW-Extension Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan review.

The County provided written answers to the Board’s standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB’s website: [lwcb.wi.gov](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

The board and county representatives discussed: producer led initiatives, wind erosion control, pollinator plots, nitrates as a resource concern in the Fourteen Mile Watershed, partnering with DNR to do sampling in the Big Roche a Cri and Little Roche a Cri, partnering with the lakes associations, cover cropping, outreach related to nutrient management, advertising technical assistance available through the Zoning and Land Conservation Department, the county forestry plan and ordinance, and the positive direction that the Land Conservation Department is taking after significant staff turnover.

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Adams County’s LWRM plan review, seconded by Weigel, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Forest County**

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Steve Kircher, County Conservationist- Land Information/GIS Director, Forest County Land Conservation- Land Information/GIS Department and Thomas Tallier, LCC Member, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County’s 5-year LWRM plan review.

The County provided written answers to the Board’s standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB’s website: [lwcb.wi.gov](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, Grasshoff motioned to recommend approval of Forest County’s 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #5 Hold for Board Education Item**

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This item was reserved for a future meeting.

**Item #6 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Lincoln County**

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Thomas Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager, Lincoln County Land Services Department, Mike Huth, Administrator and Zoning Program Manager, Lincoln County Land Services Department, Marty Lemke, Land Services Committee Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County’s 5-year LWRM plan review.

The County provided written answers to the Board’s standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB’s website: [lwcb.wi.gov](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, Osterman motioned to recommend approval of Lincoln County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #7 5-minute Break**

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The board did not observe a break.

**Item #8 LWCB Ad Hoc Committee for Advising the UW-System - Update and Recommendations**

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Francisco Arriaga, UW-CALS and Zach Zopp, DATCP, presented to the Board on the LWCB's advisory duty to the University of Wisconsin System and the findings and recommendations of the ad hoc committee convened after the April 2022 meeting. The cover memo and presentation given to the Board are available online at the LWCB website within the June 7, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

After a discussion between the Board and Ad Hoc committee representatives, Fallat made a motion to create a standing committee for Advising the UW-System, seconded by Weigel, and the motion carried unanimously. The board requested that the standing committee consider and articulate a refined purpose statement for the newly formed committee to be reviewed and approved at a future meeting.

McGraw made a motion to appoint the members of the Ad Hoc committee to be members of the Standing Committee on Advising the UW-System until the August 2022 meeting, seconded by Fallat, and the motion carried unanimously. The board determined to reserve consideration of the proposed soil and water conservation categories for the LWCB to advise the UW-System for the August 2022 meeting.

**Item #9 Agency Reports**

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**FSA-** Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 7, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

**NRCS** – Eric Allness submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 7, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

**UW Extension-** John Exo reported that two new Water Quality and Outreach Specialists have started in the Institute of Agriculture: Laura Paletta, formerly of the Manitowoc County Conservation Department, who will be primarily serving the east region, and Rachel Rushmann, formerly of DATCP, who will primarily be serving the west region. Extension is working on an offer for an additional Water Quality and Outreach Specialist.

**UW CALs** – Francisco Arriaga reported that Glenda Gillaspay will replace Dean Kate Vanden Bosch on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Gillaspay is a professor of biochemistry at Virginia Tech. The agronomy and soils field day has been scheduled for August 31, 2022 at the Arlington Research Station.

**WI Land+Water-** Osterman reported that the Statewide Training Coordinator has on boarded with WI Land + Water. The new Board of Directors for WI Land + Water is onboarding and will convene for their first face to face meeting in June. At that meeting, the Board of Directors will vote on a candidate to complete Bob Mott's term on the LWCB.

**DOA** – Andrew Potts reported that DOA has concluded works on a 2023-2025 base budget and presented two items for consideration of the Board at its August meeting: 1) A presentation on funding sources for programs so that the LWCB could communicate support for specific initiatives

before DATCP and DNR submit their agency budgets in September and 2) A presentation on the state's adaptive management plan, more specifically, P Multi Discharger Variance Program as DOA works with DNR on works related to renewal and resubmittal of the plan.

**DATCP** – Coreen Fallat submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 7, 2022 [meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Fallat reported that an emergency rule is pending for the nitrogen optimization program. The board will be provided with a copy of the rule prior to publication in the official state paper per s. 92.04(3)(c), Wis. Stats. The recruitment for the Land and Water Resources Bureau Director is ongoing.

**DNR** – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 7, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

**Item #10 Planning for the August 2022 LWCB meeting**

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The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting:

- 5-year Review Sauk County
- 2023 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan
- Scores and Rankings of Target Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2023
- Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management Projects for CY 2023
- Presentation of the 2021 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report

**Item #11 Adjourn**

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**Motion**

Buttles motioned to adjourn, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monte Osterman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: KS, DATCP

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM** \_\_\_\_\_ **State of Wisconsin**

**DATE:** July 19, 2022

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

**FROM:** Lisa K. Trumble, DATCP *Lisa K. Trumble*  
Resource Management Section,  
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

**SUBJECT:** Five Year Review of the *Sauk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*

**Recommended Action:** This is an action item. The LWCB should determine whether the county has met the LWCB's criteria for a five-year review of a LWRM plan approved for ten years. If the LWCB makes a formal determination that the county has failed to meet these criteria, DATCP will automatically modify its order to terminate approval of the county's plan effective December of this year.

**Summary:** The Sauk County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2027, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2022. In advance of the five-year review, Sauk County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

**Materials Provided:**

- Completed Five Year Review Form
- 2021 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2022 Annual Workplan

**Presenter:** Lisa Wilson, Director, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Dept.  
Melissa Schlupp, Conservation Manager  
Marty Krueger, Chair, Land Resources & Environment Committee



Land and Water Conservation Board  
County Land and Water Resource Management Plan  
Five Year Review of LWRM Plans

County: SAUK

**Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions**

Answer these four questions in writing (not to exceed 4 pages)

1. Provide a representative number of accomplishments that can be directly traced to activities identified in multiple work plans. For each accomplishment, explain how the planning process helped the county achieve its outcome, including planning adjustments that helped better target county activities.

Nutrient management planning continues to be a significant workload for the department since the adoption of the 2018 LWRM plan (2018 – 9679 ac, 2019 – 9508 ac, 2020 – 9361 ac, 2021 – 12,327 ac). This is primarily due to the number of participants in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and the department requiring nutrient management plans from landowners with manure storage facilities. Prior to 2018, the department had not been requesting annual updated NMPs from FPP participants nor requiring NMPs for those with manure storage facilities (permitted and unpermitted facilities). Implementation priorities identified in the 2018 LWRM plan have helped the department to further prioritize what farms are offered assistance to come into compliance with NR151 and county ordinance performance standards, specifically regarding nutrient management.

Since the development of the 2018 LWRM plan, there has been a strong interest in converting land to rotational grazing. Much of this work has been implemented utilizing federal funding associated with the Baraboo River Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and funding through the Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) program. Due to so many farms converting land to rotational grazing, there has been a renaissance of pasture walks and grazing networking in the county. Monthly pasture walks and grazing specific workshops and presentations are well attended. A number of goals identified in the 2018 LWRM plan include promotion and implementation of soil health practices. The department was able to purchase a rainfall simulator in 2018 that helps demonstrate the impacts of heavy rain events on various land uses. It's no surprise that seeing the incredible resilience of rotationally grazed pastures vs. over grazed pastures has helped with the promotion of soil health practices such as rotational grazing.

The outreach and education efforts of the department have grown exponentially since the 2018 LWRM plan was approved. Staff have completely revamped the youth educational program being offered by the department. This included retiring some old, ineffective programs and expanding new, innovative programs. Staff have been instrumental in supporting the Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group (SSWIG) with cost share programs and educational activities.————



2. Identify any areas where the county was unable to make desired progress in implementing activities identified in multiple work plans. For each area identified, explain the work plan adjustments that were made to refocus planned activities. If no areas are identified, explain how the county was able to make progress in all the areas planned.

The following areas did not result in desired progress: cover crops, soil health assessments, and streambank stabilization.

Although the 2018 LWRM plan included several goals focused on promoting and implementing soil health practices, there continues to be less and less interest in cover crops. This is likely due to federal cost share programs being offered to the “low hanging fruit” and no further interest from others. Similarly, there has been less interest for completing soil health assessments on farms. This may be due to the lack of understanding of what an assessment consists of or the information it produces. Since promoting soil health practices was still a priority for the department, staff put greater efforts into promoting rotational grazing.

Due to staff changes in 2019, less streambank stabilization work has been completed in the county. As a result, the department pivoted staff time and efforts towards promoting rotational grazing. We feel these projects are more cost effective and result in a greater reduction in soil erosion and phosphorus runoff.————

3. Describe how the county’s work plans implement its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of county actions implementing agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms. In particular, the county should describe outreach, farm inventories, and additional funds that were pursued to implement its strategy.

Recently, the department has been more intentional about how to implement agricultural performance standards on farms in the county. Prior to 2021, staff were primarily focused on implementing the agricultural performance standards on farms participating in the Farmland Preservation Program. Now that all FPP participants are in compliance and will continue to maintain annual compliance (i.e. submission of updated NMPs), staff will be working with owners of manure storage facilities to ensure compliance with the performance standards and county ordinance.

A countywide GIS prioritization map was developed in 2021 that accounted for various environmental conditions (depth to groundwater, % water quality management area, depth to bedrock) and farm conditions (livestock facilities, manure storage facilities, % agricultural land) in each watershed. This will assist the department in prioritizing which watersheds to evaluate in the upcoming years to implement performance standards. Chapter 26 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management Prohibitions ordinance was updated in early 2022 and this prioritization strategy was shared with our committee and at public outreach events. Direct mailings will be sent to farms within each watershed as they are scheduled for evaluations.————

4. Provide representative examples that show changes in direction for work planning in the upcoming five years, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in planned activities in the county’s most recent work plan.

The department has worked diligently to identify idle manure storage facilities in the county and offer abandonment or retainment options to those landowners. We anticipate an increased interest in abandoning these facilities in the future and plan to have staff assist with the survey and designs of those projects when cost share is applied for.

Due to staff changes and a new technical standard for streambank and shoreline stabilization, less staff time will be devoted to these practices. Staff will instead focus on non-engineered practices along lakes and streams that help reduce soil erosion and promote wildlife and pollinator habitat including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Additional outreach and education efforts for lakeshore owners will also help promote best management practices.

The department feels that outreach and education continue to be one of the most valuable services provided to farmers and rural landowners. With the onset of the pandemic, it became obvious that some virtual and electronic communication options were not available, and there was a disconnect between the department and many landowners. The department is exploring email marketing platforms (i.e Mail Chimp, Constant Contact) in order to provide email updates to landowners on topics such as farmland preservation and rotational grazing. The department also recognizes that many farms are not operated by the landowner and there is a need to inform absentee landowners of the importance of land conservation on their farm. The department plans to hold an absentee landowner workshop each winter to provide those landowners with a better understanding of land and water conservation and how to discuss those topics with their operator.

One item that was not included in the 2022 workplan was plans for utilizing the Sauk County Farm as a significant outreach and educational resource in the future. In March 2022, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors adopted the Sauk County Farm Property Master plan. The master planning process was designed to target collaboration with key community stakeholders and educational institutions centered on the following goals: to create educational opportunities for Sauk County's current and future farmers, and to utilize the space for agricultural demonstration and experimentation. Over the next 20 years, the department envisions the nearly 600-acre county farm becoming a place for Sauk County residents to converge, learn, and experiment with regenerative and conservation-friendly farming best practices. ———

## **Annual Work Plans**

Attach both of the following:

- a. The most current annual work prepared by the county.
- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year.

## **Board Review Process**

The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a

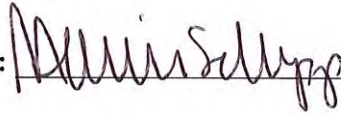
county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning. Counties have the option to prepare a brief presentation to illustrate their successes and future priorities.

#### Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on:

July 26, 2022

Signature of Authorized Representative:  
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)



Date: 7/19/2022

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:

[Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov](mailto:Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov)

**SAUK 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cropland</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</b>	<i>Assist with planning &amp; installation of cropland practices Complete landscape surveys/inventories Provide soil health assessments on farms</i>	<i>171.6 Acres Cover Crops Installed 12,327.4 Acres NMP Installed 2 Landscape Surveys/inventories completed 0 Soil health assessments completed 3 Nitrogen Use Efficiency Sites established</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Livestock</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Livestock</b>	<i>Assist with planning &amp; installation of livestock practices</i>	<i>50 feet stream crossings installed 574.9 Acres converted to managed grazing 5 roof runoff system installed 3 manure storage facility closures</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Water quality</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Water quality/quantity</b> (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>Install streambank/shoreline protection Sample water quality of streams and rivers Assist with planning &amp; installation of riparian buffers Assist with planning well decommissioning</i>	<i>1,646 linear feet streambank/shoreline protection installed 5 streams sampled 9,022 linear feet riparian buffers installed 2 wells decommissioned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Forestry</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Forestry</b>	<i>Organize annual county tree sale</i>	<i>15,030 trees sold</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Invasive</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Invasive species</b>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Wildlife</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat</b> (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Install instream habitat practices</i>	<i>9 instream structures installed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Urban</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Urban issues</b>	<i>Organize Pollinator Demo Garden Pilot Project Conduct road salt tests</i>	<i>25-50 Sq Ft gardens installed 0 tests completed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Watershed</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Watershed strategies</b>	<i>Enroll participants in Baraboo River RCPP project Enroll participants in MDV or WQT projects</i>	<i>9 landowners enrolled 3 landowners enrolled</i>

**SAUK 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

- *Other*

<b>Other</b>	<i>PL 566 Dam Inspections</i>	<i>3 PL566 dams inspected</i>
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	8	8
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other	0	0

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	<i>155</i>
For FPP	<i>127</i>
For NR 151	<i>0</i>
Animal waste ordinance	<i>28</i>
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

**SAUK 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	10
Field days	8
Trainings/workshops	5
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	37
Newsletters	7
Social media posts	360
News release/story	13

Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
Director	1008	\$66,113
Conservation Manager	2015	\$111,630
Conservation Technician	2015	\$94,629
Conservation Technician	2015	\$100,288
Conservation Technician	2015	\$98,852
Watershed Coordinator	2015	\$78,058
Education Coordinator	2015	\$78,995
Program Support Specialist	1008	\$38,660
<b>Cost Sharing</b> (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$64,350
SEG	N/A	\$45,000

**SAUK COUNTY 2022 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**  
**LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cropland</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</b>	<i>Assist with planning &amp; installation of cropland practices</i> <i>Complete landscape surveys/inventories</i> <i>Encourage cropland conversion to no till</i>	<i>100 Acres Cover Crops Installed</i> <i>4,000 Acres NMP Installed</i> <i>2 Landscape Surveys/inventories completed</i> <i>100 Acres enrolled in NT Incentive Program</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Livestock</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Livestock</b>	<i>Assist with planning &amp; installation of livestock practices</i>	<i>100 feet stream crossings installed</i> <i>400 Acres converted to managed grazing</i> <i>4 manure storage facility closures</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Water quality</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Water quality/quantity</b> (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>Install streambank/shoreline protection</i> <i>Sample water quality of streams and rivers</i> <i>Assist with planning &amp; installation of riparian buffers</i> <i>Assist with planning well decommissioning</i>	<i>1500 linear feet streambank/shoreline protection installed</i> <i>8 streams sampled</i> <i>10,000 linear feet riparian buffers installed</i> <i>2 wells decommissioned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Forestry</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Forestry</b>	<i>Organize annual county tree sale</i>	<i>14,000 trees sold</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Invasive</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Invasive species</b>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Wildlife</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat</b> (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Urban</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Urban issues</b>	<i>Conduct road salt tests</i>	<i>4 tests completed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Watershed</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Watershed strategies</b>	<i>Enroll participants in Baraboo River RCPP project</i> <i>Enroll participants in MDV or WQT projects</i>	<i>10 landowners enrolled</i> <i>4 landowners enrolled</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Other</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b>	<i>PL 566 Dam Inspections</i>	<i>3 PL566 dams inspected</i>

**SAUK COUNTY 2022 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**  
**LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

<b>Permits and Ordinances</b>	<b>Plans/application reviews anticipated</b>	<b>Permits anticipated to be issued</b>
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	4	4
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other	0	0

Table 3: Planned inspections

<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Number of inspections planned</b>
Total Farm Inspections	<i>136</i>
For FPP	<i>76</i>
For NR 151	<i>10</i>
Animal waste ordinance	50
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0



**SAUK COUNTY 2022 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	3
Field days	7
Trainings/workshops	7
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	10
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	100
News release/story	10

Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>Ex. County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$83,000
Director	1008	\$69,030.50
Conservation Manager	2015	\$116,602
Conservation Technician	2015	\$101,131
Conservation Technician	2015	\$85,907
Conservation Technician	2015	\$102,498
Watershed Coordinator	2015	\$80,879
Education Coordinator	2015	\$81,712
Program Support Specialist	1008	\$36,152
<b>Cost Sharing</b> (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$65,500
SEG	N/A	\$60,000



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Tony Evers

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Secretary Randy Romanski

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM** \_\_\_\_\_ **State of Wisconsin**

**DATE:** July 22, 2022

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

**FROM:** Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP  
Susan Mockert, DATCP  
Bureau of Land and Water Resources Management

**SUBJECT:** *2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan for the Soil and Water Resource Management Program and the Nonpoint Source Program*

**Recommend Action:**

This is an informational item. However, if the LWCB wishes to do so, it may vote to “receive” the *2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan*. A vote to “receive” the preliminary allocation plan does not bind the LWCB to any position.

