



Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

June 1, 2021

The Land and Water Conservation Board will meet on June 1, 2021. The board will hold its official business meeting at **9:00 am** via Microsoft Teams. To attend the meeting, join by telephone at 608-571-2209 with Conference ID 743 944 622 # 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
 - e. Approval of agenda
 - f. Approval of April 6th, 2021 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 The Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for Numbering Watersheds
Brian Weigel, DNR and Angela Biggs, NRCS
- 4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Green County - **Todd Jenson, County Conservationist, Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist and Austin Loeffelholz, Conservation Technician, Green County LWCD; Kristi Leonard, Chair LWCC**
- 5 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update for Forest County
Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information / GIS Director, Forest County LWCD; Larry Sommer, LCC member
- 6 LWCB Annual Agenda Discussion on 2022 Grant Applications Agenda Item
Mark Cupp, LWCB and Zach Zopp, DATCP

*Mark Cupp, Chair; Eric Birschbach, Vice-Chair;
Bobbie Webster, Secretary*

*Members: Monte Osterman; Andrew Buttles; Ron Grasshoff; Mike Hofberger
Bob Mott; Andrew Potts; Sara Walling; Brian Weigel*

- 7 An Overview of the Standards Oversight Council (SOC)
Bart Chapman, DATCP, Standards Oversight Council Chair
- 8 LWCB Website Overview and Revision Discussion
Zach Zopp, DATCP
- 9 The Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report (written report only)
Coreen Fallat , DATCP
- 10 Agency reports
 - a. FSA
 - b. NRCS
 - c. UW-CALS
 - d. UW-Extension
 - e. WI Land + Water
 - f. DOA
 - g. DATCP
 - h. DNR
 - i. Member Updates
- 11 Planning for August 2021 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 12 Adjourn

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 6, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 2, 2021 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Mark Cupp, Eric Birschbach, Bobbie Webster, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Buttles, Mike Hofberger, Bob Mott, Monte Osterman, Brian Weigel, Andrew Potts and Sara Walling. A quorum was present.

Advisors present: Ian Krauss (FSA), Angela Biggs (NRCS) and Matt Kruger (WI Land+Water)

Department staff present: Lisa Trumble, Lacey Cochart, Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, Alex Elias, Kim Carlson, Susan Mockert, Coreen Fallat, Tim Jackson and Zach Zopp (DATCP), Kristin Teston (WI Land+Water).

Zopp confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Mott moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried unanimously.

Osterman made a motion to approve the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Administrative Rule Revision Process and Upcoming ATCP 50 Revision

Coreen Fallat and Alex Elias, DATCP, presented to the Board an overview of the administrative rule revisions process and notified the Board of the Departments intention to revise Administrative Rules including: Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection (ATCP) 48 and ATCP 50. The presentation addressing the administrative rule revision process and potential ATCP 50 revision is available online on LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov under 2021 Meetings for April 6.

The Board discussed the following: the current makeup of the ATCP board and roles of Department staff; the number of active drainage districts in Wisconsin; the timeline for technical standards to be completed (e.g the Silurian bedrock performance standard); the 2017 revision of state drainage law that triggered the need to revise ATCP 48.

Item #4 Correspondence Regarding Marathon County LWRM Plan Approval

Mark Cupp, LWCB, discussed a recent open letter to the Board from a resident of Marathon County, whom objected to the Boards approval of Marathon County’s LWRM plan on February 2, 2021. Mark also stated his intention to respond to the letter on behalf of the Board.

The Board discussed the following: the legality of the Marathon County resident’s concern in relation to the approval of the Marathon County LWRM plan; the LWCB reaffirmed that Marathon County met the requirements of the LWRM plan revision approval process; the LWCB response to the Marathon County resident.

Item #5 Recommendation for approval of 5 year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Dunn County

Chase Cummings, County Conservationist, Dunn County LWCD and Thomas Quinn, LCC Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the County’s LWRM plan.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Department 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).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: addressing well testing for nutrient (i.e nitrate) contamination; implementation of recommendations from the County’s water quality ad-hoc committee; the percentage of land (acres) in farmland preservation and increasing participation in Dunn County’s Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA); 9 key element plan for the Red Cedar Watershed and the County’s economic development partnership with UW-Stout on the Red Cedar Watershed; popularity of the producer led watershed groups and preservation practices; cover cropping and the inherent problems and successes derived from cover cropping; how networking from the County’s demo farm has increased interest in cover cropping; how the County handles notice of intent to issue a notice of discharge (NOI) & notice of discharge (NOD) as well as how the County interacts & collaborates with the WI DNR to resolve NOI and NOD matters.

Walling moved to recommend approval of Dunn County’s 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Hofberger, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

David Troester, County Conservationist, Crawford County LCD and David Olson, LCC Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the County’s LWRM plan.

Crawford County Land Conservation Department 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).

The Board and County representatives discussed the following: Crawford County’s hesitation to act on certain conservation projects impacted by large scale rain events that may require additional technical assistance to implement; the County’s awareness that future state conservation standards may be more strict; progression of agriculture in Crawford County and the shift away from forage cropping

operations for animals, to row cropping operations; impacts on soil conservation from row cropping practices in the driftless area; producer led groups in the County; well water sampling, quality testing and closing old wells; the County's aerial cover crop pilot project; installation of grade stabilization projects requested by landowners and the funding for these projects from DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grants.

Birschbach moved to recommend approval of Crawford County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5 year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Sawyer County

Tim Seidl, Assistant Conservationist, Sawyer County LWCD and Bruce Paulson, Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the County's LWRM plan.

Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department 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).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: the paleoecological lake study; dynamics of agriculture in relation to forest and recreational land uses in Sawyer County, addressing aquatic invasive species (AIS) at road stream crossings and the impacts of AIS in forested road stream crossings; County conservation staff and forestry staff coordination.

Mott moved to recommend approval of Sawyer County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #8 Approval of SEG Innovation Grants

Jenni Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP presented to the Board the 2021 SEG Innovation Grants, as part of the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant program and the 2021 Allocation Plan for a recommendation of approval. The memo addressing the 2021 SEG Innovation Grants is available online at the LWCB website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

The Board discussed the following: scoring the SEG Innovation Grant project application, development of scoring/ranking system to select grants, and the timeline to develop scoring metrics in relation to the application deadline; availability of SEG Innovation Grant funding in future years; the makeup of the SEG Innovation Grant selection committee.

Hofberger motioned to approve the SEG Innovation Grants, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2020 into 2021

Jenni Heaton-Amrhein and Susan Mockert, DATCP presented to the Board a request to recommend the extension of 2020 Bond and SEG grant funds for county cost-share projects into 2021. The memo addressing the extension of funds into 2021 is available online at the LWCB website within the April

6, 2021 [meeting packet](#). The presentation is available online on LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov under 2021 Meetings for April 6.

The Board discussed the following: the maximum funding amount for a single grant; the difference in funding levels across grant recipients; the requirement for a county to have left unspent at least \$1 to extend a grant.

Weigel motioned to approve the extension of DATCP projects from 2020 into 2021, as described in the March 25, 2021 memo from DATCP, seconded by Osterman and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #10 Lunch

Item #11 Recommendation for approval of 5 year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Shawano County

Scott Frank, County Conservationist, Shawano County LCD and Arlyn Tober, LCC Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the County's LWRM plan.

Shawano County Land Conservation Department 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).

The Board and County representatives discussed the following: percentage of cropland (acres) enrolled in nutrient management planning; how the County's livestock siting ordinance regulates livestock facilities with 500 or more animal units and specifically confined animal feeding operations (CAFO); regulating smaller farms (below 500 animal units) under the County's animal waste management ordinance; administering the farmland preservation program in the County, utilizing funding from multi-discharge variance permitting; observations of long term changes in agricultural practices in Shawano County.

Mott moved to recommend approval of Shawano County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Hofberger, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #12 Report on Governor's Proposed Budget for DNR and DATCP nonpoint programs (and potential board resolution)

Brian Weigel, DNR; Sara Walling, DATCP, presented the Governor's 2021-2023 biennial budget for their respective agencies. The DNR and DATCP memo's addressing the Governor's proposed budget are available online at the LWCB website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#). The DATCP presentation is available online on LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov under 2021 Meetings for April 6.

The Board and agency representatives discussed the following: an error on the DNR memo regarding the amount of funding for the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Bonding Program; the Federal stimulus funding for non-point projects from the American Rescue Plan (i.e SB 271); the Governor's power to distribute funds from the American Rescue Plan.

Hofberger motioned for the LWCB to send a letter of support to the Wisconsin Legislature for the executive budget proposal as it pertains to funding for programs overseen by the LWCB, seconded by Grasshoff and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #13 Increasing Public Awareness of LWRM Plan Renewal Approvals

Mark Cupp, LWCB and Zach Zopp, DATCP presented a draft template letter that recognizes the achievement of county LWRM plan renewals. The LWCB Chair will distribute the letter to individual county boards and Land Conservation Committee Chairs upon renewal of their respective county LWRM plan. The draft template letter of recognition is available online at the LWCB website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

The Board discussed the following: distributing the letter to county administration, county board chairs and county Land Conservation Committees; counties publishing the letter on social media or other forms of media; publishing a copy of the final letter within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet; including a new reoccurring LWCB agenda item to discuss/acknowledge LWCB communications such as letters of achievement; discussing updates to the LWCB website at the June 1, 2021 LWCB meeting.

