Iron County Land & Water Resource Management Plan
2020-2030

Presented by: Heather Palmquist, County Conservationist/Dept Head
Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department
Ken Saari – Iron County LCC Member
Iron County

County - 484,660 acres
- 86.4% Forested – 3rd largest county forest in the state
- 32% Wetlands – majority are forested
- 6% Surface Water
- 1.6% Agriculture Lands

Iron County Forested Land

Surface Water
- 494 Lakes – 29,902 acres
- 612 miles of shoreline
- 2/3 classified as seepage <10ac
- 724 miles of perennial streams
- 336 miles Trout waters
- 7.5 miles of Lake Superior coastline

- Pop. 5,916
- Snow capital of the state
- High unemployment rate
- High number of second homes
- Aging population

County / Municipal
Private
Industrial
State Owned Forest / Natural Areas

Ownership

Percent
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

36.3
22.8
14.5
12.8
Iron Co LWCD Staff & LCC Members

LCC Members: William Thomas (Acting Chair, VC), Ken Saari, Larry Youngs, Dale Wehmas (FSA Rep)
Brad Matson - Chair (passed away in Aug 2019)

Heather Palmquist
County Conservationist/Dept Head

Zach Wilson
Conservation Specialist

- Administration
- Technician
- Native Plant Sale

2 LTE Staff (Summer)
- Invasive species
- Assist on technical projects

- Invasive Species Program
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Education & Outreach
Challenges 2015-2019

- Nutrient Management
  - Farmers don’t participate
- Farmland Preservation
  - Plan updated in 2017
  - No interest, historically or presently
- Job checks of past projects
- Groundwater education in the classroom
- Annual tour of projects

Achievements:
- 8 projects installed on 2 farms
- 2017 Job Check – recuperated $2,236 Cost Share money
- LCC is interested in tours
Surprises

2016 Flood Event
14 in rain – 3 hrs
1 death
$14.6 million in damage in Iron County

2018 – 2 events - $1.2 million in damage
Successes 2015-2019

• Increased public awareness of dept.
• Built up our Education & Outreach program – surpassed goals
• Increased our water quality volunteer program – adding 15 new volunteers
• Coordinate WI Land+Water Conservation Camp for high school students – very successful camp
• Built our Cost Share Program – project requests now exceed funding
  • Increased our BOND request by $10,000/yr.
• Secured our 2nd position – historically grant funded, until 2019!
Looking Ahead – 2020-2030

• Goal 1: Increase public’s level of environmental knowledge and stewardship.
• Goal 2: Protect and enhance surface water & groundwater quality.
• Goal 3: Promote sustainable land use practices.
• Goal 4: Mitigate invasive species impacts.
• Goal 5: Maintain a well-trained staff.
2020-2030

• Shoreland Habitat Assessment Surveys
• Incorporate climate resiliency in technical designs
• Wetland delineation & restorations to mitigate flood impacts
• Develop a pollinator program
• Expand department staffing – this plan is based off 3 FTE