

# Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant Program

## Collaborating with a County Conservation Department

Here are some resources a county conservation department might provide to a producer-led group:

- **Project Management**  
With years of experience serving local communities, Counties can provide assistance with organization, project management, and leadership.
- **Integration with Multiple Projects**  
Counties partner with multiple water quality projects and can help watershed groups integrate and leverage resources.
- **Technical Support**  
County staff can offer strong technical expertise in survey design and assistance in construction of Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- **Access to local land use information**  
County departments have access to land use information including: current and historic land use maps and GIS expertise, knowledge of current and historic farm operations, construction plans, conservation plans, and conservation lease agreements.
- **Meeting and Event Planning**  
County departments can assist with meeting locations and facilitation.
- **Local Partnership Development**  
County departments can help expand producer-led groups' networks through the positive relationships they have with local farmers and businesses within the agriculture community, as well as with other county department, agencies, non-farming community, and nonprofits with shared goals.
- **Fiscal Assistance**  
County departments can provide fiscal management, substantial grant writing assistance, and expertise.
- **Cost Share Assistance**  
County departments can supplement incentive money with cost share money for conservation practices.

### Things to consider:

Just as Wisconsin's landscapes are diverse, so are each of the 72 counties' conservation goals. Contact your county to learn more about the expertise available for your watershed group.

### For more information about your county,

#### Contact:

WI Land+Water  
Phone: (608) 441-2677  
Email:  
[info@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlandwater.org)  
Website:  
[wisconsinlandwater.org/  
about/county-land-  
conservation](http://wisconsinlandwater.org/about/county-land-conservation)

### Successful Producer-Led Watershed Programs with County Conservation Department involvement:

Horse Creek Watershed Council-Polk County, WI  
Dry Run Creek Farmer Led Council-St. Croix County, WI  
South Kinni Farmer Led Council-Pierce County, WI  
Hay River Farmer Led Council-Dunn County, WI

Please contact your local county conservation department directly to discuss additional collaboration opportunities and available resources.

#### Questions?

Contact Rachel Rushmann at [rachel.rushmann@wi.gov](mailto:rachel.rushmann@wi.gov) or Sara Walling at [sara.walling@wi.gov](mailto:sara.walling@wi.gov)