**Item #14 Recommendation for Approval of Revised Board LWRM Plan Questionnaire:
Climate Change Resiliency Question**

Zach Zopp, DATCP, presented to the Board a revised LWRM Plan Review Questionnaire for approval and recommended implementing the revised questionnaire for counties no sooner than the December 7, 2021 LWCB meeting. The revised questionnaire contained proposed language for a new voluntary question to learn how county conservation staff are addressing changing weather patterns. The memo addressing the revised LWRM Plan Review Questionnaire is available online at the LWCB website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

The Board discussed the following: the decision process used to determine why the new question would be voluntary rather than required.

Grasshoff motioned to approve the revised questionnaire for counties, as written, no sooner than the December 7, 2021 LWCB meeting, seconded by Webster and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #15 Agency Reports

FSA- Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

NRCS – Angela Biggs reported: NRCS will begin to accept visitors at local offices by appointment only and will require screening prior to entry; NRCS is advertising for approximately 40 entry-level staff positions.

UW CALs, UW Ext- Dr. Arriaga and Dr. Genskow were both absent and did not submit a report.

WI Land + Water- Matt Kruger reported: WI Land+Water finished their March virtual conference, which over 400 people attended; WI Land+Water is planning to return to in-person county conservation meetings by December 2021; WI Land+Water is planning for an in-person conservation day in Vernon County for the farm family of the year; WI Land+Water has hired a new communication manager and will be rolling out a new website in the coming months; WI Land+Water has entered into a coalition with the Dairy Business Association focused on improving non-point and CAFO programs that can help improve water quality in Wisconsin.

DOA – Andrew Potts reported: The Governors proposed executive budget contains \$40 million in funding for the replacement of lead water service lines; the Joint Committee on Finance has started meeting as of April 6, 2021 and the Committee will hold a public hearing on the American Rescue Plan (SB 271) on April 7, 2021.

DATCP – Sara Walling submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

DNR – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 6, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

Member Reports – no LWCB member submitted a report

Item #16 Planning for June 2021 LWCB meeting

In addition to the items identified in the proposed 2021 annual agenda, the Board should expect the following at the April meeting:

- One LWRM plan revision (Green County)
- An overview of the LWCB website and discussion on potential revisions
- Approval of a LWCB letter of support for Governor’s proposed budget for programs overseen by the LWCB
- A presentation on the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for numbering watersheds
- No April 2021 LWCB agenda items will be carried over to June 2021

Item #17 Adjourn

Webster moved to adjourn, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Webster, Secretary Date

Recorder: ZZ, DATCP

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: May 19, 2021

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: Recommendation for Approval of the *Green County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Green County Land and Water Resource Management Plan* meets applicable statutory and rule requirements and requests that the LWCB make a recommendation regarding approval of the plan consistent with the Board's guidance.

Summary: The plan is written as a 10 year plan, and if approved, the plan would remain in effect through December 31, 2031, and would be subject to a five year review prior to December 31, 2026.

DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the checklist and finds that the plan complies with all the requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

To qualify for 10-year approval of its plan, Green County must submit an annual work plan meeting DATCP requirements during each year of its 10-year plan approval.

Green County held a public hearing on May 6, 2021, as part of its public input and review process. The Green County Land Conservation Committee will present the LWRM plan for County Board approval after receiving a recommendation for approval from the LWCB.

Materials Provided:

- LWRM Plan Review Checklist
- Completed LWRM Plan Review form
- 2020 workplan with accomplishments and current 2021 workplan

Presenters: Todd Jenson, Green County Conservationist
Kristi Leonard, Land & Water Conservation Committee Chair
Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist
Austin Loeffelholz, Conservation Technician



Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
 Agricultural Resource Management Division
 2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911
 Madison WI 53708-8911
 Phone: (608) 224-4608

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM)

LWRM Plan Review Checklist

Wis. Stats. § 92.10 & Wis. Adm. Code § ATCP 50.12.

County: GREEN

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 4/12/2021

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Front
II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL	Date(s)		
1. Provide the dates that the local advisory committee met to discuss the development of the LWRM plan and the county plan of work	1/19/21		
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	5/6/21		
3. Provide the date of county board approval of the plan, or the date the county board is expected to approve the plan after the LWCB makes its recommendation. ²	June		
III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the plan include the following information as part of a county-wide resource assessment:			
a. Soil erosion conditions in the county ³ , including:			
i. identification of areas within county that have high erosion rates or other soil erosion problems that merit action within the next 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2,66-69
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-50

¹ Appropriate notice must be provided for the required public hearing. The public hearing notice serves to notify landowners and land users of the results of any determinations concerning soil erosion rates and nonpoint source water pollution, and provides an opportunity for landowners and land users input on the county's plan. Individual notice to landowners is required if the landowners are referenced directly in the LWRM plan. DATCP may request verification that appropriate notice was provided.

² The county board may approve the county LWRM plan after the department approves the plan. The plan approved by the county board must be the same plan approved by the department. If the department requires changes to a plan previously approved by the county board, the department's approval does not take effect until the county board approves the modified plan.

³ Counties should support their analysis of soil and water conditions by referencing relevant land use and natural resource information, including the distribution of major soil types and surface topographic features, and land use categories and their distribution. Sec. ATCP 50.12(3)(b) requires that a county assemble relevant data, including relevant land use, natural resource, water quality and soil data.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| iii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46-50
56-65 |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|

2. Does the LWRM plan address objectives by including the following:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| a. specific water quality objectives identified for each watershed based upon the resource assessment, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11-50 |
| b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11-50 |

Other comments: _____

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Did the county consult with DNR ⁴ to obtain water quality assessments, if available; to identify key water quality problem areas; to determine water quality objectives; and to identify pollutant load reduction targets, if any; and to review NR 151 implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11-50 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|

Other comments: _____

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: : | | | |
| a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 76-77 |
| b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 76-77 |
| c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 81-82 |
| d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 76 |
| e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 74,76,
77 |
| 2. Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate: | | | |
| a. expected costs of implementing the plan including cost-sharing for conservation practices needed to achieve plan objectives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 83-87 |
| b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 83-87 |

⁴ While requirements for DNR consultation may be satisfied by including relevant DNR representatives on the advisory committee, counties may also need to interact with DNR staff in central or regional offices to meet all of the consultation requirements. DNR may point counties to other resources to obtain information including consultants who can calculate pollutant load reduction targets.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| 3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 78 |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|

Other comments: _____

VI. OUTREACH AND PARTNERING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy to provide information and education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	73,78
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	77

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:			
a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
b. Identify priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
2. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and measure progress in meeting performance benchmarks and plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	78-79

Other comments: _____

VIII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS

1. IS THE COUNTY WORKING WITH DNR TO SEEK EPA APPROVAL OF THIS PLAN AS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF A 9 KEY ELEMENT PLAN UNDER SECTION 319 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT: No

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the above-referenced county LWRM plan based on the criteria required in s. ATCP 50.12, Wis. Admin. Code, and s. 92.10, Stats., and has determined that the plan meets the criteria for DATCP approval of this plan. This checklist review is prepared to enable the LWCB to make recommendations regarding plan approval, and for DATCP to make its final decision regarding plan approval.

Staff Signature: Lisa K. Trumble Date: May 19, 2021

⁵ Counties must submit annual work plan by no later than April 15th of every year to meet the requirement in s. ATCP 50.12(2)(i) for counties to have multi-year work plans.



**Land and Water Conservation Board
County Land and Water Resource Management Plan
Review of LWRM Plan Revisions**

County: Green

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 within the last five years 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.

HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Feet of Grassed Waterways	6989	13,092	4105	7419	9420
Feet of Streambank Improvement	13,225	21,887	9101	8864	14,487
Rock Crossings	4	5	2	4	2
Roof Runoff Systems	1	2	1	4	4
Fence	13,491	8870	8461	23,148	26,178
Feet of Animal Trails	0	1650	0	1867	430
Well Decommissioning	29	26	35	17	28
Well Permits	114	86	79	64	66
Manure Storage Structures	1	1	2	1	4
Shallow Wildlife Ponds	0	1	5	4	2
CREP contracts	21	18	17	23	8
Acres of Filter Strips	279	198	103	303	77
Acres of Cover Crops cost-shared	5927	5010	6815	4575	4147
Acres of Trees and Shrubs	33	25	25	30	28
Trees Sold	7000	9390	7290	7410	4940
Acres of Nutrient Management	29,613	32,972	30,712	25,245	28,349
Radio Programs	51	52	52	26	26

On average we have met our goals. Amounts vary from year to year as is to be expected, but in the long-haul things ended up pretty much as planned. The one thing we did get set back on was our educational activities, such as youth conservation days, groundwater awareness week, and land judging contests were cancelled due to Covid. Hopefully these programs will be able to restart in the upcoming months.

2. Identify any areas where the county was unable to make desired progress in implementing activities identified in recent 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.