**Summary:**

The *2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan* provides details on how both the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to allocate \$22,267,362 of available nonpoint grant funds to county land conservation committees and other project cooperators. This plan does not include DNR award of grants to cities, towns, and villages for projects under ss. 281.65 or 285.66, Wis. Stats.

As part of the allocation process, DATCP prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The EA finds that DATCP’s proposed allocation is not a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and concludes that an environmental impact statement is not required.

**Breakdown of the 2023 Joint Allocation**

Charts 1 and 2 on Page 3 of the Joint Allocation Plan provide an overview of the grant funds DNR and DATCP propose to allocate. Specifically, Chart 1 identifies the proposed DNR and DATCP awards by program category and the dollar amounts and Chart 2 documents the grants awarded by the state appropriation or other funding source.

DATCP’s allocation awards grants in these program categories: staff and support, landowner cost-sharing, including a reserve to cost-share farm discharges and specific environmental concerns, and project grants including NMFE training and Innovation Grants. The following tables provide details regarding DATCP grants:

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Table A (page 16) summarizes county and cooperator awards by program category; Table A-1 (pages 17-18) shows the step-by-step process for calculating county staff and support grants; Tables A-2 (page 21) and A-3 (page 22) show county scores and rankings in the competition for bond and SEG cost-share grants.

DATCP expenditures for the 2023 allocation vary from the 2022 allocation as follows:

- An increase of \$250,000 in staffing and support grants, reflecting the increase in the funds appropriated as part of the 2021-2023 state budget. This increase allowed for the first time to award funds for a third position. The available funds are allocated to each of the seventy counties who had included a funding request for a third position.
- An increase of \$105,967 in bond allocation. This reflects a higher amount of 2020/2021 unspent funds to be redistributed.
- A decrease of \$56,339 in SEG allocation, primarily for nutrient management cost-sharing with landowners. While a greater percentage of these funds are being used for cropping practices, the demand for SEG funds continues to decline.
- An increase of \$56,177 in Innovation Grant funds with three new projects out of a total of thirteen projects.
- An increase of \$65,520 in grants to project cooperator grants for education and technical assistance, reflecting an increase in working jointly with other entities to provide support for DATCP programming.
- A decrease of \$40,358 in NMFE grants awards. The requests for these grants were completely met, therefore the decrease in the award amounts is due to a decrease in grant applications. There tends to be biennial trends within this grant program due to the timing of the awards and the programming.

DNR provides grants in the following funding categories: Targeted Runoff Management (TRM), Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS), and NR 243 Notice of Discharge (NOD) programs. The DNR did not receive any applications for cost-sharing of UNPS-Construction projects during 2023. UNPS-Planning grants were not solicited in 2023. Table B (page 19) provides a breakdown of DNR's allocation to counties.

Table C (page 20) combines the DNR and DATCP allocations to provide a complete picture of the 2023 allocations.

The body of the Joint Allocation Plan provides a detailed discussion regarding DATCP and DNR allocations including future directions for DATCP funding. These are highlights of DATCP's discussion regarding future directions:

- Possible changes in the staffing grant to create incentives to hire conservation professionals whose time is fully dedicated to conservation activities such as nutrient management or conservation engineering. This would discourage counties from assigning conservation staff work in zoning and other non-conservation areas.

- Possible changes in SEG-funded grants to make better use of available funds for nutrient management planning, nutrient management implementation, and soil health practices and programming.

### **Comment on Preliminary Allocation Plan**

The 2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan and DATCP's Environmental Assessment were provided to all county land conservation departments and other interested parties prior to the LWCB's August 2, 2022 meeting.

Counties, project cooperators, and other interested persons may comment on the 2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan either by:

- Requesting to appear and present comments before the LWCB at its August 2, 2022 meeting. A Public Appearance Request Card must be submitted before the meeting.
- Emailing written comments no later than September 6, 2022 to Kim Carlson at [datcpswrn@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcpswrn@wisconsin.gov).

Materials Provided:

- 2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan
- Environmental Assessment

Presenter: Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein (DATCP)

# 2023 Joint Allocation Plan

Preliminary

AUGUST 2023

Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program and Nonpoint Source Program



Contents

List of Tables.....iii

Summary of Changes to the 2023 Joint Allocation Plan.....i

Approval Signatures.....i

Introduction .....2

Funding Sources and Allocation Requests.....3

DATCP Allocations .....4

    Staff and Support ..... 4

        Funds Available .....4

        Grant Awards .....4

        Unmet Need for Staff and Support Funds .....4

        Reallocation and Redirection.....5

        Future Funding Directions .....5

    Bond Revenue Cost-Sharing..... 5

        Bond Funds Available ..... 6

        Grant Awards .....6

    SEG Fund Allocation ..... 7

        Funds Available .....7

        Landowner Cost-Sharing.....7

        NMFE Training Grants .....9

        Statewide Projects: Project Cooperator Grants .....9

        Innovation Grants .....10

        Unmet Need for Cost-Share Funding.....11

        Future Funding Directions .....11

DNR Allocations .....12

    Funding Sources..... 12

        1. TRM Preliminary Allocation .....13

        2. UNPS Preliminary Allocation .....13

        3. Notice of Discharge Program.....14

Attachments .....15

    Tables ..... 16

    Allocation Plan Dictionary ..... 23

## List of Tables

<b>Table A: DATCP Allocations</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 16</a></u></b>
<b>Table A-1: Staff and Support</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Pages 17-18</a></u></b>
<b>Table B: Total DNR Preliminary Allocations</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 19</a></u></b>
<b>Table C: Summary of DATCP and DNR Allocations</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 20</a></u></b>
<b>Table A-2: County Bond Cost-Share Awards</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 21</a></u></b>
<b>Table A-3: County SEG Cost-Share Awards</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 22</a></u></b>

# Summary of Changes to the 2023 Joint Allocation Plan

This section will be completed to account for any changes in the proposed allocation plan based on comments received, LWCB input, and other factors identified by DATCP or DNR.

Counties, project cooperators, and other interested persons may comment on the 2023 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan either by:

- Requesting to appear and present comments before the LWCB at a regularly scheduled meeting (A Public Appearance Request Card must be completed before the start of meeting).
- Emailing written comments by no later than September 6, 2022 to:  
Kim Carlson at [datcpswrn@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcpswrn@wisconsin.gov).

## Approval Signatures

DATCP has determined that the action described in this allocation plan for the 2023 soil and water resource management grant program shown in [Table A](#) conforms to the applicable DATCP provisions of s. 92.14, Wis. Stats, and ATCP 50, Wis. Administrative Code. DATCP reserves the right to reallocate grant funds unexpended by recipients.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Romanski, Secretary

DNR has determined that the actions described in this allocation plan for the 2023 allocations of DNR funds shown in [Table B](#) conforms with the provisions of ss. 281.65 and 281.66, Wis. Stats.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary



# Introduction

The allocations identified in this plan provide counties and others with grant funding for conservation staff and support costs, landowner cost-sharing, and runoff management projects. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are making these allocations to protect Wisconsin's soil and water resources, consistent with the objectives in chs. 92 and 281, Wis. Stats.

DATCP is allocating grants to county land conservation committees (counties) and other project cooperators in 2023 through the Soil and Water Resource Management Program ([Table A](#)). DNR is allocating grants to counties through the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM), the NR 243 Notice of Discharge (NOD), and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Construction Projects (UNPS Construction) programs ([Table B](#)).

For 2023, a total of \$22,267,362 is allocated based on the state budget for the 2021-23 biennium. [Table C](#) summarizes all allocations, by grantee. Organized by funding category, Chart 1 on page 3, summarizes grant fund requests, unmet funding requests, and allocation amounts. Chart 2 on page 3, shows the allocation categories by funding sources. *If required, these allocations may be adjusted based on reductions or lapses in appropriations or authorizations.*

# Funding Sources and Allocation Requests

**CHART 1: GRANT REQUESTS AND ALLOCATIONS**

Funding Category	Total Requests	Unmet Requests	Allocation Amounts
<b>DATCP</b>			
County Staff/Support	\$13,528,915	\$2,248,915	\$11,280,000
LWRM Cost-Share (B)	\$7,039,500	\$3,493,759	\$3,545,741
Bond Reserve (B)	\$250,000		\$250,000
LWRM Cost-Share (SEG)	\$2,769,100	\$635,000	\$2,134,100
Project Contracts (SEG)	\$1,030,859	\$80,000	\$950,859
Innovation Grants (SEG)	\$362,415	\$38,356	\$324,059
NMFE Grants (SEG)	\$165,982	\$0	\$165,982
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,146,771</b>	<b>\$6,496,030</b>	<b>\$18,650,741</b>
<b>DNR</b>			
UNPS Planning	NA	NA	NA
UNPS Construction	\$0	NA	NA
TRM	\$4,407,798	\$1,791,178	\$2,616,621
NOD Reserve (B)			\$1,000,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,407,798</b>	<b>\$1,791,178</b>	<b>\$3,616,621</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$22,267,362</b>

**CHART 2: FUNDING SOURCES**

<b>Staff and Support Grants</b>	
\$7,480,800	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe)
\$3,799,200	DATCP GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c)
<b>\$11,280,000</b>	<b>DATCP Subtotal</b>
\$ 45,000	DNR SEG from s.20.370(6)(aq)
259,380.08	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
<b>\$304,380</b>	<b>DNR Subtotal</b>
<b>\$11,584,380</b>	<b>TOTAL Staff &amp; Support Grants</b>
<b>Cost-Share Grants</b>	
\$3,545,741	DATCP Bond from s. 20.866(2)(we)
\$250,000	DATCP Bond (Reserve) from s. 20.866(2)(we)
\$2,134,100	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
<b>\$5,929,841</b>	<b>DATCP Subtotal</b>
\$2,942,297.45	DNR Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(tf)
\$55,000.00	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(aq)
\$314,943.25	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
<b>\$3,312,240.70</b>	<b>DNR Subtotal</b>
<b>\$9,242,082</b>	<b>TOTAL Cost-Share Grants</b>
<b>Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) &amp; Other Project Cooperator (OPC) Grants</b>	
\$165,982	DATCP SEG (NMFE) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
\$950,859	DATCP SEG (OPC) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
\$324,059	DATCP SEG (Innovation) from s.20.115(7)(qf)
<b>\$1,440,900</b>	<b>TOTAL NMFE &amp; Other Grants</b>
<b>\$22,267,362</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>

# DATCP Allocations

## Staff and Support

The allocation under this category provides county staff and support funding. Grant awards are consistent with the terms of the 2023 grant application and instructions located at [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx).

### Funds Available

The allocation amount listed in [Table A-1](#) consists of annual appropriations of \$3,799,200 in GPR funds and \$7,480,800 in SEG funds “for support of local land conservation personnel under the soil and water resource management program.” DATCP has no underspending from prior years to increase this allocation.

### Grant Awards

Grants are awarded using the following formula:

#### Tier 1

DATCP is exercising its discretion under s. ATCP 50.32(5) to award each county a \$75,000 base grant.

#### Tier 2

DATCP will allocate the remaining \$5,880,000 using a modified version of the formula designed to meet the goal in s. 92.14(6)(b), Wis. Stats., of funding 100, 70 and 50 percent of the costs of three staff positions in each county. As modified, the formula allows counties to claim department heads, technicians and engineers as their first positions (entitled to 100 percent funding) only if they work over 95% on eligible conservation activities.

DATCP makes Tier 2 awards in three rounds in an attempt to meet the statutory goal. For round one, DATCP can fully fund county requests for their first position at the 100% rate. Due to an increase in the allocation for the 2021-2023 budget cycle for round two, DATCP can fund 100% of the county requests for their second position at the 70% rate. Additionally, after funding the first two positions for each county at the maximum rate, there will be a small allocation for third positions. Dividing the balance between the 70 counties that requested funding for a third position, DATCP will award approximately 5% of the requested amount. [Table A-1](#) provides round-by-round details of the Tier 2 allocation for each county.

### Unmet Need for Staff and Support Funds

Despite an increase to the appropriation, DATCP would need an additional \$2.2 million appropriated to reach the goal in s. 92.14(6)(b), Wis. Stats. Even with increases in funding, counties are anticipated to shoulder a significant part of the staffing costs. For example, in

2021, counties provided funding to pay 205 of the 378 conservation staff employed statewide.

### **Reallocation and Redirection**

DATCP approves Menominee County's request to reallocate up to \$8,000 to the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin on the condition that county provides a report on the use of the reallocated funds.

### **Future Funding Directions**

DATCP awards grants for a county's first position only if the staff is actively engaged in qualified conservation activities. Also, DATCP requires annual work planning and reporting in order to qualify for DATCP funding. These requirements build county conservation capacity and better account for the performance of conservation activities using state funds. If sufficient additional staffing funding is made available in the future to fully fund the statutory goal in s. 92.14 (6)(b), DATCP may consider further adjustments to the grant formula to advance the goals of capacity building and accountability without compromising the basic funding for county staff. If adequate funding is provided moving forward, DATCP could consider the amount of DATCP programming a county supports, such as nutrient management farmer education, farmland preservation, CREP, or livestock siting, in determining how third position funds are allocated.

In the future, DATCP could ensure that counties maintain adequate conservation delivery capacity by requiring that a county's second or third position be engaged in providing high level conservation support as a technician with conservation engineering practitioner certification or as a planner qualified to write nutrient management plans. Also, DATCP could preclude a county from claiming a department head as its second or third position if the county has listed a department head in its first position. To reward county performance, the staffing grant formula could be modified to provide additional payments for counties that are making reasonable progress in implementing their annual work plans. If adjustments to the staffing formula are made in the future, DATCP will proceed with caution and only after input from counties, mindful of the challenges, even with increases in the appropriation.

With the increase in the allocation expiring with the 2023 Allocation, the funding available for the staffing allocation could drop by up to \$2.3 million. This would have a great negative impact on counties who have had four years of enhanced staffing awards, allowing new staff to be hired. Without consistency in the staffing funding allocation, counties face challenges in growing their outreach and management abilities due to staffing shortages.

### **Bond Revenue Cost-Sharing**

The allocations under this category provide cost-sharing to resolve discharges on farms, address priority non-point runoff projects, and provide counties grants for landowner cost-sharing. Unless otherwise noted below, grant awards are consistent with the terms of the 2023 grant application and instructions (see page 4 for the link to these documents).

## **Bond Funds Available**

The allocation amount listed on page one consists of \$3.5 million (half of DATCP's \$7.0 million authorization in the 2021-23 budget), with the following adjustments:

- Decrease the amount by \$250,000 for an engineering reserve fund
- Increase the amount by \$295,741 using unspent bond funds previously allocated.

## **Grant Awards**

### ***Bond Reserve Projects***

DATCP will allocate \$250,000 to an engineering reserve primarily for the purpose of funding projects to address discharges on farms including regulatory animal waste response (NR 243) projects in cooperation with DNR. Some funds may be used for priority projects related to extreme weather events or other non-runoff related projects. These projects are usually quite expensive and funds are awarded first come, first serve using a separate process that includes completing a form for engineering reserve projects and projects over \$50,000 as well as obtaining a recommendation from DATCP engineering staff.

DATCP will allocate \$3,545,741 in bond funds to counties for landowner cost-sharing. DATCP makes county awards by first providing base funding, and then awarding funds based on criteria related to county performance and need.

After providing each county \$10,000 in base funding, DATCP awards the remaining \$2,825,741 using two performance-based criteria (a 3-year record of cumulative spending of cost-share funds, and a 3-year average of underspending of cost-share funds) and one needs-based criteria (farmland acres based on 2017 Census of Agriculture data). Minor manual adjustments are then made to the allocation, if needed.

[Table A-2](#) shows each county's total award amount and the factors that contributed to the county's award.

### ***Unmet Need for Bond Cost-Share Funds***

DATCP's allocation provided 50% of the bond funds requested, leaving \$3,493,759 in unsatisfied county requests. A chronic shortfall in bond funds has practical implications for our capacity to implement state and local priorities including farm runoff standards. Of particular concern, cost-share dollars are not keeping pace with increased costs for conservation practices and expanded priorities reflected in new NR 151 targeted performance standards.

### ***Future Funding Directions***

In response to the impact of unusual weather events during 2018 and 2019, the SWRM program managers determined the best way to ensure future allocations are not unfairly impacted is to eliminate the inclusion of extended underspending in the bond award

calculations for grant cycles for 2021, 2022, 2023. After this three year period, the matter will be reassessed. Additionally, as bond funding has stayed the same and costs have increased, underspending by counties has dropped to almost nothing. Therefore, that criteria is less meaningful when awarding funds than in previous years.

DATCP may update the review of applications and awards process using a rubric to score applications and supporting information. The criteria would stay the same – underspending, acres of farmland and positive spending – but the interpretation of the data may be updated.

## SEG Fund Allocation

The allocations under this category provide funding for (1) landowner cost-sharing for soft practices including nutrient management (NM), (2) farmer and related training involving NM, (3) NM implementation support and other projects of statewide importance and 4) innovation projects. Unless otherwise noted below, grant awards are consistent with the terms of the 2023 grant application and instructions (see page 4 for the link to these documents).

