

State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708 - 8911
608 - 224 - 4633

Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

October 6, 2026

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **October 6, 2026**. The board will hold its official business meeting at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams and at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Boardroom 106, Madison, WI 53718. To attend the meeting remotely, join by telephone at +1 608-571-2209 with Conference ID 174656686# or go to the following website and register to receive the access link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/c6a5e766-9644-424c-98fd-9e7b9f8e7f4a@f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa>. The agenda for the meeting is below.

AGENDA ITEMS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 1 Call the Meeting to Order – **Mark Cupp, LWCB Chair**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Pledge of allegiance
 - c. Open meeting notice
 - d. Introductions, Acknowledgements
 - e. Approval of agenda
 - f. Approval of August 4, 2026 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 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Waushara County
Josh Saykally, Deputy Director - Land Conservation; David Bosshard, Land, Water and Education Committee (LWEC) Chair; LWEC members John Jarvis, Thomas Mosling, Mike Semrow, and Sara Stelter
- 4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Green County
Todd Jensen, County Conservationist; Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist; Kristi Leonard, LCC Chair
- 5 Educational Item - Nitrate Contamination and Ag Practices
Kevin Masarik, Director of the Center for Watershed Science & Education and Extension Water Specialist

*Mark Cupp, Chair; Monte Osterman, Vice Chair
Brian McGraw, Secretary*

*Members: Andrew Buttlis; Ron Grasshoff; Rebecca Clarke; Mike Hofberger; D.J. Nichols
Andrew Potts; Chris Clayton; Jason Knutson*

- 6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Revision for Dunn County
Chase Cummings, County Conservationist; Mike Kneer, Planning, Resources, and Development Committee (PRDC) and LCC Chair; David Styer, PRDC and LCC member
- 7 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Revision for Shawano County
Scott Frank, County Conservationist; Martin Elmer, Land Conservation and Extension Committee member
- 8 **Lunch**
- 9 LCC Member Attendance at LWRM Plan Presentations
LWCB Executive Committee
- 10 Recommendation for approval of the 2027 Joint Final Allocation Plan
Hailey Roessler, DATCP;
- 11 DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2027
Matt Kaelin, DNR
- 12 DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2027
Matt Kaelin, DNR
- 13 Agency reports
 - a. FSA
 - b. NRCS
 - c. UW-CALS
 - d. UW Madison - Extension
 - e. WI Land + Water
 - f. DOA
 - g. DATCP
 - h. DNR
 - i. Member Updates
- 14 Planning for December 2026 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 15 Adjourn

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

August 4, 2026
2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room &
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of June 2, 2026 LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI 53718 and over Microsoft Teams on **August 4, 2026**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

Members: Mark Cupp, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Andy Buttles, Ron Grasshoff, Tim Anderson, Mike Hofberger, Andrew Potts, Shannon Haydin. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Nathan Fikkert (NRCS), Ian Krauss (FSA), Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Dr. Francisco Arriaga (UW-Extention), and Amber Radatz (UW CALS)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

The board proposed a correction in the June 2026 minutes of the Waushara 5-Year review;

Change Item 4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan 5-Year Review for Waushara County: change “September” to “October”

Grasshoff motioned to approve the June 2, 2026, meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Buttles, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

Item #2 Public Appearances

One public appearance card was submitted by Steve Books. The requester presented on lake cleanup efforts related to invasives and aquatic plant management in Dane County where nutrient loading is impacting water quality.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan 5-Year Review for Waukesha County

Alan Barrows, Land Resources Manager; Brian Meier, L.U.P.E Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan 5-Year Review.

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

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Waupaca County's LWRM plan revision, seconded by Hofberger, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan 5-Year Review for Florence County

Shawna Dishaw, County Conservationist/Department Head; Matt Burnette, LCC; Garrett Vucenic, Conservation Technician/AIS Coordinator formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan 5-Year Review.

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

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, Potts motioned to recommend deferring approval of Waushara County's LWRM plan revision to August or September meeting in order to have a LCC member present, seconded by McGraw and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Education Item: Nutrient Management Planning, including training, support, and Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE)

Andrea Topper, DATCP presented Nutrient Management Planning, including training, support, and NMFE.