None really. We have good staff, a good committee, a supporting county board, and good farmers and landowners to work with.

3. Describe the county's approach to implementation of its priority farm strategy including outreach, farm inventories and making use of multiple funding sources. How has the county evaluated the effectiveness of its priority farm strategy and used this information to improve implementation of the agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms?

Our department will distribute information and educational material from various sources such as DNR, DATCP, NRCS, FSA, and LWCD to affected landowners. We will use a series of direct mailings, newsletters, radio programs, workshops, and on-site visits as our avenue for information distribution. Our educational materials will be designed to accomplish the following:

- Educate landowners about Wisconsin's NR151 agricultural performance standards and prohibitions, county ordinances, applicable conservation practices and funding opportunities;

- Promote voluntary implementation of conservation practices necessary to meet NR151 standards and prohibitions;

- Inform landowners of requirements and compliance procedures and the role the LWCD will have within those procedures;

- Make landowners aware of expectations for compliance and consequences for NR151 noncompliance.

The implementation process related to the performance standards and prohibitions found in NR151 will be a very time-consuming task. Our office has the ability of utilizing GIS and on-site visits to begin the inventory of selected watersheds. Watershed wide NR151 implementation will likely be limited by available staff and cost-sharing resources that become available. Our approach has been to fix farms that have complaints lodged against them or have been reported to the DNR. Currently we have only the staff capacity to respond to complaints and working with these landowners to guide them into compliance with NR151. DNR provides some funding to help these landowners achieve compliance.

Our preferred method of implementation is through the volunteer approach. We encourage farmers and landowners to work with our office and then try to utilize the best form of funding that is available for them. These funding sources may be SWRM Bond and SEG funds from DATCP or EQIP money from NRCS. We also have money available in our producer led watershed with funding from DATCP. In the past we have also received TRM money from the DNR, as well as money supplied to us by Trout Unlimited.

To be quite honest, we have not evaluated the effectiveness of our priority farm strategy to improve the implementation of the agriculture performance standards and conservation practices on farms. With a limited amount of staff, you need to question what the priorities

are with the time you have. With that said, it seems working with those on a volunteer basis takes up a majority of our time.

4. Provide representative examples that show changes in direction in the county's LWRM plan and annual work plans, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in goals, objectives or planned activities.

There have been several changes to date from the plan we wrote in 2011. In 2014, our office started a Youth Conservation Day for fifth graders in Green County. The event is held twice a year (May and October) with ten different stations on various conservation activities hosted by a network of office staff and partners. Also, in 2014, the annual poster contest was brought back. This event is for students K – 12 and usually have about 40 participants. In 2014, our office in conjunction with NRCS and Heritage Seeds did a cover crop demonstration site at the county farm. This program has greatly expanded since then.

In 2016, an aquatic invasive species program began. Staff went to Yellowstone Lake State Park (in Lafayette County) and dug up purple loosestrife plants. The plants were brought back to our office and grown in the back-parking lot in pots placed in kiddie pools. The plants were netted, and adult beetles were placed within each plant to produce eggs. Once the plants were large enough, they were taken to Lake Montesian, in Monticello, and set next to purple loosestrife plants already established. The beetles then spread from the plants we were growing onto the established plants. The population of purple loosestrife within three years was brought down to almost nothing.

In 2017, a Groundwater Awareness Week was started in conjunction with UW-Extension. Staff went to fourth and fifth grades to discuss the importance of clean water. Also, in 2017, we had a Moratorium of Large Livestock Siting Facilities and we hired out to a private firm to do a comprehensive water study for the county. Both of these items came about from a 5800-cow proposed dairy.

In 2018, the Farmers of the Sugar River was started, a producer-led watershed. Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist, was requested to be the collaborator for the group. This group has had several educational events to date. Also, in 2018, our department started a process for inspections on manure storage facilities throughout the county. Our department has a record of over 100 structures. Our goal is to inspect approximately 20 per year.

As you can see there have been many changes from what we had planned to do. Sometimes you just need to adapt to what is happening around you. Change is not always fun but needed.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

- a. The most current annual work plan, prepared in the current format from DATCP, and addresses all required items such as needed funding and staff hours.
- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year.

Presentation Regarding County Resource Concerns

Prepare and present an 8-10 minute snapshot to the board regarding county resources and management issues. The county must prepare one of following as part of this brief presentation:

- a. A PowerPoint (showing what your county looks like, can include maps), or
- b. A hand out (2 page max)

Guidance on Board Review Process

The LWCB's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. 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.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of this form (including attachments) on: May 6, 2021

Signature of Authorized Representative: Todd Jensen Date: 5-6-2021
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed form and attachments to:
Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

**GREEN COUNTY 2020 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"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	10 waterways 3 new farmer written NMP’s 30 alumni written NMP’s (30,000 acres) 2 rock crossings 5000 acres of cover crops Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight) Write conservation plans to T	<i>6989 feet of waterways</i> <i>3 new farmer written NMP’s</i> <i>32 alumni written NMP’s 29,613 acres</i> <i>4 rock crossings</i> <i>5927 acres of cover crops</i> <i>Provided technical assistance (survey, design, and Technical oversight)</i> <i>Wrote conservation plans to T</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>1 manure storage</i> <i>1 diversion</i> <i>2 roof runoff systems</i> <i>5000 feet of fencing</i> <i>1 milkhouse waste control system</i> <i>Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight)</i>	<i>1 manure storage</i> <i>1 diversion</i> <i>1 roof runoff system</i> <i>13,491 feet of fencing</i> <i>2 milkhouse waste control systems</i> <i>Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and Technical oversight)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>15 CREP contracts</i> <i>25 well abandonments</i> <i>15,000 feet of streambank improvement</i> <i>Issue 70 new well permits</i> <i>200 acres of filter strips</i>	<i>21 CREP contracts</i> <i>29 well abandonments</i> <i>13,225 feet of streambank improvement</i> <i>Issued 114 new well permits</i> <i>279 acres of filter strips</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species	<i>Continue with eradication of phragmites and purple loosestrife</i>	<i>Continued the eradication of phragmites (with help from the Upper Sugar River Watershed) and purple loosestrife</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wildlife</i> 		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Install 1 wildlife scrape</i> <i>Sell 7000 trees and shrubs</i> <i>Assist 5 landowners in the wildlife damage program</i>	<i>0 wildlife scrapes</i> <i>Sold 7000 trees and shrubs</i> <i>Assisted 3 landowners in the wildlife damage program</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Urban</i> 		
Urban issues	<i>Assist in streambank work done within cities and</i>	<i>Did about 1000 feet of streambank in the City of Monroe</i>

**GREEN COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

	<i>villages Assist in phosphorus trading</i>	<i>Assist Brodhead in phosphorus trading</i>
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- Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>Conduct transect survey Continue being the collaborator for the Farmers of the Sugar River producer led group</i>	<i>Did not do a transect survey Still the collaborator for the Farmers of the Sugar River</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	0	0
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)	8	8
Other (well permits)	70	70

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	26
For FPP	6
For NR 151	20
Animal waste ordinance	1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

**GREEN COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	3
Trainings/workshops	6
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Radio programs	52
Social media posts	12
News release/story	12

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	1950	\$109,379
<i>Conservation Technician</i>	1950	\$83,267
<i>Conservation Technician</i>	1950	\$58,461
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Bonding</i>		\$71,927
<i>SEG</i>		\$20,000
<i>Farmers of the Sugar River</i>		\$39,500

**GREEN COUNTY 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"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	10 waterways 3 new farmer written NMP’s 30 alumni written NMP’s (30,000 acres) 2 rock crossings 5000 acres of cover crops Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight) Write conservation plans to T	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>1 manure storage 1 diversion 2 roof runoff systems 8000 feet of fencing 1 milkhouse waste control system Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>20 CREP contracts 30 well abandonments 15,000 feet of streambank improvement Issue 90 new well permits 200 acres of filter strips</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species	<i>Continue with eradication of phragmites and purple loosestrife</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wildlife</i> 		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Install 1 wildlife scrape Sell 9000 trees and shrubs Assist 3 landowners in the wildlife damage program</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Watershed</i> 		
Watershed strategies	<i>Continue being the collaborator for the Farmers of the Sugar River producer led group</i>	

**GREEN COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

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	0	0
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)	10	10
Other	90	90

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	24
For FPP	4
For NR 151	20
Animal waste ordinance	1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	3
Trainings/workshops	4
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	1
Radio programs	52
Social media posts	30
News release/story	15

**GREEN COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	1950	\$109,379
<i>Soil Conservationist</i>	1950	\$83,267
<i>Technician</i>	1950	\$58,461
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Bonding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$71,927
<i>SEG</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$20,000
<i>Farmers of the Sugar River</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$25,000

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: May 19, 2021

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

SUBJECT: Review of the *Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*

Recommended Action: This is an action item. The LWCB should determine whether the county has addressed concerns arising out of the county's 2017 presentation in support of its revised land and water resource management (LWRM) plan, which was approved for ten years. Based on its review, the LWCB may take additional actions consistent with its prior decisions and DATCP orders.