### Funds Available

The total allocated for SEG programming is a \$4,675,000 “for cost-sharing grants and contracts under the soil and water resource management program under s. 92.14” with the following adjustments:

- A decrease of \$1,000,000 as a result of a redirection of funds for producer-led watershed protection grants.
- A reserve of \$100,000 to support the newly established nitrogen optimization pilot program and the cover crop rebate program, or for the DATCP database upgrade. If funds are not needed for these programs, they will be reallocated as cost-share funds to existing grantees, or to completely fund innovative grants, other project cooperator requests, or in support of other projects supporting nutrient management implementation.

Of the \$3,575,000 available for allocation, \$2,134,100 will be provided to counties for landowner cost-sharing, \$165,982 will be awarded for farmer NM training, \$324,059 will be given to counties for innovation grants and \$950,859 will be awarded to project cooperators for training and support services. The majority of funding awarded in this category directly benefits farmers and other landowners by providing NM cost-sharing and farmer training.

### Landowner Cost-Sharing

DATCP provides grants to counties primarily for cost-sharing NM plans to meet the 2015 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 590 Standard. Some of these funds may be used to cost-share (a) cover crops and other cropping practices to implement a NM plan, and (b) for “hard practices” with DATCP approval if the county’s grant contract authorizes such use.

Sixty counties applied for \$2,769,100 in grants, and DATCP will award \$2,134,100 to applicants based on ranking determined by the following scoring criteria:

- Up to 20 points based on acres covered by Farmland Preservation Zoning and Agriculture Enterprise Areas.
- Up to 20 points based on the extent of impaired waters located in each county.
- Up to 30 points based on a county’s participation in NM planning and implementation as demonstrated by specific employee positions, inclusion of NM planning in the 2022 work plans, providing educational opportunities related to NM planning, soil testing, or plan renewal.
- Up to 30 points based on a county’s total three-year positive spending on NM cost-sharing for the previous year.

DATCP relies on data in its possession to score county applications based on the four funding criteria. Counties are ranked according to their cumulative score (up to 100 points) and are organized into five groups for allocation purposes. Counties receive the highest maximum preliminary award for their grouping, unless a county requests a lower amount. The five award groups are listed in Chart 3.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Maximum Award</b>	<b>Maximum Awards in Groups</b>
1	\$95,000	1 of 1
2	\$75,000	7 of 10
3	\$65,000	7 of 29
4	\$35,000	1 of 15
5	\$15,000	2 of 5

Funds were then manually adjusted in a few cases to provide additional SEG funding to counties who requested larger allocations and have demonstrated an ability to spend it, or to limit funds going to counties who have a proclivity of transferring all SEG funds. In no case did the award exceed a county’s request or the maximum of \$95,000. [Table A-3](#) enumerates each county’s score, grouping, and grant award. The term “N/A” identifies the twelve counties that did not apply for funds. [Table A](#) also reflects amounts allocated to each county under the “SEG Cost-Sharing” column. With prior approval from DATCP, counties may spend up to 50% of 2023 SEG funds on bondable practices in support of nutrient management plan implementation without prior approval. Counties may request additional flexibility to use the funds with DATCP approval.

## NMFE Training Grants

For 2023, DATCP fully funded all Nutrient Management Farmer Education requests, in the amounts listed in Chart 4.

All grant recipients must sign a contract with DATCP that incorporates the requirements of s. ATCP 50.35 and commits the project to developing NM plans that meet the 2015 NRCS 590 standards. Three of the awards also include funds to purchase laptops for training.

Chart 4: NMFE Grant Awards	
Organization	Total Award
Calumet Co	\$1,100
CVTC	\$19,960
Douglas Co.	\$1,200
Eau Claire Co.	\$10,800
Lafayette Co.	\$19,050
Langlade Co.	\$11,200
Manitowoc Co.	\$7,700
Marathon (Tylr, Clrk, Lcln, Wd)	\$32,410
NWTC	\$11,262
Ozaukee Co.	\$2,500
Trempealeau Co.	\$20,000
Vernon Co. / WTC	\$27,300
Washington Co.	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,982</b>

## Statewide Projects: Project Cooperator Grants

In addition to supporting NMFE training, DATCP uses its SEG appropriation for projects that contribute to statewide conservation goals, meeting the following grant priorities in s. ATCP 50.30(3):

- fund cost-effective activities that address and resolve high priority problems;
- build a systematic and comprehensive approach to soil erosion and water quality problems;
- contribute to a coordinated soil and water resource management program and avoid duplication of effort.

DATCP has targeted the following areas for funding: nutrient management implementation activities including SnapPlus, support for statewide training of conservation professionals, development and support of technical standards, and coordinated activities in AEAs and impaired waters.

In the cooperator subcategory of Nutrient Management Implementation Support, DATCP received a tiered application from the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The tier 1 request totals \$580,000 and tier 2 request totals \$660,000. DATCP will fund the UW-CALS request as follows: (1) \$300,000 for maintaining and improving education and training (2) \$280,000 for SnapPlus maintenance and development. The support for the A2809 calculator is included within this funding.

Funding the UW CALS Nutrient and Pest Management Program supports the development of a digital, self-paced, interactive, interview-based NM planning workbook with an updated NM curriculum. The workbook will be obtained online or on a thumb drive, but will also be available as a printed document. The UW CALS project will also include the continued



development of training videos to be linked into the interactive workbook and the SnapPlus NM software program.

In the training and technical standard support category of project cooperators, DATCP will provide the following funding:

- Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water) is awarded \$241,610. The funds are intended to build statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate conservation training including implementation of recommendations of the statewide interagency training committee (SITCOM). Funding also supports activities to promote accountability and achievements among county conservation programs. Finally, a focus on enhancing state conservation delivery will be facilitated through statewide conservation initiatives and by fostering state and local priorities.
- The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is awarded the full \$40,000 requested. This award recognizes the high costs for maintaining statewide capacity to develop and maintain technical standards for conservation programs, as well as the Council's specific support of DATCP standards.
- Up to \$3,500 is awarded to the host county for costs related to Conservation Observance Day.

DATCP received three other applications for cooperator funds:

- UW-Extension – Natural Resource Educators. Request: \$30,699. Award: \$30,699. This award will provide regional support to the producer-led watershed groups.
- UW-GNHS – Support of Silurian data: \$37,699, Award: \$37,699. This project is required in order to house data verifying depth to bedrock.
- UW-SFAL – Support of Soil Lab services: Request: \$17,351. Award: \$17,351. This project will support the NM soil lab certification program.

## Innovation Grants

With the 2023 SWRM grant application, counties were invited to submit Innovation Grant requests for new ways to approach land and water conservation. Thirteen applications were received from counties and \$362,415 SEG funds were requested. A total of \$324,059 is awarded shown in Chart 5.

<b>Chart 5: Innovation Awards</b>			
<b>Innovation Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Innovation Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Calumet County	\$33,750	Manitowoc County	\$21,925
Columbia County	\$19,500	Marathon County	\$25,000
Door County	\$4,740	Ozaukee County	\$36,644
Eau Claire County	\$3,500	Polk County	\$9,000
Fond du Lac County	\$50,000	Racine County	\$25,000
Langlade County	\$50,000	Waupaca County	\$45,000
<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>		<b>\$324,059</b>	

Projects were scored by four raters on a 20 point scale that considered alignment with the program goals, a logical plan, the proposed budget and previous funding. Three Innovation Grant proposals are fully funded based on the level of innovation: Calumet County, Columbia County, and Fond du Lac County. These projects are not only innovative but also could provide models for other counties and programs moving forward. Three requests were for less than \$5,000, and therefore were fully funded: Door County, Eau Claire County and Manitowoc County interseeding. Five further applications were funded to ensure continuation of progressing projects within the counties: Langlade County, Manitowoc County harvestable buffers, Polk County, Racine County and Waupaca County. Due to scoring lower in the rankings and the competition for funding, Marathon County and Ozaukee County were partially funded.

The 2023 cooperator awards are documented in the lower section of [Table A](#). All award recipients are required to sign grant contracts that incorporate the requirements of s. ATCP 50.35, and include significant accountability measures.

### **Unmet Need for Cost-Share Funding**

DATCP will provide about 77% of the SEG funding requested by counties for cost-sharing, which is \$635,000 less than the requested amounts. While additional cost-share funding could have been allocated, the average total spent by counties annually over the past several years is significantly less than what was allocated. The department hopes that the continued additional flexibility provided will increase the amount of cost-sharing utilized by counties.

### **Future Funding Directions**

DATCP continues to consider how it can best apply its SEG funding to improve conservation and implement conservation practices.

There is a growth in interest in cropping practices where SEG funds could be used or targeted to improve soil health and watershed management, specifically cover crops and reduced/no-till practices. Looking forward, practices such as harvestable buffers, small grains projects, rotational grazing, cropping practices that improve climate resiliency, precision agriculture, and carbon credit processing will be emphasized.

To the extent that DATCP will spend SEG funding to support NM planning and implementation, DATCP will use feedback from counties and other stakeholders to determine which, if any, of the following strategies are possible and could be used:

- Allow cost-sharing for cropping practices for farms without a NM plan, but with a farm assessment.
- Create a soil health program that includes targeted funding specifically for soil health practices.
- Create Soil Health outreach module, to be taught alongside or in addition to the Nutrient Management Planning modules.

- Create a mentorship program to facilitate learning and better understanding of Nutrient Management between producers and their plan writers.
- Provide funds to regional support groups to provide agronomic and conservation compliance assistance for FPP and other state priorities.
- Set aside funds to support SWRM program technology. With an aging database paired with ever-changing program needs, DATCP is seeking technological support and solutions more frequently. Funding a modern database system would also allow DATCP to track and target its funding more effectively, and potentially allow for tracking of the conservation impacts of the program across the state.

Regarding the allocation of SEG funds specifically for nutrient management cost-sharing, DATCP remains interested in refining the formula for awarding county cost-sharing and the policies surrounding its use. For example, DATCP needs to respond to concerns about the criterion related to nutrient management plan coverage in a county. The criterion needs to better capture NM plan coverage in a county to reflect acres under plans, not just the percentage of land in a county under NM plans.

Before making major changes to what is funded and how it is distributed, DATCP will engage key stakeholders to develop a workable approach. The counties can share insights on approaches to effectively target cost-sharing and increase farmer participation.

## DNR Allocations

DNR's portion of this preliminary allocation provides funding to counties through three programs:

- 1) Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)
- 2) Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS), and
- 3) Notice of Discharge (NOD).

[Table B](#) shows the final allocation to each county grantee for TRM and UNPS-Construction. Additionally, NOD reserves are established as specific county allocations are unknown at this time.

## Funding Sources

Allocations for TRM projects and NOD projects are from bond revenue appropriated under s. 20.866(2)(tf), Wis. Stats., Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funds, and segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.370(6)(aq), Wis. Stats.

Allocations to counties for UNPS-Construction projects, when requested, are from segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.866(2)(th), Wis. Stats.

Allocations to counties for UNPS-Planning projects, when requested, are from segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.370(6)(dq), Wis. Stats.

*Note: DNR will also provide TRM grants and UNPS-Construction grants to non-county grantees. Wisconsin Statutes do not require that non-county grantees be listed in this allocation plan.*

- For all grant programs, funds will be considered “committed” when a grantee has returned to the DNR a signed copy of the grant agreement.
- For the TRM program, grant agreements not signed by the deadline may be rescinded by DNR, and the associated grant funds may be used to fund other eligible projects in rank order based on project scores. If, for any reason, funds committed through this allocation plan become available after March 31, 2023, these funds may be held to fund projects selected in the next grant cycle.

## **1. TRM Preliminary Allocation**

The DNR allocates up to \$2,616,621 to counties for cost sharing of TRM projects during calendar year 2023. This amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for 5 out of 8 eligible county Small-Scale TRM applications. Additionally, this amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for 3 out of the 6 eligible county Large-Scale TRM applications, and partially fund one additional Large-Scale TRM application. As shown in Chart 1, there is \$1,791,178 of unmet needs for county TRM projects.

The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a single Small-Scale TRM project is \$225,000. The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a single Large-Scale TRM project is \$600,000.

TRM allocations made through this plan will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2023 through 2024 for Small-Scale projects and through 2025 for Large-Scale projects. Project applications are screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.65(4c), Wis. Stats. Adjustments to grant amounts may occur to account for eligibility of project components, cost-share rates, or ch. NR 151 enforcement action at the time that DNR negotiates the actual grant agreement with an applicant.

## **2. UNPS Preliminary Allocation**

DNR has implemented an alternating schedule for both UNPS-Planning and UNPS-Construction grants. The UNPS-Planning grants are solicited in odd years, and the UNPS-Construction grants are solicited in even years. The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a UNPS-Construction grant is \$150,000, with an additional \$50,000 for land acquisition. The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a UNPS-Planning grant is \$85,000.

UNPS grant awards will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2023 and 2024. Project applications have been screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.66, Wis. Stats.

**CONSTRUCTION.** The DNR did not receive any applications from counties for cost sharing of UNPS-Construction projects during calendar year 2023.

PLANNING. UNPS-Planning grant applications were not solicited in 2022 for the 2023 award cycle. The UNPS-Planning grant application will be available in early 2023 for 2024 awards.

### **3. Notice of Discharge Program**

#### ***A. Background***

DNR issues notices of discharge (NOD) and notices of intent (NOI) under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code; this code regulates animal feeding operations. DNR has authority under s. 281.65(4e), Wis. Stats., to provide grant assistance for NOD and NOI projects outside the competitive TRM process. DNR is authorized to award grants to governmental units, which in turn enter into cost-share agreements with landowners that have received an NOD or NOI.

Cost-share assistance is provided to landowners to meet the regulatory requirements of an NOD issued under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. In some cases, cost-share assistance must be offered before enforcement action can be taken. In other cases, DNR is not required to provide cost sharing but may do so at its discretion. DNR has several permitting and enforcement options available under ch. NR 243 if landowners should fail to meet the conditions of the NOD.

#### ***B. NOD Preliminary Allocation***

This Preliminary Allocation Plan establishes a reserve of \$1,000,000 for NOD projects during calendar year 2023. The reserve includes funds for structural practices in eligible locations. DNR may use its discretion to increase this reserve if needed. To receive a grant award, a governmental unit must submit an application to DNR that describes a specific project and includes documentation that an NOD or NOI has either already been issued or will be issued by DNR concurrent with the grant award. Once DNR issues a grant to the governmental unit to address an NOD or NOI, DNR will designate a portion of the reserve specifically for that project.

DNR will require that county grantees commit funds to a cost-share agreement with the landowner within a timeframe that is consistent with the compliance schedule in the NOD. The county grantee shall use the grant award to reimburse the landowner for costs incurred during the grant period, which may extend beyond calendar year 2023. If the landowner fails to install practices listed in the cost-share agreement within the timeframe identified, DNR will terminate its grant with the county, leaving the landowner to correct the problems identified in the NOD without the benefit of state cost sharing.

Fund balances from terminated NOD grants and projects completed under budget may be returned to the reserve account and made available to other NOD applicants. Reserve funds remaining at the end of calendar year 2023 may either be carried over for the calendar year 2024 NOD reserve account or may be allocated for calendar year 2023 or 2024 TRM projects.