Item #6 Presentation of 2027 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan

Hailey Roessler, DATCP delivered a presentation of the 2026 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan. The board received this as an informational item.

Item #7 DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2027

Shannon Haydin, DNR notified the board that Matt Kaelin will be permanently replacing Joanna Griffin as the LWCB DNR representative. Shannon presented on the applications and ranked list for the projects that applied for and received TRM grant support for 2027.

Item #8 DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Sources and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2027

Shannon Haydin, DNR presented on presented on the applications and ranked list for the projects that applied for and received Urban Nonpoint Sources and Storm Water Management Projects support for 2027.

Item #9 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss provided a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 4, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Fikkert reported NRCS has a new chief Colton Buckley.
- c. UW-CALS- Dr. Arriaga reported that Troy Runge has been selected to serve as new Dean. Glenda Gillaspay stepped down in July.
- d. UW-Extension – No update provided.
- e. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that the new two-year cycle has commenced following the election of the new county board, noting that the Executive Committee was officially reelected. In June, the organization conducted five distinct training sessions that drew approximately 175 total attendees, including 95 Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members and representing 54 out of 72 counties. Additionally, elections for representatives on the Land and Water Conservation Board are currently being conducted electronically.
- f. DOA- Potts reported that Ryan Hutter has been appointed as the new Budget Director for the state court system. Additionally, an analyst position is currently open and is scheduled to start in October. Agencies have been instructed by the governor to submit a status quo official budget request.
- g. DATCP- Anderson provided a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 4, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- h. DNR-Haydin provided a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 4, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- i. Member Updates- Cupp reported that Ducks Unlimited collaborated with Groundswell Conservancy on the purchase of a 2,000-acre conservation easement in Rock County.

Item #10 Planning for the October 2026 LWCB Meeting

The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting, which will be a hybrid meeting:

- Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five-Year Reviews (Waushara and Green Counties) and Approval (Dunn and Shawano Counties)
- Recommendation for approval of the 2027 Joint Final Allocation Plan
- DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2027
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research- Committee Updates
- Board Education Item: Nitrate Contamination and Ag Practices
- Cupp, McGraw, Osterman, and Katy Smith will form a working group to develop and implement policy or guidance regarding supervisor attendance at plan reviews and revisions. The group will present their draft proposal at the October 2026 meeting, with a target for full implementation by February 2027.

Item #11 Adjourn

Motion

Hofberger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:29pm.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: October 6, 2026

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP
Resource Management Section,
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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

Recommended Action: This is an action item. The LWCB should determine whether the county has met the LWCB's criteria for a five-year review of a LWRM plan approved for ten years. If the LWCB makes a formal determination that the county has failed to meet these criteria, DATCP will automatically modify its order to terminate approval of the county's plan effective December of this year. The county first presented materials at the June 2, 2026 LWCB meeting; a motion was made for the county to return in October to re-present their materials with an LCC member present.

Summary: The Waushara County Land and Water Resource Management plan has been approved through December 31, 2031, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2026. In advance of the five-year review, Waushara County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

Materials Provided:

- Completed Five Year Review Form
- 2025 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2026 Annual Workplan

Presenter(s): Josh Saykally, Waushara County Conservationist
Land, Water and Education Committee Members



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

County: Waushara

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

Waushara County Land Conservation has implemented county, state, and federal programs over the last 5 years. Funding programs that Waushara County has used in the last five years for Best management practices include: County WQIP(Water Quality Improvement Program), DATCP, WDNR, Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP). Waushara County works with Partners for Fish and Wildlife on BMP's. Waushara County Staff aided in the design and installation of the following BMP's over the last five years:

Wetland Restorations - 5.65 Acres
Shoreline/streambank protection - 1,500 Ln ft
Prescribed Grazing - 109 Acres
Native Praire Restoration - 248.5 Acres
Nutrient Management - 1,783 Acres
Cover Crops - 918 Acres
No-Till - 676 Acres
Livestock Fencing - 6,980 Ft
Oak Savanna Restoration - 17.1 Acres
Windbreak - 6980 ft
Well Testing - spent \$3,910.57
Total Money spent on BMP's - \$442,388.23

Waushara County began a well testing program to collect data from areas in the County where well test data was lacking. (2018-2021) 6 townships a year approximately 100 samples per year. After the County testing was completed we offered residents with a reverse osmosis cost share program (ARPA Funds), for wells that tested above 10 PPM. We continue to test approximately 13 well with complete homeowners packages, some wells due to high nitrates and others due to their proximity the solar farms and future solar fams. we are looking for a local commection to land use change and well water results. Wells are tested approximately every 15 monthe so that over the course of 4 testing cycles (5 years), there is a sample taken each season, Testing will continue as long as funding is available.