Summary: The revised Forest County LWRM plan was approved through December 31, 2027. On October 3, 2017, when Forest County appeared before the LWCB to seek approval of its LWRM plan revision, the county's presentation raised questions about its reluctance to pursue accepted conservation practices, follow technical standards, and make use of cost-sharing and other available resources to implement conservation practices among county landowners.

In its final order approving the county's LWRM plan, DATCP included additional requirements regarding LWCB review of the county's plan implementation during the 10-year approval period. In addition to a standard five year review, the final order requires that county staff and a member of the Land Conservation Committee appear before the Board at intervals of one and three years to review whether the county is demonstrating a sufficient commitment to implementing its LWRM plan.

For this review, DATCP staff worked with the newest County Conservationist to provide guidance to assist the county in addressing concerns regarding planning and implementation.

Materials Provided:

- 2017 LWRM Plan Approval Order
- 2020 Annual Work Plan with Accomplishments
- 2021 Annual Work Plan
- Forest County Land & Water Annual County Board Report

Presenters: Steve Kircher, Forest County Conservationist-Land Info/GIS Director
Larry Sommer, Land Conservation Committee Member

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
2811 Agriculture Drive, P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTY
LAND AND WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FOREST
COUNTY

LWCB DOCKET NO. 041-00000-L-17-A-
1017 ORDER APPROVING THE
REVISED PLAN THROUGH DECEMBER
31, 2027, CONTINGENT ON LWCB
REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("department"), having consulted the State of Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board ("LWCB"), makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters the following order under s. 92.10(4), Wis. Stats.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- (1) Paragraphs (1) through (6) from the "Findings of Fact" in the February 16, 2012 Order approving the revised plan through December 31, 2016, *In the Matter of the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Forest County*, LWCB Docket No. 12-08-21-000-L-1, are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. A copy of the Order is on file at the Land and Water Resource Bureau of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708-8911.
- (2) On February 16, 2012, the department approved the Forest County land and water resource management ("LWRM") plan until December 31, 2016, as more fully described in Docket No. 12-08-21-000-L-1.
- (3) On December 15, 2016, upon the LWCB's recommendation, the department extended the approval of the Forest County LWRM plan through December 31, 2017, as more fully described in Docket No. 041-00000-L-16-E-1216.

- (4) On August 14, 2017, Forest County submitted its revised LWRM plan for LWCB and department review, and requested department approval of its revised plan through December 31, 2027.
- (5) The revised LWRM plan referenced in Finding of Fact (4) (“revised LWRM plan”) meets the requirements in s. 92.10(6), Wis. Stats., and ss. ATCP 50.12 and ATCP 50.30(3), Wis. Admin. Code, as documented in the plan approval checklist prepared by the department.
- (6) The LWCB adopted additional criteria for recommending the approval of a LWRM plan for a ten year period and for the LWCB’s five-year review of a LWRM plan approved for 10 years. The applicable criteria are set forth in a guidance available on the DATCP LWRM plan webpage.
- (7) On October 3, 2017, upon finding that Forest County met all criteria for a ten year plan approval, the LWCB recommended the approval of the revised LWRM plan through December 31, 2027, with the understanding that Forest County would submit to a five-year review by the LWCB.
- (8) On October 3, 2017, Forest County presented its work plan and planned activities to implement the water quality goals in its LWRM plan, and this presentation raised questions about the county’s commitment to pursue reasonable conservation strategies and practices. Specifically, the county was reluctant to pursue accepted conservation practices, follow technical standards, and make use of cost-sharing and other available resources to work with landowners.
- (9) On October 17, 2017, the Forest County Board approved the revised Forest County LWRM plan.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- (1) The department, working in consultation with the LWCB, may approve a LWRM plan for a period not to exceed ten years, in accordance with s. ATCP 50.12(5) Wis. Admin. Code.
- (2) In order to be approved by the department, a county land and water resource management plan must comply with the standards specified under s. 92.10, Wis. Stats.

- (3) The revised Forest County LWRM plan complies with s. 92.10(6), Wis. Stats., and ss. ATCP 50.12 and ATCP 50.30(3), Wis. Admin. Code and may be approved by the department.
- (4) The LWCB recommended approval of the revised LWRM plan for a ten year period after finding that the revised LWRM plan meets applicable criteria.
- (5) The department has a reasonable basis to require LWCB review beyond the five-year review specified in Finding of Fact (7).
- (6) Based on Findings of Fact (1) through (9) above, the department should issue an order approving the revised LWRM plan for a term ending December 31, 2027, subject to the LWCB review in years 2018, 2020 and 2022.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1) Pursuant to s. 92.10, Wis. Stats., the revised Forest County LWRM plan is approved through December 31, 2027.
- 2) This order is contingent upon the LWCB's review of Forest County's work plan and implementation activities conducted in years 2018 and 2020:
 - a. Each implementation review shall require that the county appear before the LWCB to describe its annual conservation work (including the use of accepted conservation practices and cost-share funding), and how these activities helped to implement its plan
 - b. The LWCB will evaluate whether the county is demonstrating a sufficient commitment to implementing its LWRM plan by pursuing reasonable conservation strategies and practices including the promotion of accepted conservation practices and the effective use of cost-sharing.
- 3) This order is further contingent upon the LWCB's five year review of Forest County's LWRM plan conducted in accordance with the most current LWCB guidance, for the five-year review of a LWRM plan approved for ten years.

- 4) If the department receives an unfavorable report from the LWCB that Forest County has failed to meet the criteria for review specified in nos. 2) and 3) above, this order is automatically modified to approve the plan only through December 31st of the year in which the review was conducted. The county will be notified of this modification and is responsible for submitting a revised land and water resource management plan for department approval to continue its eligibility for department grant funding.
- 5) This order is further contingent upon Forest County submitting an annual work plan, using the DATCP approved template that describes planned activities and includes benchmarks for priority activities. Forest County may remain in compliance with this requirement by filing its updated work plan with the department by no later than April 15th of each year during the period of the plan approval specified in this Order.

Dated this 8th day of November, 2017

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By 
Jeff Lyon, Interim Secretary

**FOREST COUNTY 2020 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"> • <i>Cropland</i> 		
<p>Create farmland preservation ordinance to protect surface and ground water from concentrated animal housing/feeding operations. Monitor and reduce runoff to surface waters. Educate landowners as to shoreland best management practices. Codify shoreland buffer requirements Goal 4, Objective 1,2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist farmers in writing Nutrient Management plans (3 planned) (~100 acres) • Initiate farmland preservation ordinance (planned) • Produce articles related to NMPs and Cost Share Program (2 articles written) • Implement Cost Share Program for NMP/Shoreland Restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation staff attended/participated in two NMP training sessions with DATCP/UWExt • Attended DATCP Webinar focused on SNAP+ • Completed Farmland Inventory and contacted farmers via email/letter regarding Cost Share/NMP program (120 farmers) • NMP/Cost Share Articles written (3 articles)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Livestock</i> 		
<p>Increase the amount and Quality of information concerning Land and Water in Forest County Goal 3, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize agricultural land data mapping and farm inventory in County GIS system. Integrate livestock potential and grazing potential into data. (county wide) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Farmland inventory • Created Farmland layer for GIS database
<p>Reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loading in surface waters Goal 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize farm inventory, shore land zoning classification and air photo interpretation to identify agricultural areas which have potential NR151 violations. • Using farmland inventory, Establish contacts and site visits for NMP and cost share practices (3 planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits (5 farms visited) • Completed Farmland Inventory and contacted farmers via email/letter regarding Cost Share/NMP program (120 farmers) • Follow up phone calls to farmers (30 farms contacted)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water Quality</i> 		
<p>Educate and assist towns, lake districts/associations, landowners, and legislators to understand the merits of vacuum dredging accumulated sediment and aquatic invasive species to remove impairments. Goal 1, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Website/Facebook Page to disseminate Water Quality Information • Continue Newspaper Articles related to Water Quality • Partner with Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) to assist with eradication of invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created Forest County Land & Water Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100 visitors to site • Created Forest County Land & Water Facebook Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 230 daily likes/230 daily followers • Weekly article submission to two Countywide newspapers • WRISC Board member since November 2019

**FOREST COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

<p>Educate and assist towns, lake districts/associations, landowners, and legislators to understand the merits of vacuum dredging accumulated sediment and aquatic invasive species to remove impairments. Goal 1, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Lake Association Field/Training Days to educate and assist organizations with water quality monitoring (4 planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Water Quality monitors were contacted via phone/email due to COVID (5 contacts made)
<p>Support legislation to allow local maintenance of near shore areas to benefit fish populations and aid navigation. Goal 1, Objective 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with local lake associations to implement shore area projects to benefit fish habitat and populations (1 planned) • Assist local lake associations with DNR permit applications (2 planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Lake Lucerne Fish Stick Project with Permits/funding • Obtained four DNR Surface Water permits for Town of Lincoln/Forest County
<p>Monitor and reduce runoff to surface water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate landowners as to shoreland best management practices. • Codify shoreland buffer requirements <p>Goal 4, Objective 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – ATCP 50.88 – Streambank & Shoreland Projects (150 feet) • 2 – ATCP 50.69 – Critical Area Stabilization (35 yards) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One shoreland restoration project completed • One riparian buffer project completed (35 yards)
<p>Monitor and inspect existing sanitary systems. Goal 4, Objective 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Septic training leading to Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Certification in December 2020 • Assist Zoning Department with Septic inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 10 Septic Inspections/Assists (planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification Completed by Conservation Technician • 12 Septic Inspections/Assists completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Forestry</i> 		
<p>Maintain a healthy and vigorous forest. Goal 6</p> <p>Maintain a healthy and vigorous forest. Goal 6, Objective 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create forest type layer for GIS Forest Protection Area map • Obtain grant funding for Working Forest Protection program working with private forest landowners to provide management plans (2 planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of forest type layer to GIS system • Creation of Working Forest Protection Area Map • NACD Technical Assistance grant obtained • One Management plan contracted, completion in 2021 • Two Management plans initiated, completion in 2021