**Attachments**

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# Tables

**Table A: DATCP Allocations**

**STAFFING AND COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS**

County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation		Total DATCP Allocation	County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation		Total DATCP Allocation
		Bond Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing				Bond Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing	
Adams	148,693	43,000	65,000	256,693	Marathon	183,559	70,000	95,000	348,559
Ashland	142,842	50,000	40,000	232,842	Marinette	165,620	55,000	60,000	280,620
Barron	163,647	58,000	10,000	231,647	Marquette	169,939	43,000	65,000	277,939
Bayfield	141,926	50,000	8,000	199,926	Menominee	95,087	20,000		115,087
Brown	182,710	48,000	20,000	250,710	Milwaukee	76,554	15,000		91,554
Buffalo	126,351	60,000	20,000	206,351	Monroe	156,919	59,000	50,000	215,919
Burnett	122,659	33,000	20,000	175,659	Oconto	170,230	48,000		218,230
Calumet	197,782	40,000	30,000	267,782	Oneida	129,010	39,000		168,010
Chippewa	202,731	65,000	70,000	337,731	Outagamie	219,102	55,000	65,000	339,102
Clark	161,889	64,500	75,000	301,389	Ozaukee	178,612	53,500	25,000	257,112
Columbia	146,920	68,000	75,000	289,920	Pepin	104,565	39,000	40,000	183,565
Crawford	137,818	55,000	8,000	200,818	Pierce	168,208	60,000	20,000	248,208
Dane	247,461	65,000	75,000	387,461	Polk	161,239	50,000		211,239
Dodge	176,702	53,000	20,000	249,702	Portage	181,735	59,000		240,735
Door	178,571	50,000	30,000	258,571	Price	103,314	43,000		146,314
Douglas	134,888	30,000	5,000	169,888	Racine	189,031	58,500	90,000	337,531
Dunn	191,041	56,000	20,000	267,041	Richland	122,273	55,000	20,000	197,273
Eau Claire	177,773	47,000	65,000	289,773	Rock	171,739	65,000	75,000	311,739
Florence	76,554	34,000		110,554	Rusk	115,573	43,000	40,000	198,573
Fond du Lac	186,197	40,000	20,000	246,197	Saint Croix	181,352	51,000	35,000	267,352
Forest	115,787	20,000	15,000	150,787	Sauk	182,261	66,500	60,000	308,761
Grant	129,865	70,000		199,865	Sawyer	112,855	29,000	8,000	149,855
Green	166,475	71,500	20,000	257,975	Shawano	157,137	44,000	20,000	221,137
Green Lake	191,649	50,000	30,000	271,649	Sheboygan	170,106	55,000	15,000	240,106
Iowa	159,612	45,000	40,000	244,612	Taylor	148,312	65,241	40,000	253,553
Iron	133,256	44,000	100	177,356	Trempealeau	126,524	66,500	30,000	223,024
Jackson	159,655	63,500	0	223,155	Vernon	154,494	66,500	75,000	295,994
Jefferson	184,269	35,000	12,000	231,269	Vilas	143,107	33,000		176,107
Juneau	155,020	44,000	20,000	219,020	Walworth	189,764	55,000	20,000	264,764
Kenosha	148,997	34,000	5,000	187,997	Washburn	131,070	43,000	6,000	180,070
Kewaunee	190,786	48,000	15,000	253,786	Washington	152,223	37,000	10,000	199,223
LaCrosse	181,602	45,000	20,000	246,602	Waukesha	208,933	33,000		241,933
Lafayette	118,478	63,000		181,478	Waupaca	165,542	63,500	80,000	309,042
Langlade	102,999	29,000	12,000	143,999	Waushara	180,627	43,000	25,000	248,627
Lincoln	98,257	42,000	1,000	141,257	Winnebago	185,481	42,000	70,000	297,481
Manitowoc	170,194	55,000	75,000	300,194	Wood	175,847	54,000	54,000	283,847
					Reserve		250,000		250,000
					Sub-Totals	\$11,280,000	\$3,795,741	\$2,134,100	\$17,209,841
<b>PROJECT COOPERATOR ALLOCATIONS</b>									
UW-CALS				580,000	Nutrient Management Farmer Education				165,982
WI Land + Water (WLWCA)				241,610	Innovation Grants				324,059
Standard Oversight Council (SOC)				40,000					
Conservation Observation Day				3,500	Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation				\$1,440,900
UW-GNHS				37,699					
UW Ext - Cons. Training				30,699					
UW-SFAL				17,351					
<b>PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS</b>					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,280,000</b>	<b>\$3,795,741</b>	<b>\$2,134,100</b>	<b>\$18,650,741</b>

Table A-1: Staff and Support Tier 1, Tier 2, Rounds One, Two, Three

County	Tier 1	Tier 2									2023 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
	Base Allocation	First Position at 100%(Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1)	Second Position at 70%(Round 2)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 99% of 70%	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1&2)	Third Position at 50%(Round 3)	Round 3 Award	
Adams	75,000	\$88,065.00	13,065	88,065	\$59,074.00	59,074	59,074	147,139	33,436	1,554.00	148,693
Ashland	75,000	\$83,796.00	8,796	83,796	\$57,492.00	57,492	57,492	141,288	36,543	1,554.00	142,842
Barron	75,000	\$94,992.00	19,992	94,992	\$67,101.00	67,101	67,101	162,093	45,292	1,554.00	163,647
Bayfield	75,000	\$86,342.00	11,342	86,342	\$54,030.00	54,030	54,030	140,372	37,902	1,554.00	141,926
Brown	75,000	\$111,414.00	36,414	111,414	\$69,742.00	69,742	69,742	181,156	43,091	1,554.00	182,710
Buffalo	75,000	\$77,037.00	2,037	77,037	\$47,760.00	47,760	47,760	124,797	16,912	1,554.00	126,351
Burnett	75,000	\$77,070.00	2,070	77,070	\$44,035.00	44,035	44,035	121,105	17,516	1,554.00	122,659
Calumet	75,000	\$122,218.00	47,218	122,218	\$74,010.00	74,010	74,010	196,228	52,703	1,554.00	197,782
Chippewa	75,000	\$116,306.00	41,306	116,306	\$84,871.00	84,871	84,871	201,177	49,322	1,554.00	202,731
Clark	75,000	\$98,723.00	23,723	98,723	\$61,612.00	61,612	61,612	160,335	39,136	1,554.00	161,889
Columbia	75,000	\$87,105.00	12,105	87,105	\$58,261.00	58,261	58,261	145,366	41,567	1,554.00	146,920
Crawford	75,000	\$79,192.00	4,192	79,192	\$57,072.00	57,072	57,072	136,264	28,809	1,554.00	137,818
Dane	75,000	\$146,438.00	71,438	146,438	\$99,443.00	99,443	99,443	245,881	62,776	1,580.00	247,461
Dodge	75,000	\$110,611.00	35,611	110,611	\$64,537.00	64,537	64,537	175,148	40,945	1,554.00	176,702
Door	75,000	\$107,952.00	32,952	107,952	\$69,065.00	69,065	69,065	177,017	49,095	1,554.00	178,571
Douglas	75,000	\$83,346.00	8,346	83,346	\$49,988.00	49,988	49,988	133,334	24,577	1,554.00	134,888
Dunn	75,000	\$112,673.00	37,673	112,673	\$76,814.00	76,814	76,814	189,487	52,790	1,554.00	191,041
Eau Claire	75,000	\$108,745.00	33,745	108,745	\$67,474.00	67,474	67,474	176,219	45,982	1,554.00	177,773
Florence	75,000	\$57,776.00	-	75,000	\$6,575.00	-	-	75,000	9,278	1,554.00	76,554
Fond du Lac	75,000	\$115,358.00	40,358	115,358	\$69,285.00	69,285	69,285	184,643	37,535	1,554.00	186,197
Forest	75,000	\$83,544.00	8,544	83,544	\$30,689.00	30,689	30,689	114,233	15,727	1,554.00	115,787
Grant	75,000	\$76,946.00	1,946	76,946	\$51,365.00	51,365	51,365	128,311	34,799	1,554.00	129,865
Green	75,000	\$108,327.00	33,327	108,327	\$56,594.00	56,594	56,594	164,921	24,175	1,554.00	166,475
Green Lake	75,000	\$117,036.00	42,036	117,036	\$73,059.00	73,059	73,059	190,095	49,693	1,554.00	191,649
Iowa	75,000	\$105,904.00	30,904	105,904	\$52,154.00	52,154	52,154	158,058	36,085	1,554.00	159,612
Iron	75,000	\$77,773.00	2,773	77,773	\$53,929.00	53,929	53,929	131,702	10,568	1,554.00	133,256
Jackson	75,000	\$98,846.00	23,846	98,846	\$60,809.00	60,809	60,809	159,655			159,655
Jefferson	75,000	\$113,324.00	38,324	113,324	\$69,391.00	69,391	69,391	182,715	42,355	1,554.00	184,269
Juneau	75,000	\$92,464.00	17,464	92,464	\$61,002.00	61,002	61,002	153,466	32,752	1,554.00	155,020
Kenosha	75,000	\$113,576.00	38,576	113,576	\$33,867.00	33,867	33,867	147,443	14,431	1,554.00	148,997
Kewaunee	75,000	\$119,203.00	44,203	119,203	\$70,029.00	70,029	70,029	189,232	38,203	1,554.00	190,786
LaCrosse	75,000	\$110,378.00	35,378	110,378	\$69,670.00	69,670	69,670	180,048	46,526	1,554.00	181,602
Lafayette	75,000	\$71,507.00	-	75,000	\$45,417.00	41,924	41,924	116,924	26,534	1,554.00	118,478
Langlade	75,000	\$82,520.00	7,520	82,520	\$18,925.00	18,925	18,925	101,445	12,541	1,554.00	102,999
Lincoln	75,000	\$83,740.00	8,740	83,740	\$12,963.00	12,963	12,963	96,703	7,548	1,554.00	98,257
Manitowoc	75,000	\$115,754.00	40,754	115,754	\$52,886.00	52,886	52,886	168,640	36,992	1,554.00	170,194



**Table A-1: Staff and Support Tier 1, Tier 2, Rounds One, Two, Three**

County	Tier 1	Tier 2									2023 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
	Base Allocation	First Position at 100%(Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1)	Second Position at 70%(Round 2)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 99% of 70%	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1&2)	Third Position at 50%(Round 3)	Round 3 Award	
Marathon	75,000	\$110,275.00	35,275	110,275	\$71,730.00	71,730	71,730	182,005	50,803	1,554.00	183,559
Marinette	75,000	\$97,541.00	22,541	97,541	\$66,525.00	66,525	66,525	164,066	43,696	1,554.00	165,620
Marquette	75,000	\$110,357.00	35,357	110,357	\$58,028.00	58,028	58,028	168,385	25,468	1,554.00	169,939
Menominee	75,000	\$37,898.00	-	75,000	\$57,189.00	20,087	20,087	95,087			95,087
Milwaukee	75,000		-	75,000	\$50,994.00	-	-	75,000	23,283	1,554.00	76,554
Monroe	75,000	\$107,863.00	32,863	107,863	\$47,502.00	47,502	47,502	155,365	32,060	1,554.00	156,919
Oconto	75,000	\$104,687.00	29,687	104,687	\$63,989.00	63,989	63,989	168,676	36,974	1,554.00	170,230
Oneida	75,000	\$80,582.00	5,582	80,582	\$46,874.00	46,874	46,874	127,456	8,915	1,554.00	129,010
Outagamie	75,000	\$132,404.00	57,404	132,404	\$85,144.00	85,144	85,144	217,548	42,468	1,554.00	219,102
Ozaukee	75,000	\$106,356.00	31,356	106,356	\$70,702.00	70,702	70,702	177,058	45,314	1,554.00	178,612
Pepin	75,000	\$43,449.00	-	75,000	\$59,562.00	28,011	28,011	103,011	21,137	1,554.00	104,565
Pierce	75,000	\$98,468.00	23,468	98,468	\$68,186.00	68,186	68,186	166,654	45,226	1,554.00	168,208
Polk	75,000	\$104,325.00	29,325	104,325	\$55,360.00	55,360	55,360	159,685	36,392	1,554.00	161,239
Portage	75,000	\$114,243.00	39,243	114,243	\$65,938.00	65,938	65,938	180,181	45,345	1,554.00	181,735
Price	75,000	\$62,307.00	-	75,000	\$39,453.00	26,760	26,760	101,760	9,604	1,554.00	103,314
Racine	75,000	\$114,522.00	39,522	114,522	\$72,955.00	72,955	72,955	187,477	36,058	1,554.00	189,031
Richland	75,000	\$75,537.00	537	75,537	\$45,182.00	45,182	45,182	120,719	24,783	1,554.00	122,273
Rock	75,000	\$100,322.00	25,322	100,322	\$69,863.00	69,863	69,863	170,185	41,558	1,554.00	171,739
Rusk	75,000	\$60,944.00	-	75,000	\$53,075.00	39,019	39,019	114,019	24,052	1,554.00	115,573
Saint Croix	75,000	\$101,067.00	26,067	101,067	\$78,731.00	78,731	78,731	179,798	36,272	1,554.00	181,352
Sauk	75,000	\$111,899.00	36,899	111,899	\$68,808.00	68,808	68,808	180,707	47,296	1,554.00	182,261
Sawyer	75,000	\$68,736.00	-	75,000	\$42,565.00	36,301	36,301	111,301	20,091	1,554.00	112,855
Shawano	75,000	\$102,293.00	27,293	102,293	\$53,290.00	53,290	53,290	155,583	31,235	1,554.00	157,137
Sheboygan	75,000	\$100,028.00	25,028	100,028	\$68,524.00	68,524	68,524	168,552	45,089	1,554.00	170,106
Taylor	75,000	\$97,029.00	22,029	97,029	\$49,729.00	49,729	49,729	146,758	33,095	1,554.00	148,312
Trempealeau	75,000	\$63,324.00	-	75,000	\$61,646.00	49,970	49,970	124,970	37,584	1,554.00	126,524
Vernon	75,000	\$96,633.00	21,633	96,633	\$56,307.00	56,307	56,307	152,940	35,289	1,554.00	154,494
Vilas	75,000	\$89,605.00	14,605	89,605	\$51,948.00	51,948	51,948	141,553	31,459	1,554.00	143,107
Walworth	75,000	\$116,531.00	41,531	116,531	\$71,679.00	71,679	71,679	188,210	47,080	1,554.00	189,764
Washington	75,000	\$85,011.00	10,011	85,011	\$44,643.00	44,643	44,643	129,654	1,416	1,416.00	131,070
Washburn	75,000	\$97,487.00	22,487	97,487	\$53,182.00	53,182	53,182	150,669	29,950	1,554.00	152,223
Waukesha	75,000	\$138,010.00	63,010	138,010	\$69,369.00	69,369	69,369	207,379	36,337	1,554.00	208,933
Waupaca	75,000	\$96,379.00	21,379	96,379	\$67,609.00	67,609	67,609	163,988	47,544	1,554.00	165,542
Waushara	75,000	\$111,897.00	36,897	111,897	\$67,176.00	67,176	67,176	179,073	45,185	1,554.00	180,627
Winnebago	75,000	\$117,925.00	42,925	117,925	\$66,002.00	66,002	66,002	183,927	45,225	1,554.00	185,481
Wood	75,000	\$118,390.00	43,390	118,390	\$55,903.00	55,903	55,903	174,293	34,819	1,554.00	175,847
<b>Totals</b>	5,400,000	6,910,325	1,719,384	7,119,384	4,226,352	4,051,948	4,051,948	11,171,332	2,392,238	108,668	11,280,000

**Table B: Total DNR Preliminary Allocations**

County	Targeted Runoff Mgmt. BMP Construction	Local Assistance Funding for Large Scale TRM	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. BMP Construction	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. Planning	Total DNR Final Allocations
Marathon	\$243,958	\$97,583			\$341,541
Marinette	\$225,000				\$225,000
Outagamie	\$382,700	\$12,834			\$395,534
Polk	\$372,408	\$148,963			\$521,371
Rusk	\$419,425	\$45,000			\$464,425
Trempealeau	\$218,750				\$218,750
Washington	\$225,000				\$225,000
Waupaca	\$225,000				\$225,000
<b>DNR NR243 NOD Reserve</b>					<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,312,241</b>	<b>\$304,380</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,616,621</b>

Table C: Summary of DATCP and DNR Allocations							
County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding	County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding
Adams	148,693	108,000	256,693	Marinette	165,620	340,000	505,620
Ashland	142,842	90,000	232,842	Marquette	169,939	108,000	277,939
Barron	163,647	68,000	231,647	Menominee	95,087	20,000	115,087
Bayfield	141,926	58,000	199,926	Milwaukee	76,554	15,000	91,554
Brown	182,710	68,000	250,710	Monroe	156,919	109,000	265,919
Buffalo	126,351	80,000	206,351	Oconto	170,230	48,000	218,230
Burnett	122,659	53,000	175,659	Oneida	129,010	39,000	168,010
Calumet	197,782	70,000	267,782	Outagamie	231,936	502,700	734,636
Chippewa	202,731	135,000	337,731	Ozaukee	178,612	78,500	257,112
Clark	161,889	139,500	301,389	Pepin	104,565	79,000	183,565
Columbia	146,920	143,000	289,920	Pierce	168,208	80,000	248,208
Crawford	137,818	63,000	200,818	Polk	310,202	422,408	732,610
Dane	247,461	140,000	387,461	Portage	181,735	59,000	240,735
Dodge	176,702	73,000	249,702	Price	103,314	43,000	146,314
Door	178,571	80,000	258,571	Racine	189,031	148,500	337,531
Douglas	134,888	35,000	169,888	Richland	122,273	75,000	197,273
Dunn	191,041	76,000	267,041	Rock	171,739	140,000	311,739
Eau Claire	177,773	112,000	289,773	Rusk	160,573	502,425	662,998
Florence	76,554	34,000	110,554	Saint Croix	181,352	86,000	267,352
Fond du Lac	186,197	60,000	246,197	Sauk	182,261	126,500	308,761
Forest	115,787	35,000	150,787	Sawyer	112,855	37,000	149,855
Grant	129,865	70,000	199,865	Shawano	157,137	64,000	221,137
Green	166,475	91,500	257,975	Sheboygan	170,106	70,000	240,106
Green Lake	191,649	80,000	271,649	Taylor	148,312	105,241	253,553
Iowa	159,612	85,000	244,612	Trempealeau	126,524	315,250	441,774
Iron	133,256	44,100	177,356	Vernon	154,494	141,500	295,994
Jackson	159,655	63,500	223,155	Vilas	143,107	33,000	176,107
Jefferson	184,269	47,000	231,269	Walworth	189,764	75,000	264,764
Juneau	155,020	64,000	219,020	Washburn	131,070	49,000	180,070
Kenosha	148,997	39,000	187,997	Washington	152,223	272,000	424,223
Kewaunee	190,786	63,000	253,786	Waukesha	208,933	33,000	241,933
LaCrosse	181,602	65,000	246,602	Waupaca	165,542	368,500	534,042
Lafayette	118,478	63,000	181,478	Waushara	180,627	68,000	248,627
Langlade	102,999	41,000	143,999	Winnebago	185,481	112,000	297,481
Lincoln	98,257	43,000	141,257	Wood	175,847	108,000	283,847
Manitowoc	170,194	130,000	300,194	DATCP NR243 Res.			250,000
Marathon	281,142	408,958	690,100	DNR NR243 Res.			1,000,000
				Sub-Totals	<b>11,584,380</b>	<b>7,992,082</b>	<b>20,826,462</b>
<b>OPERATOR ALLOCATIONS</b>							
UW-CALS			580,000	Nutrient Management Farmer Education			165,982
WI Land + Water (WLWCA)			241,610	Innovation Grants			324,059
Standard Oversight Council (SOC)			40,000				
Conservation Observation Day			3,500	<b>Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation</b>			<b>\$1,440,900</b>
UW-GNHS			37,699				
UW Ext - Cons. Training			30,699				
UW-SFAL			17,351				
<b>PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS</b>				<b>11,584,380</b>	<b>7,992,082</b>	<b>22,267,362</b>	