Waushara County administers the WDNR wildlife damage program.

In 2011 Waushara County Board approved a \$25,000 a years WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Program) to have a bigger budget to install more BMP's on the landscape. We limit the program to \$7,500 /landowner/year. We also use this money to increase cost sharing for 50% to 70% on DATCP non-agriculture projects, to increase landowner participation for projects such as shoreline protection and shoreline/streambank stabilization.

Waushara County is in its 2nd year being a partner with Upper Fox-Wolf Demo farm Network. The demo farm network is comprised of 15 farms in 10 participating County Land Conservation Departments and one lake association. Waushara County had 1 Farm join the Demo Farms Network in 2025.

Nine-key Element plans drafts were developed in 2021 for the Upper Fox River and Wolf River Basins by Winnebago Waterways, a Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance program, with assistance from Waushara County Land Conservation. It was determined that the highest Phosphorus delivering watershed is the White River Watershed, located in the south central part of Waushara County.

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

Each year there are examples where planned projects/practices in our work plan were not installed, these were due to landowner participation changing, or priorities changing throughout the year. We use a ranking sheet that to rank projects, to ensure that BMP's are installed in areas of resource concern. Many BMP's within Waushara Counties annual work plan our projects already in the initial planning process when our plan in developed. In addition to having expertise in designing and oversee installation of BMP's, as land conservation staff we must also be sales people, to sell conservation practices to farmers and landowners.

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

Waushara Counties Priority Farm Strategy - Farms would be considered "priority" will be determined by record review, onsite evaluations and complaints. Building relationships with farmers along with cost sharing is the most effective way to implement voluntary compliance with performance standards. Waushara County has always addressed conservation concerns on a voluntary or complaint driven process. Every avenue will be explored to bring a non-compliant landowner into compliance in a voluntary way. As a first step in voluntary compliance, Waushara County utilizes the information and education strategy to insure all landowners are aware of the performance standards and how to become compliant.

Building trust with farmers is the best way to get voluntary compliance, along with our information and education strategy and cost sharing, in most cases.

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

We had a change in direction in 2024 when a agronomist was hired to work on the Climate Smart Grant through FWWA (Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance), and enroll farmers in cropping practices through out the Fox Wolf Watershed Basin. Although the climate smart funding ended in early 2025, and funding for our staff position was lost, we kept the her on staff as our county agronomist.

Waushara County purchased a Esch no-till drill with ARPA funds to have a a no-till drill rental program. The idea is to have an affordable way for farmers to plant no-till soybeans, wheat and alfalfa/pasture and as well as cover crops following harvest. Waushara Counties affordble rental program allows more acres planted to no-till and assists farmers in building soil health.

Waushara County is a member of FWWA exective committee. Land Conservation has also partnered with FWWA on a GLSNRP (Great lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program) on a project called Turning Field to Filters: A Waushara County Water Quality Project (2024-2029). This project will transition 83 acres of active marginal farmland, at 3 different sites, into permanent conservation through praire plantings, riparian buffers, ditch plugs and wetland restorations. The direction of Waushara County Land Conservation has been changing the last few years to more "soft practices" or cropping practices, and restoration of marginal farmland. In the past cost-share dollars have been used on manure storage and concrete barnyards. Waushara County is going away from cost-sharing manure storage. Reasons are the cost associated, just getting to expensive, and the family dairy's are disappearing in Waushara County.