**FOREST COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

- *Invasive*

<p>Slow the spread of invasive and non-native nuisance species Goal 2, Objective 5</p> <p>Slow the spread of invasive and non-native nuisance species Goal 2, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue participation in Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) (4 planned) • Continue participation in Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) (10 planned) • Conduct mapping of area lakes to identify and quantify invasive species (4 lakes planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four WRISC meetings attended • Two FCAL meetings attended (cancelled due to COVID) • Four lakes surveyed and maps created
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- *Wildlife*
- *Urban*
- *Watershed*
- *Other*

<p>Increase the amount and Quality of information concerning land and Water in Forest County Goal 3</p> <p>Promote Well Planned Development Goal 5, Objective 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tracking system for non-metallic mining data. • Track and enforce the Forest County Non-metallic mining ordinance (20 mine sites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of mining data, permits and bond information • Provide annual inspection of 20 established non-metallic mining sites
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**FOREST COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued/reissued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	0	0
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	20	20
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4	4
Shoreland zoning	4	2
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other	0	0

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	4
For FPP	0
For NR 151	4
Animal waste ordinance	0
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4
Nonmetallic mining	20

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	0
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	4
Social media posts	50
News release/story	50

**FOREST COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>Ex. County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$47,633
<i>Ex. Technician</i>	2080	\$44,977
<i>Ex. Support Costs</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$4,856
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Ex. Bonding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$13,000
<i>Ex. SEG</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$10,000
<i>Ex. MDV</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$0

**FOREST COUNTY 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"> • <i>Cropland</i> 		
<p>Monitor and reduce runoff to surface waters. Educate landowners as to shoreland best management practices. Codify shoreland buffer requirements Goal 4, Objective1,2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assist farmers in writing Nutrient Management plans (3planned) (~100 acres)</i> • <i>Produce articles related to NMPs and Cost Share Program (2 articles written)</i> • <i>Implement Cost Share Program for NMP/Shoreland Restoration</i> 	<p><i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Livestock</i> 		
<p>Increase the amount and Quality of information concerning Land and Water in Forest County Goal 3, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrate livestock potential and grazing potential into data. (county wide)</i> 	<p><i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard</i></p>
<p>Reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loading in surface waters Goal 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Using farmland inventory, establish contacts and site visits for NMP and cost share practices</i> • <i>(3 planned)</i> 	<p><i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water quality</i> 		
<p>Educate and assist towns, lake districts/associations, landowners, and legislators to understand the merits of vacuum dredging accumulated sediment and aquatic invasive species to remove impairments. Goal 1, Objective 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plan Lake Association Field/Training Days to educate and assist organizations with water quality monitoring (4 planned)</i> 	<p><i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i></p>

**FOREST COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

<p>Monitor and reduce runoff to surface water •Educate landowners as to shoreland best management practices. •Codify shoreland buffer requirements Goal 4, Objective 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3–ATCP 50.88–Streambank & Shoreland Projects (150 feet) • 2–ATCP 50.69–Critical Area Stabilization (35 yards) 	<p><i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs. of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs. of P reduced (using any approved method)</i></p>
<p>Monitor and inspect existing sanitary systems. Goal 4, Objective 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Septic training leading to Certification in December 2020 • Assist Zoning Department with • Septic inspections • 10 Septic Inspections/Assists(planned) 	<p><i># of inspections performed/assisted</i></p>
<p>• <i>Forestry</i></p>		
<p>Promote sustainable forestry practices on both private and public lands to maximize residual stand quality and promote abundant regeneration of a range of tree species. Goal 6, Objective 4</p>	<p><i>Obtain grant funding for Working Forest Protection program working with private forest landowners to provide management plans (2 planned)</i></p>	<p><i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i></p>
<p>• <i>Invasive</i></p>		
<p>Slow the spread of invasive and non-native nuisance species Goal 2</p> <p>Participate in/with local and regional groups that monitor and remove invasive species. Goal 2, Objective 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue participation in Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) (4 planned) • Continue participation in Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) (10 planned) 	<p><i>Number of surveys completed</i> <i>Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated</i></p>
<p>• <i>Other</i></p>		
<p>Other</p>	<p><i>PL 566</i> <i>Non-metallic and frac sand mining</i></p>	<p><i>Number of plans reviewed</i> <i>Number of inspections</i></p>

**FOREST COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems		
Manure storage closure		
Livestock facility siting		
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining		2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control		2
Shoreland zoning		
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)		2
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	
For NR 151	
Animal waste ordinance	
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	3
Nonmetallic mining	20

**FOREST COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	
Newsletters	50
Social media posts	300
News release/story	12

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>Ex. County Conservationist</i>	1000	\$50,000
<i>Ex. Technician</i>	700	\$33,000
<i>Ex. Support Costs</i>	N/A	\$5,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Ex. Bonding</i>	40	\$10,000
<i>Ex. SEG</i>	20	\$4,000
<i>Ex. MDV</i>	N/A	



2020 Annual Report

Conserving
the
Land and Water
of
Forest County

FOREST COUNTY LAND & WATER
Forest County Courthouse
200 East Madison Street
Crandon, WI 54520

Phone: (715)478-1387
Website: <https://forestcountylandandwater.org>

2020 Land & Water Annual Report

In 2020, the Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department, received over \$103,000 in grant funding.

DATCP Staffing Grant	\$80,000.00
Wildlife Damage	\$8500.00
Cost Share Program	\$11,975.00
DNR AIS Program Grant	\$3000.00
TOTAL GRANTS	\$103,475.00

LWCD STAFF



Steve Kircher, Conservationist
Cassidy Neillitz, Conservation Technician
Sandy Beauchaine, Administrative Assistant

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (LWCD)

Under the direction of the Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC), the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and LWCC are the primary links locally for conservation programs.

The LWCD provides educational and technical assistance to the public on land and water resource management. Lake and stream conservation, erosion control, farmland preservation and restoration activities are just a few of the areas the LWCD works in.

Our staff delivers conservation and educational programs in cooperation with county, state, and federal agencies, plus local groups such as non-profits, lake associations, and schools. Some of our programs include:

- ◆ Wildlife Damage
- ◆ Cost Share to Protect Shorelines
- ◆ Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- ◆ Department Highlights
 - Conservation and Environmental Awareness Poster/Speaking Contest
 - Conservation Corner, Weekly Newspapers Column
 - Websites

WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT & CLAIMS PROGRAM (WDACP)

The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) is administered by the Forest County Land & Water Conservation Department through the United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this program is to assist producers with agricultural losses caused by white-tailed deer, black bear, Canada geese, wild turkey, elk, and mountain lions. While the WDACP provides financial compensation, the program emphasis is one of abatement.

In 2020, the LWCD helped one local farmer who lost a beef steer to a bear. The steer weighed 600 pounds and LWCD was able to compensate the farmer for half of market price.

CROP	PROTECTED
Apiary	1
Rain Garden	1

COUNTY COST SHARE PROGRAM

The County Cost Share Program is a reimbursement program that offers an incentive for landowners who wish to reduce shoreline erosion and restore native habitat on their land. Landowners can be reimbursed up to 50% of the total project costs, for the cost of purchasing and planting native trees, shrubs, plants, or other practices covered under the cost share program.

Twelve site visits, providing technical assistance were conducted in 2020. As a result, two cost share projects were approved and installed.

2020 COST SHARE PROJECTS

Crane Lake (\$3,400 - paid to landowner)

Project consisted of shoreline and upland plantings. Plantings were completed in Summer, 2020. Seventy feet of riparian buffer zone were restored.





A combination of shrubs, ground cover plants, and grass seed mix were used to restore a total of 1800 square feet.

Lake Metonga Project (\$15,500 paid to landowner)



This project was initially started in 2017-18, but never finished. Working with a DATCP engineer, our staff developed a plan and put it out for bids. The property owner selected a local contractor and work began in Spring 2020.

The project was completed in Fall of 2020 and we were able to reimburse the landowner \$15,500 in Cost Share funds.



In December 2020, the LWCD received an additional \$16,000 in Cost Share funds **from two counties that weren't able to use** all their funding. With those funds, we were able to meet our Cost Share goal for the Lake Metonga Project and also fund a new project on Lake Metonga for the City of Crandon that will be completed in 2021.