**Table A-2: County Bond Cost-Share Awards**

County	Bond				County	Bond			
	19-21 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2017 Census Acres**	19-21 Cumulative Total Dollars Spent***	Award		19-21 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2017 Census Acres**	19-21 Cumulative Total Dollars Spent***	Award
<i>Adams</i>	0.0000%	117,206	\$104,256	\$43,000	Marathon	0.0000%	473,147	\$193,600	\$70,000
Ashland	0.0000%	52,428	\$188,786	\$50,000	Marinette	0.4584%	133,068	\$172,576	\$55,000
<i>Barron</i>	11.3754%	305,604	\$172,903	\$58,000	Marquette	0.0000%	113,183	\$114,719	\$43,000
Bayfield	0.0000%	81,041	\$186,695	\$50,000	Menominee	0.0000%	290	\$60,000	\$20,000
Brown	0.0000%	192,007	\$131,959	\$48,000	<i>Milwaukee</i>	0.0000%	6,990	\$6,042	\$15,000
Buffalo	0.4217%	293,130	\$183,462	\$60,000	Monroe	0.5144%	300,659	\$187,844	\$59,000
Burnett	1.1463%	89,237	\$56,261	\$33,000	Oconto	0.0000%	189,898	\$138,002	\$48,000
Calumet	7.9340%	153,858	\$101,281	\$40,000	Oneida	0.0000%	34,670	\$112,726	\$39,000
Chippewa	0.0201%	356,176	\$160,913	\$65,000	Outagamie	0.0000%	236,963	\$155,600	\$55,000
Clark	0.0000%	451,035	\$185,144	\$64,500	Ozaukee	0.0000%	59,299	\$207,006	\$53,500
Columbia	0.0000%	304,058	\$181,265	\$68,000	Pepin	1.0753%	106,881	\$114,705	\$39,000
Crawford	0.0000%	210,550	\$170,653	\$55,000	Pierce	0.0000%	233,188	\$191,992	\$60,000
Dane	0.0000%	506,688	\$150,539	\$65,000	Polk	0.0000%	256,114	\$137,056	\$50,000
Dodge	0.5545%	405,992	\$96,370	\$53,000	Portage	2.1435%	280,410	\$184,569	\$59,000
Door	0.0000%	114,508	\$189,819	\$50,000	Price	0.0138%	89,203	\$123,173	\$43,000
Douglas	0.0000%	69,759	\$31,243	\$30,000	Racine	0.0000%	127,496	\$242,059	\$58,500
Dunn	0.0000%	348,301	\$116,563	\$56,000	Richland	0.0000%	220,843	\$153,980	\$55,000
<i>Eau Claire</i>	0.0000%	172,256	\$95,229	\$47,000	Rock	0.0000%	353,505	\$192,435	\$65,000
Florence	0.0000%	18,609	\$144,150	\$34,000	Rusk	0.0001%	136,062	\$128,361	\$43,000
Fond du Lac	2.3815%	317,371	\$97,279	\$40,000	Saint Croix	0.0009%	279,191	\$116,116	\$51,000
<i>Forest</i>	37.9287%	38,084	\$24,689	\$20,000	Sauk	0.0000%	298,906	\$212,541	\$66,500
Grant	0.0000%	600,324	\$175,219	\$70,000	Sawyer	1.3500%	46,009	\$96,876	\$29,000
Green	0.0000%	292,368	\$202,956	\$71,500	<i>Shawano</i>	0.7383%	247,241	\$118,067	\$44,000
Green Lake	0.0000%	126,751	\$181,999	\$50,000	Sheboygan	0.0000%	195,938	\$168,120	\$55,000
Iowa	0.0000%	360,134	\$139,832	\$45,000	Taylor	0.0851%	225,856	\$201,223	\$65,241
Iron	0.0000%	9,200	\$148,086	\$44,000	<i>Trempealeau</i>	0.0003%	329,916	\$269,158	\$66,500
Jackson	0.0000%	248,342	\$352,279	\$63,500	Vernon	0.0000%	337,086	\$202,455	\$66,500
<i>Jefferson</i>	0.2504%	221,355	\$58,144	\$35,000	Vilas	0.0000%	5,652	\$72,814	\$33,000
Juneau	2.1103%	175,417	\$113,768	\$44,000	Walworth	0.0000%	192,422	\$190,678	\$55,000
Kenosha	7.2100%	77,782	\$95,776	\$34,000	Washburn	0.0000%	73,773	\$142,053	\$43,000
Kewaunee	0.0000%	170,405	\$110,924	\$48,000	Washington	0.0000%	126,146	\$48,955	\$37,000
LaCrosse	0.0070%	144,334	\$128,264	\$45,000	Waukesha	1.4320%	97,460	\$64,510	\$33,000
Lafayette	0.0242%	342,518	\$192,017	\$63,000	Waupaca	0.0000%	201,603	\$211,378	\$63,500
<i>Langlade</i>	5.6447%	116,386	\$83,032	\$29,000	Waushara	0.0000%	135,306	\$119,209	\$43,000
<i>Lincoln</i>	0.0000%	78,293	\$86,140	\$42,000	Winnebago	0.0000%	162,052	\$75,964	\$42,000
Manitowoc	0.1761%	231,609	\$178,917	\$55,000	Wood	0.0000%	220,891	\$147,298	\$54,000
					<b>TOTAL</b>				\$3,545,741

Each County was given a base of \$10,000 to help counties receive closer to their requested amount. The following criteria were also applied to finalize a county's BOND award.

\*Graduated awards based on 3-yr avg underspending, excluding extended underspending, year 3 of 3: 0% = \$10,000, 0.5-2.99% = \$6,000, 3-10% = \$2,000, >10% = \$0.

\*\*Graduated awards based on 2017 Census acres: 350,000 or more=\$30,000; 250,000-349,999=\$23,000; 150,000-249,999=\$15,000, 50,000-149,999=\$10,000, <50,000=\$6,000.

\*\*\*Graduated awards based on 3-yr cumulative spending: \$200K+ = \$28,500, \$150K-199,999=\$20,000, \$100K-\$149,999 = \$13,000, \$20K-\$99,999 = \$7,000, <\$20,000 = \$0

County Name in Italics = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year

County Name Shaded: County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award.

**Table A-3: County SEG Cost-Share Awards**

County	Ranking and Award			County	Ranking and Award		
	Score	Grouping	Award		Score	Grouping	Award
<i>Adams</i>	50	3	\$65,000	Marathon	100	1	\$95,000
Ashland	50	3	\$40,000	Marinette	50	3	\$60,000
Barron	55	3	\$10,000	Marquette	70	3	\$65,000
<i>Bayfield</i>	35	4	\$8,000	Menominee	0	0	NA
Brown	65	3	\$20,000	Milwaukee	0	0	NA
Buffalo	65	3	\$20,000	Monroe	70	3	\$50,000
Burnett	45	4	\$20,000	Oconto	0	0	NA
Calumet	60	3	\$30,000	Oneida	0	0	NA
Chippewa	60	3	\$70,000	Outagamie	55	3	\$65,000
<i>Clark</i>	80	2	\$75,000	<i>Ozaukee</i>	55	3	\$25,000
Columbia	85	2	\$75,000	Pepin	55	3	\$40,000
Crawford	30	4	\$8,000	Pierce	35	4	\$20,000
Dane	90	2	\$75,000	Polk	0	0	NA
Dodge	65	3	\$20,000	Portage	0	0	NA
Door	60	3	\$30,000	Price	0	0	NA
Douglas	25	4	\$5,000	Racine	65	3	\$90,000
Dunn	65	3	\$20,000	<i>Richland</i>	40	4	\$20,000
<i>Eau Claire</i>	70	3	\$65,000	Rock	85	2	\$75,000
Florence	0	0	NA	Rusk	35	4	\$40,000
Fond du Lac	90	2	\$20,000	Saint Croix	50	3	\$35,000
Forest	20	5	\$15,000	<i>Sauk</i>	75	2	\$60,000
Grant	0	0	NA	Sawyer	0	0	\$8,000
Green	40	4	\$20,000	Shawano	40	4	\$20,000
Green Lake	65	3	\$30,000	Sheboygan	65	3	\$15,000
Iowa	75	2	\$40,000	Taylor	55	3	\$40,000
Iron	5	5	\$100	Trempealeau	65	3	\$30,000
<i>Jackson</i>	15	5	\$0	Vernon	75	2	\$75,000
<i>Jefferson</i>	60	3	\$12,000	Vilas	0	0	NA
Juneau	30	4	\$20,000	Walworth	50	3	\$20,000
Kenosha	25	4	\$5,000	Washburn	5	5	\$6,000
Kewaunee	50	3	\$15,000	Washington	40	4	\$10,000
La Crosse	60	3	\$20,000	Waukesha	0	0	NA
Lafayette	0	0	NA	Waupaca	85	2	\$80,000
Langlade	45	4	\$12,000	Waushara	45	4	\$25,000
Lincoln	25	4	\$1,000	Winnebago	55	3	\$70,000
Manitowoc	95	2	\$75,000	Wood	55	3	\$54,000
<b>TOTAL</b>							\$2,134,100
County Name in Italics = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year NA= County did not apply for SEG funds				County Name Shaded = County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award			

## Allocation Plan Dictionary

Chapter 92: Statute of Wisconsin law establishing soil and water conservation and animal waste management.

ATCP 50: State administrative rule that provides the framework to cost-share conservation practices including nutrient management plans; describes the parameters for grants for conservation practices; identifies the costs to be included in cost-share grants to landowners; identifies conservation practice standards available for cost-sharing; defines the requirements for a land and water resource management plan; establishes the process and priorities for allocating grants to support county conservation efforts; describes conservation compliance requirements for the farmland preservation program; describes the process to certify conservation engineering practitioners; establishes qualifications for nutrient management planners; allows for certification of soil and manure testing laboratories; ensures access to education and training opportunities.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas: A locally identified area of contiguous agricultural lands that has received designation from the state (DATCP), at the joint request of landowners and local governments through a petition, to qualify it as important to preserve and invest in. As a part of the state's Farmland Preservation Program, AEAs strive to support local farmland protection goals and enable landowners to sign voluntary 15-year farmland preservation agreements.

Bond: Bond authority is appropriated to the department through the state's biennial budget

process. Bonds can only be used to fund projects with a minimum of a 10-year life span. County LCDs uses bonding for cost-sharing of hard practices. If bonds are not used, they stay with the department and the program and can be reallocated for use in future years.

DATCP: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Administers many conservation programs that are implemented by counties including the soil and water resource management grant program, producer-led watershed program, farmland preservation program, agricultural enterprise areas, nutrient management farmer education program, conservation reserve enhancement program, land and water resource management planning program, livestock siting program, drainage program, and conservation engineering support.

DNR: Department of Natural Resources. Administers the TRM and UNPS grant programs. Responsible for agricultural and nonagricultural performance standards and manages the WPDES permit program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Program through which counties are encouraged to plan for agricultural and agricultural-related uses; local governments may adopt zoning ordinances that restrict lands to agricultural or agricultural-related uses; landowners and local governments may jointly petition for an agricultural enterprise area (AEA) to qualify local areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural and economic future; landowners may enter into a farmland preservation agreement with the state for farms within an AEA to commit to keeping all or a part of their farm in agricultural use and to implement farm conservation

practices for 15 years; participating landowners must implement applicable soil and water conservation standards (see ATCP 50.04)\* to qualify for an income tax credit. **\*Note:** *Landowners of farmland subject to a farmland preservation agreement must meet the soil and water conservation standards in place at the time the agreement was signed. Contact the department for assistance in determining which standards apply to a specific agreement.*

**GPR:** General Purpose Revenue. GPR is funding that comes from the state's income and sales tax revenues. These dollars are very flexible and can be used for most purposes. In relation to the joint allocation plan, DATCP has a small GPR appropriation that helps fund the staffing grants. When the Governor calls for budget cuts from agencies, GPR is usually the money that is targeted for reductions since it can legally be used for any purpose. GPR is allocated on an annual basis and if it is not used it lapses back to the general fund and is not available for the program to use.

**Hard Practices:** Hard Practices are conservation practices that have a lifespan of at least 10 years, such as streambank stabilization, manure storage, well abandonment, managed grazing systems and others. Bond funding can only be used to cost-share hard practices. SEG funding can also be used to fund hard practices with permission from DATCP. SEG funding is not the preferred funding source for hard practices since that money is the only available funding for soft practices and OPCs.

**LCC:** Land Conservation Committee. Committee of county-board elected officials that oversee the LCD departments.

**LCD:** Land Conservation Department. County government department that receives staffing and cost-share grants from DATCP and DNR to implement soil and water conservation programs at the local level. In some counties, the department may go by a slightly different name such as soil and water conservation department, planning and land conservation department, etc.

**LWRM:** Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Each county must have an approved LWRM plan in order to receive funding from DATCP and DNR as part of the joint allocation plan. An approved LWRM plan ensures a county is eligible for staffing grants and a base amount of bond funding. DATCP coordinates the LWRM planning program. LWRM plans are approved by the LWCB for 10 years, with a progress check-in after 5 years.

**NMFE:** Nutrient Management Farmer Education. NMFE is a grant program funded through SWRM's SEG appropriation. The NMFE program provides grants to counties and technical colleges to deliver training for farmers to write their own NM plans. Funding from the NMFE program can go to farmer incentives, soil tests and training materials.

**OPC:** Other Project Cooperators. OPCs include non-county entities such as the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Land+Water that receive SEG grants from the SWRM program in order to advance the SWRM programs. OPC grants are often used for training and infrastructure services. The OPC recipients and the size of the grants have changed over time as needs have changed.

**PL or PLWPG:** Producer Led Watershed Program. The PL watershed grant program

funds farmer-led projects intended to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality. By statute, the PL watershed grant program is funded via the SWRM SEG account and is capped at \$1,000,000 annually.

SEG: Segregated Funds. Segregated funds are collected from fees and held in designated funds for specific purposes under state law. In relation to the joint allocation plan, the Environmental Fund is the source of the segregated funds. The joint allocation plan has two uses for segregated funds. One appropriation designates some segregated funds to the staffing allocation. The second appropriation of segregated funds is for “aids” that explicitly excludes county conservation staffing and is used for nutrient management and other soft practice cost-sharing, training and other related purposes. \$1,000,000 is also directed to Producer-Led Watershed Grants. SEG funds are allocated on an annual basis and if not used they lapse back to the Environmental Fund and are not available to the program to use.

SnapPlus: Soil Nutrient Application Planner is the computer program Wisconsin landowners and agronomists use to develop a compliant NM plan. The UW SnapPlus team developed, maintains, and offers technical assistance on SnapPlus.

Soft Practices: Soft practices are those conservation practices that are implemented on an annual or short-term basis. Soft practices include nutrient management planning, cover crops, residue management, contour farming, and strip-cropping, among others. Soft practices can only be cost-shared with SEG funding.

SWRM: Soil and Water Resource Management Program. The SWRM program is DATCP’s signature grant program that provides staffing and cost-share grants to county LCDs. The SWRM funding is distributed through the annual joint allocation plan process.

TRM: Targeted Runoff Management. The TRM program is a DNR competitive grant program for targeted nonpoint source pollution projects. TRM grants use bond funds allocated through the joint allocation plan

UNPS & SW: Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management: The UNPS & SW program is a DNR competitive grant program for urban nonpoint source pollution projects. UNPS grants use bond funds allocated through the joint allocation plan.



# DATCP's Environmental Assessment

## 2023 Joint Allocation Plan

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Preliminary

AUGUST 2023

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Soil and Water Resource Management Grant  
Program and Nonpoint Source Program



## Contents

<b>Signature Page and Final Determination .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>I. The Nature and Purpose of the Proposed Action .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II. The Environment Affected by the Proposed Action.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III. Foreseeable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. Immediate Effects .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>B. Long-Term Effects .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>C. Direct Effects.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>D. Indirect Effects .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>E. Cumulative Effects .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>IV. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Affected by the Activity.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>V. Significant Economic and Social Effects of the Proposed Action .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>VI. Controversial Issues Associated with the Proposed Action.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VII. Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Action .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A. Take No Action.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>B. Delay Action.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>C. Decrease the Level of Activity .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>D. Increase the Level of Activity.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>E. Change the Amounts Allocated to Some or All Recipients .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VIII. Mitigation of Adverse Environmental Effects .....</b>	<b>12</b>

## Signature Page and Final Determination

This assessment finds that the *2023 Final Allocation Plan* will have no significant negative environmental impact and is not a major state action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. No environmental impact statement is necessary under s. 1.11(2), Stats.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Mockert  
Land and Water Resources Bureau  
Agricultural Resource Management Division

The decision indicating that this document is in compliance with s. 1.11, Stats., is not final until certified by the Administrator of the Agricultural Resource Management Division.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Weigel, Administrator  
Agricultural Resource Management Division

DRAFT

## **I. The Nature and Purpose of the Proposed Action**

Each year the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), together with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), allocates grant funds to counties and others for the purpose of supporting county conservation staff, landowner cost-sharing and other soil and water resource management (SWRM) activities. DATCP funds are allocated in accordance with ch. 92, Stats., and ch. ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are required to have DATCP-approved land and water resource management (LWRM) plans as an eligibility condition for grants. The details of DATCP's proposed action are set forth in charts and tables in the 2023 Joint Allocation Plan that accompanies this Environmental Assessment.