Waushara County Land Conservation has a very good working relationship with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, a program through the US Fisha nd Wildlife services, we have worked with them the past few years sharing both technical servaice and cost share funds to help get more BMP's on the landscape.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

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

Board Review Process

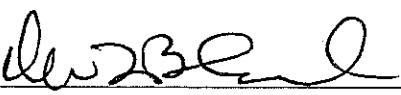
The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following; agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to

counties to improve the quality of their planning. Counties have the option to prepare a brief presentation to illustrate their successes and future priorities.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on:
4/1/2026

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

 Date: 4/1/26

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:
jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov

Waushara County 2025 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)
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	250 Acres signed to SEG CSA’s for Nutrient Management Planning 250 Acres signed to SEG CSA’s for Cover Crops 10 Acres Prairie Restoration 700 Acres of Cover Crops and No till, 2 Year agreements (Edge dairy Grant) 2300 ft Windbreak plantings	122 Acres NM Planning 289 Acres Cover Crops, 159 Acres signed carried over to 2026 148 Acres of No Till \$26,855 SEG Money allocated 18 Acres Prairie Restoration 26.2 tons of sediment reduced (PLET) 62.2 lbs. of P reduced (PLET) 0 ft of windbreak plantings – Landowner did not want implement Nutrient Management Edge Dairy /Climate Smart Grant Terminated
<i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock	8 Acres of managed grazing	0 lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) 8.98 lbs. of P reduced (PLET) 8 Acres of managed grazing installed
<i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	Administer County long- term well testing Program. Administer County Solar Farm well testing program. 125 Ln Ft Shoreline re-vegetation. 2.5 Acres of Buffer strips along streams in TMDL watershed	0 of wells sampled in 2025 seasonal testing 15 Months intervals Jan 2026 Testing 106 ft Shoreline revegetation lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) lbs. of P reduced (PLET) .58 lbs. of P saved from entering buffered stream (PLET) .27 lbs. of sediment saved from entering buffered stream (PLET) 2.25 Acres Buffer strips along
<i>Forestry</i>		
Forestry		10.9 Acres Prairie/Oak savannah
<i>Invasive</i>		
Invasive species	Work with partners for outreach and control of aquatic/terrestrial Invasive species	Golden Sands RC&D manages AIS program through DNR Grants applied for through counties
<i>Wildlife</i>		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wetland restoration 2 acres Administer Wildlife damage program	.5 Acres of wetland restored Administered Wildlife Damage Program

Waushara County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Urban*

Urban issues	Stormwater Plans Construction site erosion control	120 Construction Erosion Control Plans 43 Erosion Control Construction site inspections 11 stormwater plans written
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- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	Target Practices in TMDL Watersheds	All Practices in TMDL Watersheds
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- *Other*

Other	Non-metallic mining reclamation review/plans Administer Edge Dairy Grant through FWWA	14 Non-Metallic Mine plans reviewed 1 Non-Metallic Mine inspections Edge Dairy Grant Terminated
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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	0	0
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	1	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	100	100 - 120
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	3	3 - 1
Other		

Waushara County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	5 - 0
For FPP	0
For NR 151	5
Animal waste ordinance	0 - 1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	50 - 54
Nonmetallic mining	1 -

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1 - 1
Field days	1 - 0
Trainings/workshops	0
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	1 - 1
Newsletters	1 - 1
Social media posts	25 - 22
News release/story	2 - 2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$106,000
Technician	2080	\$58,000
Agronomist	2080	\$67,000
Office support Staff	2080	\$60,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$43,500
SEG	N/A	\$25,000
County WQIP	N/A	\$25,000
Edge Dairy Grant	N/A	\$443,931

Waushara County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY Goals and objectives from LWRM Plan can be added in each category <i>(examples in italics)</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable, identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code <i>(examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)</i>	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS <i>(examples in italics)</i>
• Cropland		
Cropland, soil health, and/or nutrient management <i>Objective: Continue Agricultural performance standards Implementation and reduce soil & wind erosion</i>	<i>Windbreak installation – 4,100 ft Nutrient Management Planning – 250 Acres Cover crops agreements – 500 Acres No-till agreements – 200 Acres Critical Area seeding – 20 Acres</i>	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) # lbs. of P reduced (PLET)</i>
• Livestock		
Livestock <i>Objective: Continue Agricultural performance standards Implementation and reduce soil & wind erosion</i>	<i>20 Acres of Managed Grazing</i>	<i>Acres of managed grazing signed to cost share agreements. # lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) # lbs. of P reduced (PLET)</i>
• Water quality		
Water quality and/or quantity <i>Objective: Protect and enhance nearshore lake & stream habitats including littoral, riparian, wetland, and nearby upland habitat.</i>	<i>Native Prairie Restoration – 50 Acres Long term/solar farm area - Groundwater testing Riparian Buffer Installation – 1 Acres Shoreline re-vegetation – 200 ft</i>	<i>Type and unit of practices installed # lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) # lbs. of P reduced (PLET) Testing completed</i>
• Forestry		
Forestry <i>Objective: Protect and enhance nearshore lake & stream habitats including littoral, riparian, wetland, and nearby upland habitat.</i>	<i>Oak savanna Restoration – 7 Acres Tree Planting - cropland Restoration - 7 Acres</i>	<i>Number of acres of oak savanna restoration Number of Acres of tree Plantings Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs. of sediment reduced (PLET) # lbs. of P reduced (PLET)</i>