2020 DNR Surface Water Grants

Harbor Lane Project



Property owners in the Harbor Lane area have been experiencing flooding for the past 5 years. In July 2020, two damaged culverts were removed to help alleviate the flooding. Water levels were minimally affected and culverts will need to be replaced to keep Harbor Lane open to local residential traffic and allow fish passage into and out of Swamp Creek and Lake Lucerne.

Forest County worked in cooperation with Trout Unlimited (TU) to gather topographic survey data at this site and the Hwy W site to design an aquatic organism passage and flood resilient crossing that will accomplish the goal above. Data collected was used by TU's Stream Restoration Specialist to complete a 30% design of the new crossing structure. Forest County will now work with TU to finalize designs and obtain the required permits for construction.



Highway W Project



With high water levels on Lake Lucerne occurring in the last five years, property owners in the vicinity of the Harbor Road outlet have had high water levels on their properties and flooded basements. The culverts on Harbor Road were removed in July 2020, but didn't affect the water levels. After several DNR site visits, the County Highway W culvert was found to be too high to allow adequate drainage into Swamp Creek and needs to be upgraded and lowered.

This project came about through Forest County's efforts to address flooding and other management concerns at undersized road-stream crossings as stated in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This effort lined up with TU's new program aimed at assisting county and town governments with road-stream crossing management, especially regarding fish passage and flood resiliency.



Permit Assistance in 2020

Town of Lincoln Pavillion Project



In the Summer of 2020, the Town of Lincoln Supervisors wanted to provide a Picnic and Recreation area to include a Pavilion for the citizens of the Town of Lincoln and the surrounding communities. The total **impacted area is approximately 200' x 150' or 3000** square feet.

Forest County Land & Water was asked to facilitate the Permit Application for the project and a permit was obtained in August, 2020.

Lake Lucerne Fish Stick Project

In September 2019, the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association Board of Directors approved moving forward with the proposal developed by the LLAA Fishery & Water Quality Committee for creating multiple fish sticks along the shore of Lake Lucerne. This project utilizes a monetary grant provided by the Town of Lincoln and the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the assistance of our local DNR Fishery Team, and the generosity of Lake Lucerne property owners.



The fish sticks will primarily be located in the shallower southern end of Lake Lucerne, but a few are planned to be established elsewhere along the shoreline. The goal is to restore some of the woody debris from falling trees that has not made it into the littoral zone of Lake Lucerne in many decades.

Forest County Land & Water was asked to facilitate the Permit Application for the project and a permit was obtained in October, 2020. Work is expected to begin in the Winter 2021.

Projects surveyed for 2021

City of Crandon, Lake Metonga



In the Summer of 2020, City of Crandon Street personnel approached the Land & Water Conservation Department and requested Cost Share funds for restoration efforts along Lake View Drive on Lake Metonga. Working with our DATCP engineer, a plan was developed and accepted by the City of Crandon.

Additional Cost Share funding for the project was procured from two counties in December 2020. Work will begin in the Spring of 2021.



Wake Zone Signs

In September 2020, the LWCD received multiple phone calls regarding shoreland destruction caused by wake boat and jet ski activities. It was decided to purchase and provide signage for Forest County Lakes that **informs people that boat traffic isn't allowed** within 100 feet of shore for a boat and 200 feet for a jet ski.

Signs will be provided or posted in the Spring of 2021.

NOTICE

You cannot operate a vessel within 100 feet of the Shoreline, any dock, pier, or restricted area at greater than "SLOW, NO WAKE SPEED."

JETSKIS

Sections 30.66 and 30.69(3), Wis. Stats., state that personal watercrafts cannot operate within 200' of the shoreline of a lake.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM (AIS)

Forest County has over 800 lakes and rivers. Therefore, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program was developed to protect our waterways from the threat of AIS. Our program focuses on educational outreach, technical assistance, and AIS management. The LWCD helps with:

- Clean Boats Clean Waters Program (CBCW)
- Lake, River & Wetland Monitoring
- Purple Loosestrife Monitoring & Control
- PL Beetle Rearing and Distribution
- Phragmites Control
- Yellow Iris Control
- Educational Outreach



Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)

In 2020, the Land and Water Conservation Department visited over a dozen high-priority boat landings, and educated people about the benefits of keeping their boats clean.

Lake, River, & Wetland Monitoring

The Land and Water Conservation Department monitored 20 lakes and 11 boat landings in 2020 and discovered only 1 new occurrence of the invasive species, Purple Loosestrife.



In the Spring of 2020, we also received a report of a Giant Hogweed breakout near the Town of Alvin. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the plants were not Giant Hogweed, but the noninvasive Cow Parsnip and no further action was needed.

In the Summer of 2020, the Land and Water Conservation Department also received notification of zebra mussel infestation in Roberts Lake. The Wisconsin AIS Coordinator was contacted and Roberts Lake was added to the AIS Database and will be monitored to see if further action is required.

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) was also contacted and will monitor Roberts Lake and provide control measures to prevent the spread of the zebra mussels.

Purple Loosestrife Monitoring & Control

The Land and Water Conservation Department monitored purple loosestrife throughout Forest County in 2020. Luckily, only one small patch was located late in the season and eliminated.



Tri County AIS Coordinator Grant

The Tri County AIS Coordinator program was reintroduced in the Summer of 2020. The main objective of the grant is to hire a highly qualified individual to serve as

AIS Coordinator for the tri-county (Forest, Langlade and Oconto) project area. This person will act as project manager and cover all aspects of AIS Control. The Coordinator would be hired by the Lumberjack RC&D and have a primary office in Langlade County.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

At the July 2020 meeting of the North Central Area Association of Wisconsin Land and Water, Steve Kircher, Conservationist, was elected to Vice President and Area Coordinator. Cassidy Neilitz, Conservation Technician, was elected to Treasurer.

In November 2020, Cassidy Neilitz passed her examination and is now a licensed Private Onsite Water Treatment Systems (POWTS) Inspector. She has already provided assistance to the Zoning Department in conducting Septic installation inspections.

Land and Water Conservation Department Website

Averages 800 views per week.

Facebook Page

Averages over 230 likes per week

2020 Land Information Annual Report



In 2020, the Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department, received over \$121,000 in Land Information grant funding.

WLIP Education/Training Grant	\$1,000.00
WLIP Strategic Initiative Grant	\$40,000.00
WLIP Base Budget Grant	\$80,872.00
TOTAL GRANTS	\$121,872.00

ArcGIS Pro

In January 2020, the Land Information Department upgraded their mapping software to ArcGIS Pro in anticipation of the phase out of ArcMap and ArcGIS software.



County Surveyor



In December 2020, James **"Jamie"** Anderson was hired as the Forest County Surveyor. Mr. Anderson will work part time and has begun updating the PLSS program and already obtained over 6 new redocumented Section Corners.



Advertising Committee QR Code Project

In September 2020, Land Information was approached by the Forest County Advertising Committee to produce a **'tear off' map** for public distribution.

It was decided at subsequent meetings to create a product using QR codes linked to different maps.

The project is just about complete and a QR coded tear off map is expected to be published by May of 2021.

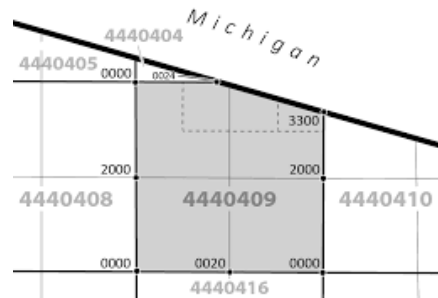
Story Map



In October 2020, Land Information Staff began working on a Story Map for Forest County that will highlight activities and features of Forest County. The Story Map will be linked to existing Forest County Websites for public access and use.

Romportl Number Indexing

In December 2020, indexing of the existing 'tie sheets' was completed by Land Information Staff in anticipation of the Scanning Project that will hopefully be completed by Summer of 2021. The Romportl Numbers will allow area surveyors to access the tie sheets online as they complete their own work in and around Forest County.



Scanning Project

In December 2020, Land Information staff working with the Register of Deeds and the County Surveyor sought out Document Scanning companies to complete a scan of the tie sheets, plats, maps and miscellaneous documents that are housed in the Register of Deeds **and Treasurer's office.**

The project was put out for bids and is currently at the Committee level awaiting selection and approval by the Forest County Board.

Scanner Purchase

As work began on the Scanning Project, Land Information, Register of Deeds and County Surveyor saw the need for a Large-Scale Scanner/Copier machine. Once again, bids were sought and the project is also at the Committee level awaiting selection and approval.



CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: June 1, 2021
TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors
FROM: Coreen Fallat
Bureau of Land and Water Resources, DATCP
SUBJECT: 2020 Soil and Water Conservation Annual Report

Each year, the department, in cooperation with the DNR prepares and submits a report to the Land and Water Conservation Board on state and local activities related to the soil and water resource management program and the nonpoint source pollution abatement program. Under s. 92.04(2)(f), Wis Stats. the board has a duty to review the annual report.

The 2020 Soil and Water Conservation Annual Report will be made available on the DATCP website and will be shared with county land conservation departments and land conservation committees, members of the Legislature, and other partners and stakeholders.