## **II. The Environment Affected by the Proposed Action**

As further explained in Section III.A., the DATCP grant program operates in every county, potentially covering all of Wisconsin's 34.8 million acres. While the program can fund a range of activities that protect surface and ground waters throughout the state, grant funds are primarily used to protect rural areas and install conservation practices on farms, which now account for less than 42% of Wisconsin's land base (14.3 million acres). Ultimately, each county's LWRM plan determines the nature and scope of conservation activities in the area and the natural resources impacted by DATCP funds.

## **III. Foreseeable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action**

### **A. Immediate Effects**

The environmental effects of the proposed allocation plan are positive. Through support for conservation staff and landowner cost-sharing, the proposed allocation plan will result in actions on farms and other areas that reduce soil erosion prevent farm runoff, better soil health, improve management of manure and other nutrients, and minimize pollution of surface and ground water.

For the 2021-2023 biennium, the annual funding for conservation staff increased to \$11,030,000 for 2022 and \$11,280,000 for 2023, allowing DATCP to secure statewide capacity to deliver a wide range of conservation and water quality programs. DATCP staffing grants enable counties to hire and retain conservation staff who have the experience and technical skills required to implement county resource management plans, including the state agricultural performance standards; facilitate landowner participation in state and federal cost-share programs; and ensure cross-compliance of farmers in the farmland preservation program (FPP). By funding special projects that support conservation implementation, DATCP is filling critical needs in areas such as technical standards development, nutrient management support, training, and coordination between the public and private sector. As discussed later, funding for county conservation staff has not kept up with a demand fueled by expanding programs such as producer-led watershed councils and phosphorus and nitrate management, and the persistence of intractable ground and surface water issues throughout the state.

Each year, counties use cost-share funds to address state and local priorities identified in their

local plans. Work plan and reporting requirements discussed later will provide a clearer picture of county efforts and facilitate reporting of county accomplishments.

Cost-share funds translate into tangible conservation practices that produce documentable results in controlling runoff pollution and improving water quality. In 2020 and 2021, counties spent about \$5.3 million in DATCP funds to install cost-shared practices. Table A highlights the top conservation practices DATCP cost-share spent by counties in 2020 and 2021.

<b>Table A: Cost-Share Expenditure Comparison</b>				
<b>Conservation Practice</b>	<b>2020 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)</b>	<b>2020 Units of Practice Installed</b>	<b>2021 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)</b>	<b>2021 Units of Practice Installed</b>
Barnyard Runoff Control	0.09	6 systems	0.03	3 systems
Closure of Manure Storage System	0.39	51 closed	0.39	49 closed
Cover and Green Manure	0.06	1,964 acres	0.26	7,343 acres
Grade Stabilization	0.29	41 structures	0.27	43 structures
Livestock Fencing	.08	52,374 feet	0.12	74,062 feet
Nutrient Management Planning	1.3	35,179 acres	1.5	40,120
Prescribed Grazing /Permanent Fencing	0.13	121,891 feet	0.13	101,394 feet
Residue Management	0.01	627 acres	0.03	1,643 acres
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	0.64	34,837 feet	0.63	19,175 feet
Waterway Systems	0.65	136 acres	0.55	106 acres

The following developments are worth mentioning with respect to expenditures of cost-share funds in 2021 compared to 2020 expenditures:

- A significant increase in acres of both cover and green manure crops and residue management
- An increase in fencing practices as regenerative grazing becomes more of a conservation focus.
- An increase in NM plans cost-shared.

## **B. Long-Term Effects**

Over time, DATCP's annual financial support of county staff and other project cooperators has built and sustained a statewide conservation infrastructure that delivers the following reinforcing benefits:

- Outreach and education that results in positive behavioral changes;
- Development of conservation technologies such as SNAP Plus and the Manure Advisory System, and the training systems to effectively use these technologies;
- Technical and engineering assistance that ensures proper design and installation of conservation practices;
- Resource management planning that addresses local and state priorities, with an emphasis on annual work planning and reporting;
- Permitting and other regulation of livestock farms that requires properly designed manure storage and nutrient management plans;
- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) administration that protects valuable resources and promotes conservation compliance;
- Producer-Led watershed administration and technical assistance.

With the increase to the staffing allocation for fiscal biennium 2021-2023, the amount of funding DATCP is able to give to support county conservation increased by \$1,840,900 from the 2019-2020 allocation. If these funds are not renewed, the counties will suffer from a steep decrease to the staffing awards for 2024.

DATCP cost-share grants are critical in helping landowners meet their individual needs and essential to overall efforts to make progress in achieving broader water quality goals. Most farmers are not required to meet state runoff standards without cost-sharing. Long-term state commitment to farmer cost-sharing determines the extent to which conservation practices are installed and ultimately the degree to which water quality is improved. Installing conservation practices in a watershed or other area over time results in water quality improvement.

Fully assessing the long-term benefits, however, is complicated. The DATCP grant program operates within a collection of conservation and natural resource programs, and as such, other program priorities will impact DATCP funds. See Section III.E. for a more detailed discussion.

## **C. Direct Effects**

DATCP cost-share grants result in the installation of conservation practices and capital improvements on rural and agricultural lands for the purpose of protecting water quality and improving soil health. Grants to counties and others also secure access to technical or other assistance that supports conservation efforts, including conservation education and nutrient management planning.

## **D. Indirect Effects**

Installed conservation practices not only improve resources in the immediate area, but also benefit surrounding areas, including resources located downstream from the installed practice. For example, nutrient management and cropping practices implemented on fields upstream from a lake reduce sediment and nutrients that would otherwise be deposited in surface waters, and can provide additional protection for groundwater. Installed practices may have secondary benefits at a site, such as shoreline buffers, which not only serve to control runoff and impede erosion, but also may increase wildlife habitat.

DATCP policies and rules mitigate secondary impacts from the installation and maintenance of conservation practices. DATCP policies require counties evaluate impacts to cultural resources prior to any land-disturbing activity. To minimize erosion from excavation and construction projects, such as a manure storage facility or barnyard runoff control system DATCP rules require landowners to implement measures to manage sediment runoff from construction sites involving DATCP cost-shared practices. Adverse environmental impacts may result from improper design and installation of practices. DATCP rules avoid this outcome by requiring the design and construction of cost-shared projects according to established technical standards. Improper maintenance can undermine the benefits of a long-term conservation practice. Requiring landowners maintain conservation projects installed with DATCP cost-share dollars ensures DATCP that practices perform in the long-term as intended.

In rare cases, certain negative impacts are unavoidable. For example, unusual storm events can cause manure runoff from the best-designed barnyard. Unavoidable impacts may also arise if a cost-shared practice is not maintained or is improperly abandoned. Manure storage facilities that are not properly abandoned or emptied, may present a water quality threat, unless they are closed in accordance with technical standards.

Overall, the positive benefits of reducing nonpoint runoff through conservation measures significantly outweigh the slight risks associated with the installation and maintenance of conservation practices.

## **E. Cumulative Effects**

While it is difficult to accurately gauge the cumulative effects of this action, it is clear that SWRM grant funds play an integral part in supporting a comprehensive framework of federal, state, and local resource management programs. With the increase to the staffing allocation for the 2021-2023 biennium, DATCP is able to lend support for 205 of the 378 conservation employees in the state's 72 counties, enabling DATCP grant funds to secure the foundation necessary to deliver a myriad of conservation programs, which among other accomplishments, achieved the following:

- In 2021, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided \$102.8 million for conservation programs including \$30.5 million in Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) payments to install conservation practices with the top five expenditures related to cover crops (\$5.1 million), waste storage facility (\$2.7 million), pond sealing or lining (\$2.3 million), waste facility closure (\$1.1 million) and grade stabilization structures (\$1.0 million).

- The conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP) protects important soil and water resources while allowing landowners to make use of valuable adjacent agricultural lands. As of the beginning of 2022, about 73,118 acres were enrolled under CREP agreements and easements: with 7,186 acres under CREP easements and the remainder under CREP 15-year agreements. Of those enrollments, 41,436 acres are currently under active agreements. The conservation benefits of the practices installed on the active agreements (e.g. riparian buffers and filter strips) are as follows: 727 miles of streams buffered with an estimated phosphorus annual removal of 82,250 pounds, nitrogen annual removal of 44,270 pounds and sediment removal of 40,474 tons.
- DNR continued annual funding in 2022 for Targeted Runoff Management Projects, providing over \$3.48 million to counties for cost-sharing ten small-scale and four large-scale projects. DNR set aside \$1.295 million for farms issued a notice of discharge. DNR continued annual funding in 2022 for Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Planning Projects, providing over \$150,402 to counties for cost sharing two projects.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Sum of Total Amount Awarded</b>
Large-scale TRM	4	\$439,628
Small-scale TRM	10	\$3,040,403
Urban Storm Water Construction	2	\$150,402

- In 2022, through the Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant program, DATCP has offered support to thirty-four producer-led groups around the State, awarding over \$4.2 million since the program’s inception in 2016.

A number of factors including complex interactions and far-reaching impacts of grant funding complicates assessing the full extent of the effects of grant funding. For example, conservation activities funded by DATCP can dampen the potential negative environmental impacts of actions driven by farm policies and economics. In particular, the risks of cropland soil erosion have increased because of conditions that favor increased cash grain/row cropping, and the increased market incentives to grow these crops. In addition, efforts funded through SWRM grants have helped mitigate flooding impacts, which have been prevalent in recent years.

#### IV. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Affected by the Activity

##### A. Those Directly Affected

County Conservation Programs and Cooperators: The proposed allocation plan provides funding to support 72 county conservation programs. The increase to the staffing grant allocation for the 2021-2023 biennium will enable DATCP to completely support one employee per program, and 100% of the second position (funded at 70%). For 2023, there is a small balance available after funding the first two positions as per the statute requirements which is split between counties requesting a third position, or seventy of the seventy-two counties. The increase to the staffing grant funding will currently expire after the 2021-2023 biennium, which, if not renewed, could lead to a decrease of up to \$2.3 million in available funds for staffing. And even with the



increase, the DATCP awards fall short of funding three staff per county at the prescribed rates in s. 92.14(6)(b), Stats, providing 83% of the costs to support county conservation staff.

DATCP grants are one of several sources for cost-share funds that include county levies, DNR grants and NRCS funding. DATCP grants also fund private and public entities to provide statewide support for implementing conservation programs or provide special services to promote conservation statewide. DATCP funding for training and professional development is critical to maintaining county capacity to deliver high quality technical services, and reflects a state commitment to build the capacity of conservation staff statewide. The 2023 Allocation continues the Innovation Grants to encourage counties to reach out in new ways to landowners, building from the success of the Monroe County AEA pilot project in 2020.

Landowners who are direct beneficiaries: Farmers and other landowners rely on many services, such as technical assistance provided by conservation staff funded with DATCP grants. They also benefit from cost-share dollars to install conservation practices. Long-term use of some conservation practices, such as nutrient management planning, may have a positive impact on the finances of a landowner by helping plan needed purchases to maximize the yield of a field while minimizing additional fertilizers and pesticides required.

Other county residents: County residents benefit from resource management planning, permitting and other services provided by county conservation staff funded through DATCP grants. Through information and education efforts, for example, a county can help non-farm residents better manage lawn fertilizers, encourage diversity in lawns, improve backyard wildlife habitat, control invasive species and minimize construction site erosion.

Farm-related businesses: Farm supply organizations, nutrient management planners, soil testing laboratories, agricultural engineers, and construction contractors benefit from state grants to counties. Landowners who receive cost-sharing purchase goods and services from these entities.

## **B. Those Significantly Affected**

The allocation benefits those landowners whose soil and water resources are improved or protected because of the activities funded by DATCP. The benefits may include protection of drinking water and improving soil health and stability. Landowners with properties located "downstream" of lands with nutrient and sediment delivery runoff problems benefit from conservation practices that reduced these problems. Certain measures, such as nutrient management plans and protective cropping practices, can help protect drinking water wells that serve neighboring landowners and communities. The public benefits from conservation practices that protect water resources, and promote natural resources.

## **V. Significant Economic and Social Effects of the Proposed Action**

On balance, DATCP's proposed action will have positive economic and social effects. DATCP grants support cost-sharing and technical assistance that enable farmers and other landowners to meet their conservation responsibilities and maintain eligibility for state and federal program benefits. By providing financial support to meet state runoff standards for farms, DATCP cost-sharing helps farmers with the cost of compliance.

The economic impacts of installing conservation practices vary with each individual farmer and the type of practices involved. To receive cost-sharing, farmers usually pay 30% of the costs (10% in the case of economic hardship) to install a practice. Non-agricultural practices are capped at 50% cost-share. DATCP's efforts to expand its cost-share reserve offers limited options to install more costly practices.

In addition to incurring costs, landowners also must adjust their management routines to meet government cost-share requirements. With these changes, farmers face new risks including potential for reduced productivity and reduced profits. However, farmers implementing these practices may also see long-term benefits including savings on the cost of fertilizer, improving soil health leading to more productive soils, and reduced liability for environmental problems.

From the standpoint of local economies, grant funds will generate demand for the purchase of goods and services to design, install and maintain conservation practices. The farm-related businesses listed in IV.A. will directly profit from this increased demand.

Socially, DATCP allocations provide needed support for the farming community and others as they take an active role in the protection and preservation of natural and agricultural resources. Through the increased adoption of conservation measures, farmers and other landowners can ensure continued acceptance by rural communities as responsible and conscientious neighbors. Improved water quality both enhances recreational opportunities and protects the scenic rural landscape, both of which are features essential to tourism.

## **VI. Controversial Issues Associated with the Proposed Action**

For the 2021-2023 biennium, the SWRM grant program will benefit from funding increases in key areas. DATCP's annual appropriation for staffing grants was raised closer to the statutory goal than it has been since 2001. DATCP awarded \$11.28 million in staffing grants, an increase of \$250,000 from 2022. However, in 2023, DATCP will still fall \$2.3 million short of meeting the statutory goal of funding an average of three county staff at the rate of 100, 70 and 50 percent. As noted below, increased county staff may be a key element in making important gains in conservation practice implementation. It may be necessary to look at alternative ways to pay field staff to support farmers with management intensive practices such as nutrient management.

Funding for nutrient management (NM) grants and related expenditures decreased from a program high in 2018-2019, and focus is shifting towards implementing nutrient management plans by initiating cropping practices such as cover crops and no-till planting. DATCP has a responsibility to consider how best to spend this funding to promote NM implementation. Counties have had adequate funds to meet their needs for cost-sharing. A narrow focus on NM cost-sharing overlooks other opportunities that may be more effective in promoting NM. There has also been increased interest in farmer training. Counties have expressed interest in having access to resources other than cost-sharing to further implementation, leading to the idea that has become the Innovation Grant. Innovation grant applications have been solicited from counties for 2023, with requests for harvestable buffers and other practices that can be used to implement the recommendations of nutrient management plans. Alternative cropping projects are also a

feature, again, looking for ways to incorporate nutrient management plans recommendations. Moreover, new in 2023, there are programs to enable counties to approach landowners from a different perspective, offering support to encourage landowners to put their own ideas of conservation into practice on their property.

While understandable from the standpoint of concerns about increased debt service, the decision to retain the same funding for bond cost-sharing fails to meet current program needs. While the \$7.0 million authorization for bond cost-sharing has not increased since 2002, landowner costs for practices have increased for a number of reasons:

- A significant jump in costs of material for construction of engineered practices in the last 5-10 years. For example, the cost of cement increased at an annualized rate of 2.0% over last five years. (IBIS World. Price of Cement. 09 February 2022. <https://www.ibisworld.com/us/bed/price-of-cement/190/> )
- Greater conservation responsibilities requiring farmers to install more conservation practices. For example, DNR adopted new performance standards in 2011 and 2018 and DATCP tightened manure spreading restrictions. The Silurian bedrock standard could also impact the need for conservation practices in specific areas of the state.

The unmet needs for cost-sharing engineered practices may call for creative solutions including the expanded use of SEG funds to pay for these practices. Increases in conservation spending are much needed and long overdue; however, the main source of funding for these conservation activities is inadequate to support more spending. A better supported and more sustainable source of funding is necessary to tackle our conservation challenges.

## **VII. Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

### **A. Take No Action**

Taking no action on the proposed allocations is inconsistent with legal requirements. DATCP and DNR are statutorily mandated to provide grant assistance for their respective programs through an annual allocation as long as the state appropriates the necessary funds.

### **B. Delay Action**

DATCP is under legal obligation to make an annual allocation within a specific timetable. Furthermore, there is no financial justification for a delay since the funding is available. Delaying the grant allocation runs the risk of hampering counties in meeting their legal responsibilities, including their contractual responsibilities to landowners, and undermines the significant environmental, economic, and social benefits of the program.

### **C. Decrease the Level of Activity**

Decreasing the allocations would reduce environmental benefits, impede local program delivery, is not warranted based on the available funding for DATCP

programs and would be inconsistent with legislative intent to implement the nonpoint pollution control program. Therefore, this is an undesirable choice.

**D. Increase the Level of Activity**

Available appropriations and authorizations determine the overall level of activity. However, subject to the factors discussed in E. below, DATCP may increase the allocation in a given project category to better target spending to achieve desired conservation benefits and further legislative objectives.

**E. Change the Amounts Allocated to Some or All Recipients**

The awards made in the allocation plan are based on specific grant criteria that reflect a weighing and balancing of competing priorities and demands. The allocation plan is intended to implement ch. ATCP 50 and legislative directives regarding allocation of grant funds. It also reflects the input and consensus of the counties on funding issues. Changes in individual awards cannot be made without upsetting the weighing and balancing used to develop the overall allocation plan, and would unfairly deviate from grant criteria announced as part of the grant application.

**VIII. Mitigation of Adverse Environmental Effects**

Overall, the allocations are anticipated to have positive environmental effects. Any adverse environmental effects will be of a secondary and minor nature, and can be mitigated. DATCP minimizes adverse impacts through construction runoff control requirements, outreach and training, and improvements in the technical standards.

**DATE:** June 24, 2022

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and Advisors

**FROM:** Joanna Griffin  
Watershed Management Bureau, DNR

**SUBJECT:** DNR Proposed Scoring and Ranking of Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS) Applications for Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Funding

**Recommended Action:** This is an informational item.

**Summary:** Through this memo, the DNR is informing the LWCB of Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS) grant application scores for projects to be considered for CY 2023 grant funding. Scoring results for projects being considered for calendar year (CY) 2023 funding are presented in the attached table.

The DNR funds UNPS projects under authority of s. 281.66, Wis. Stats. The purpose of this program is to control polluted runoff from urban project areas. Funds may be used for two types of projects:

1. Construction projects (may also include land acquisition) and 2. Planning projects. Each project type has its own application process and funding source. Consequently, construction projects and planning projects do not compete against each other for funding.

Beginning in January 2016, the DNR began implementing an alternating schedule for UNPS Planning and UNPS Construction grants. UNPS Construction grant applications were solicited in 2022 for the CY 2023 award cycle. The UNPS Planning grant application will be available in 2023 for CY 2024 awards. Due to the alternating schedule for the UNPS grants, only the scoring and ranking summary for UNPS Construction projects is provided here.

#### **Scoring and Ranking Summary to Date for UNPS – Construction Projects:**

The maximum state cost share per successful application is \$150,000 plus an additional \$50,000 for land acquisition.

- Twenty-seven (27) applications were submitted; all, except for one, are eligible for funding.
- Grant requests for the 26 eligible applications total \$3,129,332
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate \$2,161,533 to fully fund nineteen (19) of the twenty-six (26) projects.

The attached table shows the current rank order of applications. However, a requirement in s. NR 155.20(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, states that no one applicant may receive multiple grants that exceed 20% of the total available funding in a given project category. Applicants on the ranked list whose total funding requests exceed 20% of the total available funding may be awarded funds for the projects that do not exceed 20%; the balance of the applicant's requests are moved to the bottom of the ranked list. Additional funding is provided to those projects moved to the bottom of the ranked list only after all other eligible projects have been funded. Therefore, adjustments to the rank order may be made once total available funding is determined.

Once the *2023 Joint Final Allocation Plan* is signed, the DNR will develop grant agreements for successful applications. During the grant agreement development process, funding amounts may be adjusted as necessary to reflect final cost-share rates and eligible project components.

**Materials Provided:**

Table with preliminary allocations

UNPS-Construction Scoring and Rank for CY 2023

	<b>Preliminary Allocation Bonding</b>			
	<b>City</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Total BMP Allocation</b>	<b>\$1,540,192</b>	<b>\$758,791</b>	<b>\$281,549</b>	<b>\$548,800</b>

### UNPS Construction Scoring by Rank for 2023

Rank	Applicant	Region	Project Name	Score	State Share	Cumulative
1	Bellevue, Village	NER	Continental Drive Storm Water Management Facility Construction	123.2	\$199,900	\$199,900
2	Stoughton, City	SCR	Hydrodynamic Separator at Riverfront Development	117.5	\$138,000	\$337,900
3	Milwaukee Board of School Directors	SER	Greener, Healthier Schoolyards- Kluge Elementary	111.2	\$149,900	\$487,800
4	Kaukauna, City	NER	Company Woods Pond	110	\$85,224	\$573,024
5	Wausau, City	WCR	Strawberry Fields Dry to Wet Pond Conversion	108	\$149,000	\$722,024
6	Milwaukee Board of School Directors	SER	Greener, Healthier Schoolyards - Milwaukee German Immersion School	107.8	\$149,900	\$871,924
6	Slinger, Village	SER	Slinger Speedway Storm Water Improvements	107.8	\$138,371	\$1,010,295
6	Whitefish Bay, Village	SER	High Efficiency Street Sweeper	107.8	\$38,417	\$1,048,712
7	Cedarburg, City	SER	Willowbrooke Park Pond	105.6	\$61,250	\$1,109,962
8	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	SER	30th Street Corridor Wet Weather Relief Phase 2 Stormwater West Basin	104.5	\$150,000	\$1,259,962
9	Watertown, City	SCR	Watertown Yard Waste Site Biofilter	102.3	\$150,000	\$1,409,962
10	Beaver Dam, City	SCR	Pearl Street Pond	100.1	\$149,000	\$1,558,962
10	Shorewood Hills, Village	SCR	Shorewood Hills High Efficiency Street Sweeper	100.1	\$32,203	\$1,591,165
10	Watertown, City	SCR	Watertown Catch Basins in 2023 Street Project Area	100.1	\$49,785	\$1,640,950
11	Menasha, City	NER	Brin Underground Pond	97.9	\$149,999	\$1,790,949
12	Madison, City	SCR	GI Pilot Study	95.7	\$101,304	\$1,892,253
12	Madison, City	SCR	High-Efficiency Sweeper Purchase	95.7	\$56,730	\$1,948,983
13	Algoma, Town	NER	Bellhaven Lane Pond	94.6	\$62,550	\$2,011,533
14	Oconomowoc, City	SER	Oconomowoc Industrial Park Wet Pond	92.4	\$150,000	\$2,161,533
15	Bellevue, Village	NER	Hoffman Storm Water Management Facility Construction	91.3	\$199,900	\$2,361,433
15	Menomonee Falls, Village	SER	Menomonee River Parkway Pond	91.3	\$150,000	\$2,511,433
15	Wauwatosa, City	SER	2023-2024-Replacement of Stormwater Inlets with Catch Basins	91.3	\$149,900	\$2,661,333
16	Green Lake Sanitary District	NER	Sugar Loaf Stormwater Pond	89.1	\$99,000	\$2,760,333
17	Brookfield, Town	SER	Wray Park Forebay	79.2	\$68,999	\$2,829,332
18	South Milwaukee, City	SER	Heritage Reserve Storm Water Detention Pond	69.3	\$150,000	\$2,979,332
19	Norway, Town	SER	Storm Water Improvements South of Elm Lane	63.8	\$150,000	\$3,129,332

Black font = proposed to be fully funded

Red font = funding not available

**DATE:** June 24, 2022

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and Advisors

**FROM:** Joanna Griffin  
Watershed Management Bureau, DNR

**SUBJECT:** DNR Proposed Scoring and Ranking of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Applications for Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Funding

**Recommended Action:** This is an informational item.

**Summary:** The DNR, pursuant to s. 281.65(4c)(b), Wis. Stats., is informing the LWCB of the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant application scores for projects to be considered for CY 2023 grant funding. Scoring results for projects being considered for calendar year (CY) 2023 funding are presented in the attached tables.

Chapter NR 153, Wis. Adm. Code, which governs the TRM Grant Program, became effective on January 1, 2011, and includes four separate TRM project categories as noted below. Projects are scored individually and ranked against other projects in the same category. Once total available funding is determined, funds are allocated among the four project categories. The maximum possible awards are \$225,000 for Small-Scale projects and \$600,000 for Large-Scale projects.

Scoring and Ranking Summary to Date:

A. Small-Scale Non-TMDL

- Three (3) applications were submitted and are eligible for grant consideration.
- Funding requests for the applications total \$668,750.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate \$443,750 to fully fund two (2) of the three (3) projects in this category.

B. Small-Scale Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- Six (6) applications were submitted and are eligible for grant consideration.
- Funding requests for the applications total \$1,053,634.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate \$644,667 to fully fund four (4) of the six (6) projects in this category.

In these categories of Small-Scale Non-TMDL and Small-Scale TMDL, adjustments were made once the total available funding was determined. The attached tables show the preliminary rank order of applications. A requirement in s. NR 153.20(2)(d)3.b., Wis. Adm. Code, states that no one applicant may receive multiple grants that exceed 20% of the total available funding in a given project category. Applicants on the ranked list whose total funding requests exceed 20% of the total available funding will be awarded funds for the projects that do not exceed 20% and the balance of the applicant's requests will be moved to the bottom of the ranked list; additional funding is provided only after all other eligible projects have first been funded.

C. Large-Scale Non-TMDL

- One (1) application was submitted and is eligible for consideration.
- The funding request for this application totals \$404,750.



## TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2023

- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate \$404,750 to fully fund the one (1) project in this category.

### D. Large-Scale TMDL

- Seven (7) applications were submitted and are eligible for consideration.
- Funding requests for these applications total \$3,603,657.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate \$1,846,446 to fully fund three (3) of the seven (7) and partially fund (74%) one of the seven (7) projects in this category.

The following process was used to score and rank projects and make funding decisions:

1. All projects were scored and then ranked by score for each project category.
2. For Small-Scale TMDL and Small-Scale Non-TMDL applications only, the highest scoring application from each DNR region that is above the median score in each of the two project categories was identified and moved (“region boost”) to the top of the ranked list.

The Department will include final allocations to counties for TRM projects in the *CY 2023 Joint Final Allocation Plan*. Once the *2023 Joint Final Allocation Plan* is signed, DNR will develop grant agreements for successful applications. During the grant agreement development process, funding amounts may be adjusted as necessary to reflect final cost-share rates and eligible project components.

### Materials Provided:

*Table of Total Allocations by funding source and County Allocations by funding source  
CY 2023 Small-Scale Non-TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank  
CY 2023 Small-Scale TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank  
CY 2023 Large-Scale Non-TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank  
CY 2023 Large-Scale TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank*

### All Large-Scale and Small-Scale TRM Applications

	Preliminary Allocation		
	Bonding	319	Seg
Structural BMPs (including force account and engineering)	\$2,077,289	\$0	\$5,000
Non-Structural Practices (e.g., cropping)	\$0	\$416,891	\$50,000
Local Assistance	\$0	\$427,380	\$45,000
<b>Total TRM</b>	<b>\$2,077,289</b>	<b>\$844,271</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

### Large-Scale and Small-Scale TRM Applications from Counties

	Preliminary Allocation - Counties		
	Bonding	319	Seg
Structural BMPs (including force account and engineering)	\$1,942,297	\$0	\$5,000
Non-Structural Practices (e.g., cropping)	\$0	\$314,943	\$50,000
Local Assistance	\$0	\$259,380	\$45,000
<b>Total TRM</b>	<b>\$1,942,297</b>	<b>\$574,323</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

## TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2023

**Table 1. Small-Scale Non-TMDL Project Applications**

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Region Boost	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested	Total State Share Proposed	Cumulative Proposed
1	Trempealeau County	Lundberg/Giese Manure Pt	WCR	100.1	No	\$218,750	\$218,750	\$218,750	\$218,750	\$218,750
2	Marinette County	Zeitler Farm Manure Management	NOR	86.4	No	\$374,936	\$225,000	\$443,750	\$225,000	\$443,750
3	Oconto County	Buckfoot Farm	NER	66.9	No	\$519,583	\$225,000	\$668,750	\$225,000	

\*Region Boost with score equal to or greater than median of 86.4

Black font = proposed to be fully funded

Red font = funding not available

**Table 2. Small-Scale TMDL Project Applications**

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Region Boost	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested	Total State Share Proposed	Cumulative Proposed
1	Washington County	Sager Manure Storage	SER	141	No	\$228,358	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
2	Waupaca County	Blankschien Farms	NER	135.7	No	\$277,810	\$225,000	\$450,000	\$225,000	\$450,000
3	St. Joseph, Town	Church Street Ravine	WCR	135	No	\$188,990	\$134,992	\$584,992	\$134,992	\$584,992
4	Rusk County	Justin Hamholm Feedlot & VTA	NOR	115	No	\$59,675	\$59,675	\$644,667	\$59,675	\$644,667
5	Outagamie County	Olson's Best Dairy	NER	69.1	No	\$454,934	\$213,467	\$858,134	\$213,467	
6	Washington County**	Gehring View Farms Manure Storage	SER	127	No	\$257,237	\$195,500	\$1,053,634	\$195,500	

\*Region Boost with score equal to or greater than median of 131.

\*\*This grant was moved to the bottom of the list due to the requirement in s. NR 153.20(2)(d)3.b., Wis. Adm. Code, states that no one applicant may receive multiple grants that exceed 20% of the total available funding in a given project category.

Black font = proposed to be fully funded

Red font = funding not available

### TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2023

**Table 3. Large-Scale Non-TMDL Project Applications**

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested	Total State Share Proposed	Cumulative Proposed
1	Rusk County	Devils Creek Watershed Project	NOR	91.4	\$446,715	\$404,750	\$404,750	\$404,750	\$404,750

Black font = proposed to be fully funded

Red font = funding not available

**Table 4. Large-Scale TMDL Project Applications**

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested	Total State Share Proposed	Cumulative Proposed
1	Marathon County	Fenwood Creek Watershed Project (Phase II)	WCR	186.3	\$462,708	\$341,541	\$341,541	\$341,541	\$341,541
2	Green Lake Sanitary District	Big Green Lake Watershed Best Management Practices Grant	NER	170	\$588,000	\$588,000	\$929,541	\$588,000	\$929,541
3	Polk County	Polk LWRM Plan Implementation in the Balsam Lake Watershed	NOR	167.2	\$521,371	\$521,371	\$1,450,912	\$521,371	\$1,450,912
4	Outagamie County	Apple Creek Large Scale TRM #2	NER	157.3	\$622,701	\$535,780	\$1,986,692	\$395,534	\$1,846,446
5	Outagamie County	Plum and Kankapot Creeks #3	NER	155.1	\$596,965	\$596,965	\$2,583,657		
6	Big Round Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District	Big Round Lake Water Quality Goal Plan Implementation / Lake St. Croix TMDL Implementation	NOR	144	\$2,189,390	\$600,000	\$3,183,657		
7	Dodge County	Wildcat Creek Watershed	SCR	130.9	\$420,000	\$420,000	3,603,657		

Black font = proposed to be fully or partially funded

Red font = funding not available

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM** \_\_\_\_\_ **State of Wisconsin**

**DATE:** July 22, 2022

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board (“LWCB” or “Board”) Members and Advisors

**FROM:** LWCB Standing Committee on Advising the University of Wisconsin System (UW-System)

**SUBJECT:** Recommended Actions to Establish the Standing Committee’s Purpose, Membership and Title

**Background:** At the June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the LWCB, the Board approved a motion appointing the members of the Ad Hoc Committee to be members of the Standing Committee on Advising the UW-System (“Committee”) until the August 2022 meeting. This Committee consists of four LWCB members: Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Brian Weigel and Ron Grasshoff and two LWCB advisors: John Exo and Francisco Arriaga. The Committee provides the following overview of their activities from the July 12, 2022 committee meeting and committee recommendations.

**Recommended Actions:** The Committee recommends the following actions to the LWCB:

- 1) **Action 1:** Approve a motion appointing the members of the LWCB standing committee, approved on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, to serve on the “LWCB Advisory Committee on Research ” with terms concurrent with their regular LWCB term period or appointment.
- 2) **Action 2:** Approve the Committee’s purpose statement as presented below.

**Committee Member Appointments:** As committee member terms expire after August 2022, the Committee requests the LWCB re-appoint the current members of this Committee for a duration concurrent with LWCB members’ or advisors’ LWCB term-period or appointment, respectively. The Committee has set forth a draft motion in, Action 1, to this affect for your consideration. Should this motion, or similar, be approved, the Committee would revise its guiding principles to reflect the duration of committee membership.

**Committee Title:** The Committee has concerns that the title “Standing Committee on Advising the UW-System”, approved at the June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the LWCB, has the potential for others, not familiar with the LWCB, to misinterpret the Committee’s duties or believe the Committee is affiliated with the UW-System rather than the LWCB. To alleviate the possibility for these misinterpretations, the Committee suggests the title, “LWCB Advisory Committee on Research” be given to this Committee as proposed within the draft motion seen in Action 1.

**Committee Purpose Statement:** Building from the draft purpose statement presented to the Board on June 7, 2022, the Committee submits this revised draft purpose statement to the LWCB for consideration and approval. The Committee believes this draft purpose statement sets forth an enduring vision and role for the Committee to serve and facilitate the LWCB’s duty to advise the UW-System pursuant to Wis. Stats § 92.04(2)(g). Should the LWCB approve the draft purpose or similar, the Committee would revise its guiding principles to reflect the approved statement.