A presentation to the Land and Water Conservation Board is on the agenda for the August 2021 meeting.

Recommendation: This is an informational item only.

Presenters: Coreen Fallat, DATCP

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2021

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Ian Krauss

SUBJECT: FSA Program Updates for June LWCB Meeting

- Conservation Reserve Program
 - Updated Soil Rental Rates have been shared; maximum soil rental rates have increased by around 65% statewide. This includes a one-time 10% inflationary increase. Soils are now broken into 5 different price levels, previously it was 3. Until software gets updated and the rates are online, it is difficult to discern how these rates will change at an offer level.
 - There will be an additional Soil Rental Rate increase from the new Climate Smart Incentive, which will be incentivize practices for carbon sequestration.
 - Continuous Signup Changes:
 - State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) is now under Continuous CRP
 - Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) returns to Continuous CRP
 - Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) has increased to 50%.
- Dairy Margin Coverage Program
 - Regulations and details for the new DMC Supplemental Program are anticipated to be out this summer, no specific date yet.
- Crop Reporting
 - The deadline for this is currently July 15th.
- NAP
 - Any producers who are NAP covered and suffered losses due to freeze in recent weeks should report this to the FSA as soon as possible.

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 for the 2nd round of EQIP funding for FY21 are due May 21, 2021.

Special sign-up opportunities are also now open for Conservation Activity Plans, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Honey Bee, as well as several landscape-based initiatives. Special initiatives are also available for socially disadvantaged and other historically underserved customers at increased payment rates. All offer technical and financial assistance through EQIP.

Honey Bee: The upper Midwest is the resting ground for over 65 percent of commercially managed honey bees in the country. The NRCS is helping farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees. Pasture management, wildlife habitat and appropriate cover crops are used as tools to improve the health of our honey bees, which support more than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Through the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI), NRCS offers financial assistance to agricultural producers for implementing practices that improve water quality in selected watersheds. Newly eligible watersheds for 2021 include the Pensaukee River, Oconto River and Peshtigo River. These watersheds are in addition to the existing Door-Kewaunee Rivers, Lower Fox River, Manitowoc-Sheboygan, Milwaukee River, Upper Fox River, Wolf River and Lake Winnebago watersheds.

National Water Quality Initiative: The [National Water Quality Initiative](#) (NWQI) is designed to help individual agricultural producers take actions to reduce the runoff of sediment, nutrients and pathogens into waterways where water quality is a critical concern. The goal is to implement conservation practices in focused watersheds in a concentrated area so that agriculture no longer contributes to the impairment of water bodies within these priority watersheds. Eligible watersheds include Bear Lake-Little Wolf River in Waupaca County and North Branch Little River in Oconto County.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program: The [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) 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 program contracts or easement agreements. Current active projects for water quality improvement are located within the Oconomowoc River watershed to improve water quality and projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat stream and riparian habitat in the Driftless Area.

NRCS Programs Financial Update			
Program		FY19	FY20
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$38.2 mil ^a	\$44.5mil ^b
	Contracts	1,661	1,502 ^a
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$18.2 mil.	\$19.3mil.
	New Contracts	580	339
	Renewal Contracts	0	193
	New Acres	120,280	238,370
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP—ALE) <small>*Includes RCPP ALE in brackets</small>	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$1.9 mil.	\$350,808 [\$3.97 mil]
	Agreements	13	2 [1]
	Parcels	13	2 [20]
	Acres	1,051	181 [1,500]
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP—WRE)	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$1.1 mil.	\$13.8 mil.
	Easements	6	2
	Acres	451	1,866
Emergency Watershed Protection Program—Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)	Financial Assistance Reserve	—	\$8 mil.
	Proposed Easements	—	19
	Proposed Acres	—	1,315
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Agreements	0	3
^a Includes initiatives and special funding. ^b Initiatives and special funding allocations have not been determined yet.			

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. The FY2021 Classic Application deadline was March 26, 2021. Applications turned in after that deadline will be considered for FY2022 Classic funding.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The USDA announced it is investing \$330 million in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships to address climate change, improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability, including 3 projects in Wisconsin. Projects are awarded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The three Wisconsin projects include (1) Improving Soil Health and Water Quality, (2) Grasslands and Oak Savannas for Water and Wildlife and (3) Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project. Read more here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1769085>

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

For 2021, the Wisconsin easement program received an allocation similar to the last several years for both Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) and Agriculture Land Easements (ALE). For the WRE program, we had 80 applications for over 6,500 acres at a cost of almost \$33 million and were allocated approximately \$2.3 million. We will be pursuing three to five new projects. The high cost of easement acquisition per acre and the larger than average parcel size for the highest ranked projects has led to fewer easements being funded. For ALE, we are able to fund four of five applications with our \$450,000 allocation.

A large Regional Conservation Partnership Program – ALE workload is on the horizon with two cooperating entities proposing the new acquisition of over 60 new ALE easements in the state.

Wisconsin continues to process accepted projects from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE). Wisconsin received approval for 19 projects mostly in the southern part of the state for a total of just over \$8 million dollars on 1,315 acres. Easement appraisals for these properties are currently underway.

Covid19

USDA Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take proactive protective measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Service Centers in Wisconsin will continue to be open for business by phone appointment and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Some offices are allowing in-person, scheduled visits. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. In the event a Service Center is closed, producers can receive assistance from the closest alternate Service Center by phone. For the

most recent office opening information visit www.farmers.gov/coronavirus. Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway.

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.

New Resources for Maple Producers

The USDA offers technical expertise and financial assistance to help Wisconsin maple producers fund their operations, conserve natural resources and recover from natural disasters. A new factsheet is available with information on programs that NRCS, FSA and RMA offer to maple producers. Visit the NRCS website for more information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1757630

Gov Delivery

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.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOCS/subscriber/new>





DATCP REPORT Bureau of Land and Water Resources

June 2021

Training Needs Assessment for Conservation Professionals

- Conservation professionals across the state are asked to complete a training needs assessment at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3DNLWB>. By understanding your needs, the State Interagency Training Committee will work to ensure you have access to training opportunities necessary to improve your technical and professional skills on the job. The assessment should take 15 minutes to complete – about the amount of time needed to enjoy a nice cup of coffee or tea... Please complete by Friday, June 11. Thank you in advance!

2021 Soil and Water Conservation Annual Report

- The annual report for 2020 will be complete and available on our [website](#) in early June. The report includes information gathered from county land conservation departments about their work in 2020 and features success stories from around the state.

Soil and Water Resources Management Grants

- 2021 Schedule of Awards was emailed May 14, 2021 from either Kim or Susan. If you have not responded to acknowledge receipt of the document, please do so immediately.

Producer-Led Grant Program

- Tune in this summer and fall for the Producer-Led Planting New Ideas, Growing Conservation Webinar series. We will follow four farms throughout the growing season to highlight the various aspects of these two systems. We will cover how management strategies shift throughout the season, and vary on different farms with different soils and landscapes in Wisconsin. Register here: [DATCP Home Producer-Led Webinar Series \(wi.gov\)](#)
- The Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants E-News update for Spring 2021 is available here: [DATCP Home E-News Updates \(wi.gov\)](#)

Conservation Engineering

- Funding Opportunity: Each year, DATCP collaborates with DNR to fund projects that address farm discharges. **Funds are still available in the DATCP engineering reserve fund for eligible projects.** 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. Deadline for project consideration is **June 30th**.
- Four Conservation Practice Standards (CPS 580, 582, 584, and 395) related to streambank protection and stream restoration are currently being updated through the full Standards Oversight Council (SOC) process. The team updating these four standards will likely be releasing the public comment version in June (date to be determined). Please watch for this public comment period and take advantage of this opportunity to review and comment on the revised standards.

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

- The June 1, 2021 meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will be conducted over Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting remotely, please follow the instructions in the June meeting agenda which is available at [lwcb.wi.gov](#). Contact zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov for questions regarding joining via Microsoft Teams. Counties that are working through the LWRM plan revision process during COVID-19 restrictions may have questions and concerns about the requirements that need to be met for plan approval. Contact Lisa.Trumble@wisconsin.gov to discuss possible options to completing your plan revisions.

Farmland Preservation Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas

- The 2021 Agricultural Enterprise Area petition period is open! Petitions are due by August 2, 2021. The application, instructions, and examples of successful petitions are available on the Petitioning for AEA Designation at the following [link](#). Please contact Wednesday Jordan at wednesday.jordan@wisconsin.gov with any questions.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- DATCP requests that LCD's work with DATCP staff to perform monitoring visits on perpetual easements with expired FSA CRP1 contracts. DATCP hired an intern, Alec Martin, starting May 23, 2021 to assist LCD's with completing the field assessment. These visits are essential for benchmarking the status of the conservation practice and identifying and communicating to landowners any issues on the site prior to them becoming severe. Alec is eager to assist and LCD's should contact him via email (alec.martin@wisconsin.gov) or phone as soon as possible to arrange a time to do the site visits.
- Virtual CREP 101 Training is offered by DATCP to all CREP counties. The training is offered per LCD request and reviews program requirements, landowner engagement, agency partnership coordination and county administrative processes. All local agency partners are invited to attend and the training is valuable to both new and seasoned local CREP staff. Please contact Brian Loeffelholz at Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov to set up a time for training in your county.

Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program

- The AIS program is currently drafting an AIS for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation County Trunk Highway A reconstruction and reconditioning project near the Village of Bloomington in Grant County. The AIS program is actively reaching out to affected agricultural landowners and consulting with impacted units of government regarding the project.
- Contact zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov for questions regarding this ongoing AIS statement or the AIS program.

DATE: June 1, 2021

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Brian Weigel, DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, April 2021 - May 2021, for June LWCB meeting

Staffing Updates

The storm water program welcomes Samantha Whitens, Water Resources Engineer- Advanced, to its central office team. Samantha started with the urban runoff program on April 26th. Samantha will primarily work on storm water permit issuance for large scale energy projects in concert with the department's Office of Energy. Projects under her purview will include utility-scale solar development, gas pipeline construction, energy transmission line construction, and large electric substation construction. Samantha will round out her time working on statewide storm water policies. Samantha holds her bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Michigan Tech and joins us from the department's Air Management Program. The central office urban runoff team is fully staffed!

Storm Water Program Update

The storm water program is wrapping up work to reissue its Tier 1, Tier 2, Scrap Metal and Auto Salvage Industrial General Permits. These permits expired at the end of April and May. Reissuance followed an extensive internal development process, a formal public comment period and final review and approval by USEPA. Concurrently, the department is working to finalize the rule package for NR216 which regulates storm water discharge permits. A public hearing on the updated administrative rule was held on April 20, 2021 and the formal public comment period for this rule package ended on April 30, 2021. The Natural Resources Board is expected to review the rule at its August meeting. Work is currently underway for the expiring Construction Site Storm Water General Permit and the Non-Metallic Mining General Permit.

Communities owning and operating a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) under the department's MS4 permit were required to submit Annual Reports and Storm Water Management Programs (SWMPs) by March 31, 2021. Annual reports are due each year, while the SWMPs are due once this permit term. This year, 91% of permittees submitted their annual report on time, however 39% of permittees submitted all their required SWMPs on time. Staff are working with the 25% of permittees that did not submit any of the required SWMP documentation.

CAFO Program Update

Field staff are working through their spring inspections and responding to manure application complaints and concerns.

The CAFO program recently developed a strategic action plan that includes building partnerships with key stakeholders. Part of this plan is to partner with industry groups to realize efficiencies within the permitting process.

NR 151 – Groundwater Nitrate Targeted Performance Standard

The DNR is reviewing the numerous public comments that were submitted on the draft Economic Impact Analysis (EIA). The next step in the process is to make changes to the EIA based on the comments received and go out for public comment on the draft rule this summer. For more information including a link to the comments received on the draft EIA, please visit the NR 151 webpage: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/nonpoint/nr151nitrate.html>.

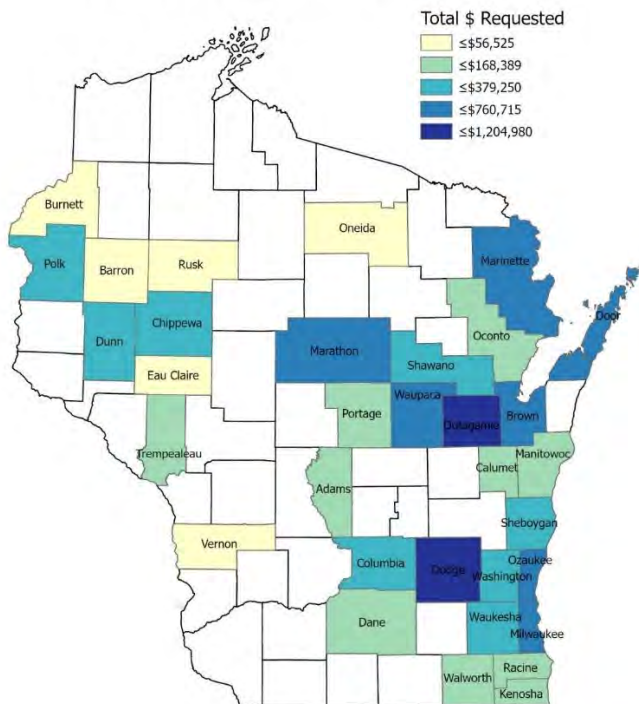
NPS Grants Update

Applications and instructions for 2022 Targeted Runoff Management Grants and Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Planning grants were due on April 15th.

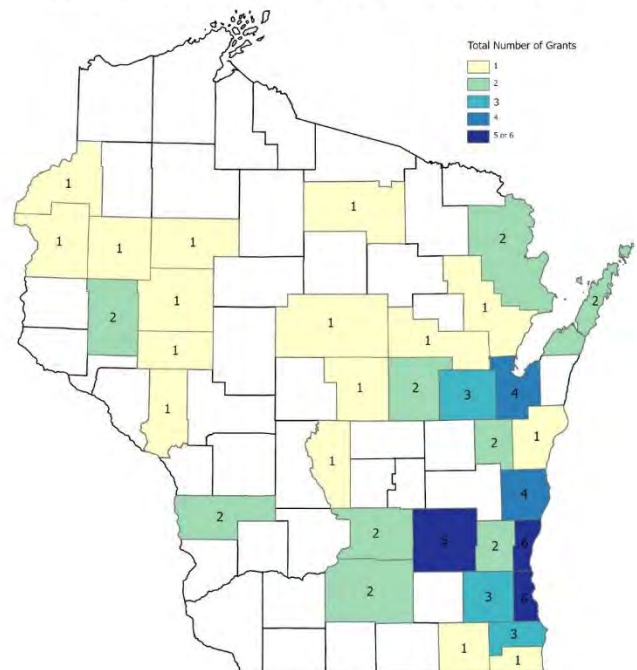
Summary of grants submitted April 2022

Region	Large-Scale TRM		Small-Scale TRM		UNPS - Planning		Total # Grants	Total \$ requested
	# Grants	\$ Requested	# Grants	\$ Requested	# Grants	\$ Requested		
NER	3	\$1,577,200	10	\$1,952,684	5	\$229,500	18	\$3,759,384
NOR			3	\$291,159	2	\$17,250	5	\$308,409
SCR	2	\$550,000	1	\$225,000	6	\$293,925	9	\$1,068,925
SER	1	\$100,800	6	\$1,150,678	19	\$1,048,472	26	\$2,299,950
WCR	2	\$607,650	3	\$556,489	5	\$138,553	10	\$1,302,692
Grand Total	8	\$2,835,650	23	\$4,176,010	37	\$1,727,700	68	\$8,739,360

TRM & UNPS Planning Grants 2022



TRM & UNPS Planning Grants 2022





State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
608-224-4650

TO: State Senator Howard Marklein, Co-Chair
State Representative Mark Born, Co-Chair
Joint Committee Finance

FROM: Mark E. Cupp, Chair
Land & Water Conservation Board

RE: Support for budget initiatives

DATE: April 30, 2021

At April meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB), a motion was adopted to convey general support for the Executive Budget proposal for the 2021-2023 biennium as it pertains to agricultural and environmental initiatives and programs under the LWCB's purview.

Specifically, the LWCB expresses strong support for the following items.

- 1) Full funding of County Conservation Staffing. The Governor recommended providing SEG funding of \$3,600,000 in FY 22 and \$3,708,000 in FY 23 for grants to counties for county conservation staff to support land and water conservation activities and \$1,800,000 of GPR funding in each year for grants to counties for additional county conservation staff to support climate change resiliency efforts.
- 2) Soil and Water Resource Management Aids. The Governor recommended providing \$7 million in SEG-supported general obligation bonds for grants to counties for implementation of land and water resource management plans, including cost-share grants to landowners.
- 3) Producer-Led Watershed Grant Program. The Governor recommended increasing expenditure authority for producer-led watershed programs and also recommended increasing the amount the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) may allocate for producer-led watershed grants to \$1,000,000 in each year.
- 4) Targeted Runoff Management – Bonding Program. The Governor recommended funding of \$6,500,00 for the biennium. The funds are used as grants for local governments to help agricultural operations control nonpoint pollution and to comply with agricultural performance standards; includes manure storage facilities, barnyard runoff control, etc.

Background on the duties and responsibilities of the LWCB may be found at <http://lwcb.wi.gov> or at the DATCP website. Please noted the LWCB action to support the Executive Budget proposal related to the aforementioned initiatives is solely the board's position and is not reflective of any position of DATCP or the Department of Natural Resources. If you have any questions or comments, contact me at (608) 739-3188 or by e-mail at mark.cupp@wisconsin.gov. As always, I will be happy to assist in whatever manner possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Mark Cupp, Chair • Eric Birschbach, Vice-Chair
Bobbie Webster, Secretary
Members: Monte Osterman • Andrew Butles • Ron Grasshoff • Mike Hofberger
Bob Mott • Andrew Potts • Sara Walling • Brian Weigel*



State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

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Cc: Senate Committee on Agriculture & Tourism
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
Assembly Committee on Environment
LWCB members

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