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**DRAFT LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Purpose Statement**

*The Advisory Committee on Research purpose shall be to create, implement and oversee the process for the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board to advise the University of Wisconsin System on research and outreach needs relating to soil & water conservation. The Committee will provide oversight of a sustainable, lasting process which involves all Board members and advisor organizations as part of the normal agenda of the Board.*

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**Other Committee Updates from July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- 1) The Committee will hold reoccurring meetings on the first Tuesday of every other month at 9am, on months that do not coincide with normal meetings of the LWCB.
- 2) Committee member Ron Grasshoff has volunteered to serve as the main representative of the Committee. LWCB members wishing to inquire about a Committee matter should contact Ron Grasshoff, rather than the entire Committee, to avoid the creation of a walking quorum of the LWCB. DATCP has assigned Zach Zopp to coordinate activities of the Committee and can assist with LWCB member questions related to the Committee.
- 3) At the Committee's September meeting, the Committee plans to focus on completing its guiding principles and procedures document and transitioning to the implementation of the stakeholder feedback gathering process.

## **CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

**DATE: August 2, 2022**

**TO: LWCB members and advisors**

**FROM: Ian Krauss**

**SUBJECT: FSA Program Updates for August LWCB Meeting**

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- Conservation Reserve Program
  - Grassland Signup 204 Accepted and Rejected list was issued last month. Wisconsin had 10 offers for approximately 280 acres accepted. Producers seeking to continue with their offer have requested Conservation Plans from the NRCS.
  - General Signup 58 Conservation Plans for producers continuing with their offer were returned by NRCS as of July 29<sup>th</sup>. Offers are moving forward to contract approval.
  - Producers looking to re-enroll any CRP acres into Continuous Signup 57 (including CREP, HELI, SAFE, and CLEAR30) must submit their offers by COB August 5th. This includes offers that contain both new and re-enrolled acreage. This deadline is important because Continuous contracts cannot have a lapse in effective date and must be approved by September 30th.
  - Wisconsin FSA is continuing to look for ways to increase enrollment into CRP, including suggesting policy changes to increase producer interest, taking part in outreach activities, and finding ways to work more with partner organizations.
  - In response to National Office's request for modified SAFE proposals, Wisconsin FSA has submitted modified proposals for Monarch and Pollinator, Glacial Habitat Restoration, Karner Blue Butterfly, Southwest Grassland, and Western Prairie have been submitted. Given low enrollment in Central Grasslands, a modified proposals has not been submitted for that project area.

# NRCS Wisconsin Quarterly Update



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices. Applications are accepted on a continuous, year-round basis. Applications received by November 4, 2022 will be evaluated and considered for potential funding in Fiscal Year 2023. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years to further enhance their stewardship efforts. Applications are accepted on a continuous year-round basis. Applications received by February 10, 2023, will be evaluated and considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2023 for CSP Classic sign-up. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through pro-program contracts or easement agreements. Current active projects for water quality improvement are located within the Ocono-mowoc River, Milwaukee River and Yahara River watersheds, Driftless Area to improve fish and wildlife habitat, stream and riparian habitat, and select counties in Northern Wisconsin to improve Golden-winged and Kirtland's warblers' habitats, and select areas of Southern Wisconsin to improve soil health and protect agriculturally productive farmland. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

## Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) focuses on restoring and protecting wetlands, conserving productive agricultural lands and conserving grasslands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements. Applications for the ACEP are taken on a continuous basis, and they are ranked and considered for funding one time a year. The deadline for the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) for fiscal year 2022 was December 1, 2021, and the deadline for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) for fiscal year 2022 was October 31, 2021. Applications are currently being evaluated. Contact Greg Kidd, greg.kidd@usda.gov, for more information.

NRCS Programs Financial Update			
Program		FY21	FY22
<b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$ 30.5 M <sup>a</sup>	\$25.5 M <sup>b</sup>
	Contracts	1,070 <sup>a</sup>	851 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</b>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$18.1 M	\$14.1M <sup>c</sup>
	New Contracts	228	240 <sup>c</sup>
	Renewal Contracts	250	217
<b>Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP—ALE)</b>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$507,000	\$404,088
	Parcels	4	3
	Acres	334	260
<b>Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP—WRE)</b>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$2.8 M	\$2.3 M
	Easements	5	4
	Acres	544	346
<b>Emergency Watershed Protection Program—Floodplain Easements (EWPP—FPE)</b>	Financial Assistance Reserve	\$3.4 M	
	Proposed Easements	7	
	Proposed Acres	502	
<b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$1.3 M	\$1,673,446
	Contracts	88	95 <sup>c</sup>
	Acres	2,100	385.2 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Includes initiatives and special funding.

<sup>b</sup>Initiatives and special funding allocations have not been determined yet.

<sup>c</sup>Funding decisions not yet complete for the fiscal year.

## University of Wisconsin Division of Extension Releases Lower Fox Demonstration Farm Network Impact Evaluation Report

The University of Wisconsin Division of Extension has released the Fox Demo Farms Impact Evaluation Report, which describes the role of the Fox Demo Farms in prompting farmers associated with the project, as well as farmers who are not directly associated with the project, to adopt conservation practices within the Lower Fox River watershed. Fox Demo Farms are a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) project funded through NRCS. Visit <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/foxdemofarms/>.

## Collaborative Tribal Publication

The NRCS in partnership with the WTCAC announced a new collaborative publication, Wisconsin Tribal Conservation: Stewardship for the Future, is available online, highlighting successful conservation efforts with the 11 federally recognized Tribes of Wisconsin. Six other USDA agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are also partnering to highlight the protection and restoration of natural resources on Wisconsin Tribal lands. Visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/) to download the publication.

## GovDelivery

Get the news first! Individuals can enroll in GovDelivery to receive up-to-date notifications by e-mail when new information becomes available about any state or national NRCS topic you choose. If you sign-up for these automatic updates, you will only receive notifications you specify and you may unsubscribe at any time. Sign up for Wisconsin updates by visiting: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOC/subscriber/new>

## USDA Report Shows a Decade of Conservation Trends

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years. The report from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation over a 10-year period. Findings from the report will inform future conservation strategies, including USDA's efforts to tackle the climate crisis. For more information visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/news/wi/newsroom/releases/>.

## 2021 NRCS Wisconsin Conservation Highlights and Results

In the 2021 Annual Report, you will see snapshots of our approach in getting conservation practices on the ground to use our land productively. You'll learn about conservation results and highlights of the work we do, which is strongly focused on meeting Farm Bill responsibilities. In the 2021 Success Story Highlights, you'll meet farmers and landowners from across the state who partner to implement conservation. These NRCS customers are investing in their operations and local communities to provide food, fiber and energy, creating a more sustainable future for all of us. Read the two products online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/).

## Women in Conservation Celebrated in Wisconsin

Highlighting the historic stewardship of women conservation professionals and educators, in addition to the increasing prominence of women owning and managing land in Wisconsin, Governor Tony Evers has proclaimed July 18–24, 2022, as Wisconsin Women in Conservation Week. For the second year in a row, Governor Evers has officially declared a week in July in observance of Wisconsin Women in Conservation. The dedication shares its name with the state-wide group Wisconsin Women in Conservation (WiWiC), a collaborative effort led by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in partnership with Renewing the Countryside, Marbleseed, Wisconsin Farmers Union, and NRCS. WiWiC seeks to bring together Wisconsin women landowners to connect and learn about conservation practices, resources and funding opportunities. Visit <https://www.wiwiic.org/>.

**Wisconsin**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Exo or [Amber Radatz](mailto:Aradatz@wisc.edu)

Email: [john.exo@wisc.edu](mailto:john.exo@wisc.edu); [aradatz@wisc.edu](mailto:aradatz@wisc.edu)



## **Introducing Division of Extension's Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialists**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Agriculture Water Quality Program is excited to introduce its four Outreach Specialists located throughout Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, there is significant unmet demand for outreach and education on the science of agricultural production impacts on water quality. With these outreach specialists, Extension now has increased capacity to communicate lessons learned and share solutions developed from research at Extension's Discovery Farms monitoring sites, other UW researchers and other research institutions.

Beginning priority areas of focus will be:

- Developing and delivering outreach programs in this and other content to the primary audiences of farmers, crop advisors and conservation professionals
- Communicating the dynamics of sediment and phosphorus loss from agricultural landscapes
- Recommending farm practices to reduce particulate and dissolved phosphorus losses to lakes, streams and wetlands
- Recommendations to reduce nitrogen losses to groundwater from below the root zone

### **Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialists**

**Chelsea Zegler** is located in Madison and serves Southern Wisconsin's agriculture water quality outreach needs. She received her Bachelor's degree at UW-Madison and continued there to complete a Master's in Agroecology, where she focused on forage production and soil health on dairies across the state, partnering with the USDA-Dairy Forage Research Center and industry partners. Chelsea was previously the Dane County Extension Crops and Soils Educator. Reach Chelsea: [zegler@wisc.edu](mailto:zegler@wisc.edu).

**Laura Paletta** is located in Green Bay and will serve the eastern part of the state. She completed her Masters in Soil Science from UW- Madison in 2017 and then continued to do research for three more years. Her research focused on using best management practices to reduce sediment and phosphorus losses. She spent the past two years working at Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Dept as a resource conservationist. Reach Laura: [paletta@wisc.edu](mailto:paletta@wisc.edu)

**Rachel Rushmann** is located in Eau Claire and will serve the western part of the state. Rachel worked nearly seven years developing and managing DATCP's Producer-Led Watershed Protection program. Prior to working at DATCP, she was a program manager for the farmer-led group, Yahara Pride Farms, near Madison, WI. She holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison in Agricultural and Applied Economics. Reach Rachel: [rrushmann@wisc.edu](mailto:rrushmann@wisc.edu)

### **Commercial Vegetable Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialist**

**Guolong Liang** is a Commercial Vegetable Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialist with the Division of Extension and is based in Stevens Point. He is excited to contribute to building the network linking stakeholders in the space of agriculture and water quality. The primary audiences of his outreach

and education will be farmers, crop advisors and conservation professionals in Central Sands. He has a background in irrigation and nutrient management of specialty crops. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Horticulture at UW-Madison. He is also devoted to advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion missions in agriculture. Reach Guolong: [gliang6@wisc.edu](mailto:gliang6@wisc.edu)

*The Agriculture Water Quality Program is a part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension's Agriculture Institute. The program was formed in 2021 to address the growing demand for water quality outreach and education from science backed research on the impacts of agriculture on water quality and practices to reduce them.*



**DATCP REPORT**  
**Bureau of Land and Water Resources**  
**August 2022**

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### **2021 Report on Soil and Water Conservation**

- The [2021 annual report](#) is available on our website! Please take some time to review the report and read the stories. Over 20 counties are featured either in a story, a photo or a quote this year. Also, we encourage you to share with your colleagues and friends.

### **Soil and Water Resources Management Grants**

- The 2023 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan will be released for a 30-day public review on August 2, 2022. Please submit any comments on the report to [DATCPSWRM@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPSWRM@wisconsin.gov) by September 6, 2022.
- SWRM Fact of the Month: Up to 50% of a county's SEG award may be used for cropping practices without prior approval from DATCP.
- If you have any interest in the proposed Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program we would welcome any questions, comments or project ideas. The program is designed for agricultural producers to conduct commercial nitrogen optimization field studies with the support of UW. More information will be coming soon.

### **Emergency Rule Development**

- The emergency rules for the commercial nitrogen optimization pilot project ([EmR2208](#)) and cover crop insurance rebate program ([EmR2210](#)) are in effect. EmR2208 was published on July 8, 2022, and stays effective for 150 days, until December 4, 2022. EmR2210 was published July 29, 2022 and remains in effect until December 25, 2022. The next step for the Bureau is to host a public hearing within 45 days of both rules being promulgated. We will hold one public hearing for both emergency rules August 18 at 1:30 (on Zoom) since the programs were created in the same legislation and have the same funding source.
- The Department submitted a 13.10 request to the Joint Committee on Finance for FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 on June 28, 2022. The Department requested \$0 in FY22 and \$2.4 million in FY23, with \$1.6 million directed to the commercial nitrogen optimization pilot program, and \$800,000 to the cover crop insurance rebate program. We are waiting for a final decision from the Joint Committee on Finance on funding for each grant program.

### **Conservation Engineering**

- Funding Opportunity: Each year, DATCP collaborates with DNR to fund projects that address farm discharges. **Funds are still available in the DATCP 2022 Engineering Reserve Fund for eligible projects.** The project would need to be contracted yet this year; however, it could be extended into next year for installation by 12/31/2023. If you have a project that addresses a farm discharge and need funds to complete it, please contact your DATCP area engineering staff for more information.

### **Nutrient Management News**

- County staff - Be sure to check your email for the **2022 Nutrient Management Survey** early this week. This is a replacement for the annual spreadsheet submission. Guidance will be provided within the survey for those that are using Excel.
- If you have not yet submitted your interest to be part of the Nutrient Management Quality Assurance Team, please see the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/g/szEjSC2zTP>. We will look to have our first meeting in mid-September to discuss the team and goals.

### **Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans**

- The August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board will be convened on Microsoft Teams. To join

the meeting remotely, follow instructions in the [agenda](#). Sauk County will present a 5-year review of their current LWRM plan

- Counties working on LWRM plan revisions and reviews for the October 4<sup>th</sup> LWCB meeting include Racine, Dodge, and Fond du Lac.

### **Farmland Preservation Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas**

- The 2022 Agricultural Enterprise Area petition cycle closed on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Petitions that were submitted will be reviewed for designation in August.
- Farmland Preservation Program staff will work with counties to craft outreach initiatives focused on areas of interest for renewable energy projects that are eligible for, or enrolled in, FP. Contact [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov) to discuss needs or examples.

### **Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program**

- On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the AIS program published a [new reference document](#) called, *Reference Document Regarding Notification of Non-significant Acquisition and Summary Agricultural Impact Notifications (AIN)*. This reference document describes the conditions for when a project initiator will notify the AIS program for projects with less than five acres of impact to any single farm operation, pursuant to DATCP's discretionary power according to Wis. Stat. § 32.035(4)(a). The AIS website [agimpact.wi.gov](http://agimpact.wi.gov) has also been updated to refer project initiators to the new reference document.
- Contact [zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov](mailto:zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov) for questions regarding any active AIS statement or the AIS program.

### **Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG) Program**

- The 2023 PLWPG application period is open through Sept. 16
- The [2020-2021 PLWPG Impact Report](#) is now available online and provides a comprehensive overview of the groups' activities

### **DATCP Staff Updates**

- The Bureau of Land and Water Resources is hiring a conservation specialist, focusing on watershed and soil health. This position will serve as the agency expert on regenerative agricultural systems, and will also assist with management of the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. The [job announcement](#) can be found on the Wisc.Jobs website; please help spread the word!

DATE: August 2, 2022

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jill Schoen, DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, June 2022 - July 2022, for the August LWCB meeting

### **Storm Water Program Update**

The Non-metallic Mining General Permit was reissued in early July. The new permit will become effective January 1, 2023 allowing operators to adjust, as necessary, to any new requirements. Information on the new permit can be found on the website under the Industrial Permits Section here: [Industrial storm water permits | Wisconsin DNR](#)

Updates to s. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code became effective April 1, 2022. Revised construction permit application fees become effective January 1, 2023.

The department is in the process of drafting and reissuing the Transportation Separate Storm Sewer System (TS4) permit and Transportation Construction General Permit (TCGP). The TS4 permit covers storm water system discharges from DOT right of way within municipalities that hold municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits. The TCGP covers DOT administered construction projects.

### **Nonpoint Infrastructure Funding Team Update**

Throughout 2022 WDNR and DATCP staff have participated in an interagency Agricultural Nonpoint Infrastructure Funding Team. The workgroup purpose is to identify and recommend options for the state to utilize recent federal funds including those appropriated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Two sub-teams both followed a phased process: (1) gather information, (2) collect stakeholder input, and (3) develop recommendations. One sub-team is exploring potential uses of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for agricultural nonpoint source projects. Draft recommendations include expansion of the Clean Water Fund Program's Pilot Project Program, research of new financial tools, and continuation of interagency efforts to address nonpoint source pollution strategically with available funding. The other sub-team is developing a workplan for the new EPA Gulf Hypoxia Program, which will provide approximately \$4.175 million to Wisconsin over five years. The workplan and funding will support implementation of Wisconsin's nutrient reduction strategy.

### **TRM/UNPS Grant Program Update**

The latest [annual report](#) is now available on the following grant webpages:  
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/TargetedRunoff.html>  
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/UrbanNonpoint.html>

### **Watershed and Water Quality Event**

Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri Producer Led Watershed Group and Adams County LWCD, hosted “Precision Agriculture and Its Effects on Soil Health”. DNR staff joined other producers, food processors, lake and watershed partners, at Heartland Farms, Adams County. Precision agriculture specialists from Pheasants Forever presented the benefits that precision agriculture provides for soil health, water quality, carbon sequestration and improved agriculture economics. About 70 participants also got to experience some of the most cutting-edge technology developed by producers used in the potato and vegetable production industry. The goal of this event was to bring awareness to the benefits of precision agriculture while also providing an “on the farm” experience to the community and celebrating this new partnership to improve groundwater and surface water quality in the Central Sands Region. DNR’s Water Quality and Watershed programs participated by attending the event, engaging with other attendees, answering questions, and providing a sponsorship of \$1,000.

### **Surface Water Grant Program**

The DNR’s surface water grant program published updated program guidance for FY23. Notable program changes included a two-week pushback for application deadlines. Pre-applications and requests for determination of eligibility for AIS Control projects and Management Plan Implementation projects are now due on September 15. Final grant applications are now due on November 15. To kick off the coming grant cycle, program staff held two surface water grant introductory webinars on July 20 and 21. More information, program guidance, and application forms are available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>