Waushara County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

- Invasive species*

Invasive species <i>Objective: Protect water Quality on lakes and Streams</i>	<i>Partner with Golden Sands RC&D for invasive species regional management</i>	
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- Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat <i>Objective: Protect and enhance nearshore lake & stream habitats including littoral, riparian, wetland, and nearby upland habitat.</i>	Wetland restorations – 3 Acre Administer Wildlife damage program Ditch Plug 1,000 ft	<i>Acres of wetland restored Wildlife damage program administered # of feet of ditch plug</i>
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- Urban*

Urban issues <i>Objective: Protect Surface waters from Construction Site Erosion & non-metallic Mining Operations</i>	Stormwater plans written – 10 plans Construction site erosion control – 100 plans Non-Metallic mining reviews (14) and inspections (1-2)	<i>Number of Storm water plans written Number of construction site erosion control plans Number of non-metallic mines reviewed and inspected</i>
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- Watershed*

Watershed strategies		
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- Other*

Other		
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Waushara County 2026 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	N/A	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	N/A	N/A
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	14	14
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	125	N/A
Shoreland zoning	N/A	N/A
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2	2
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total farm inspections	5
For FPP	0
For NR 151	5
Animal waste ordinance	2
Livestock facility siting	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	40
Nonmetallic mining	1-2

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

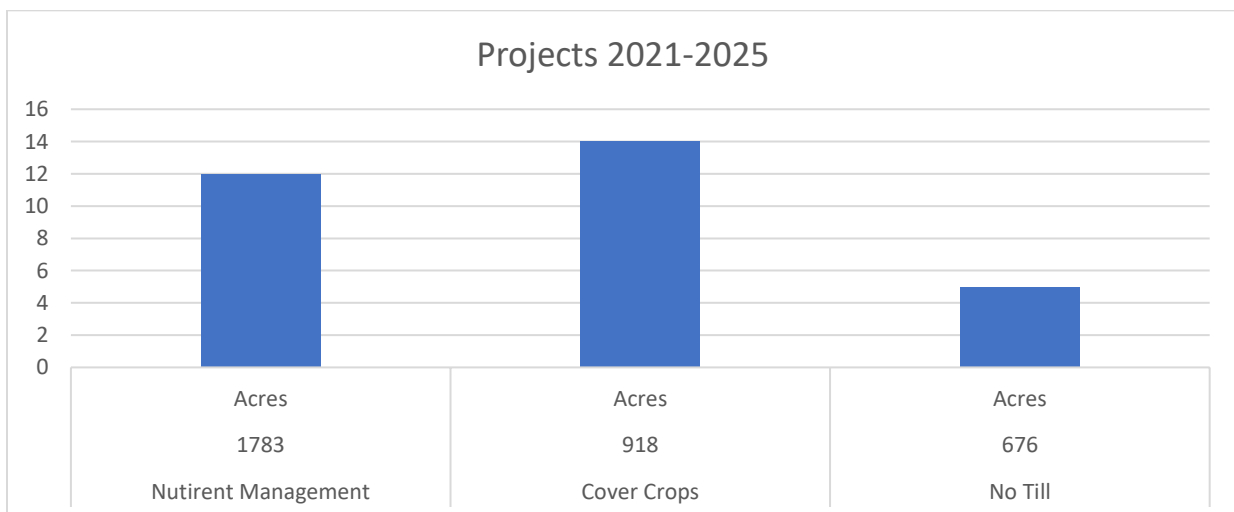
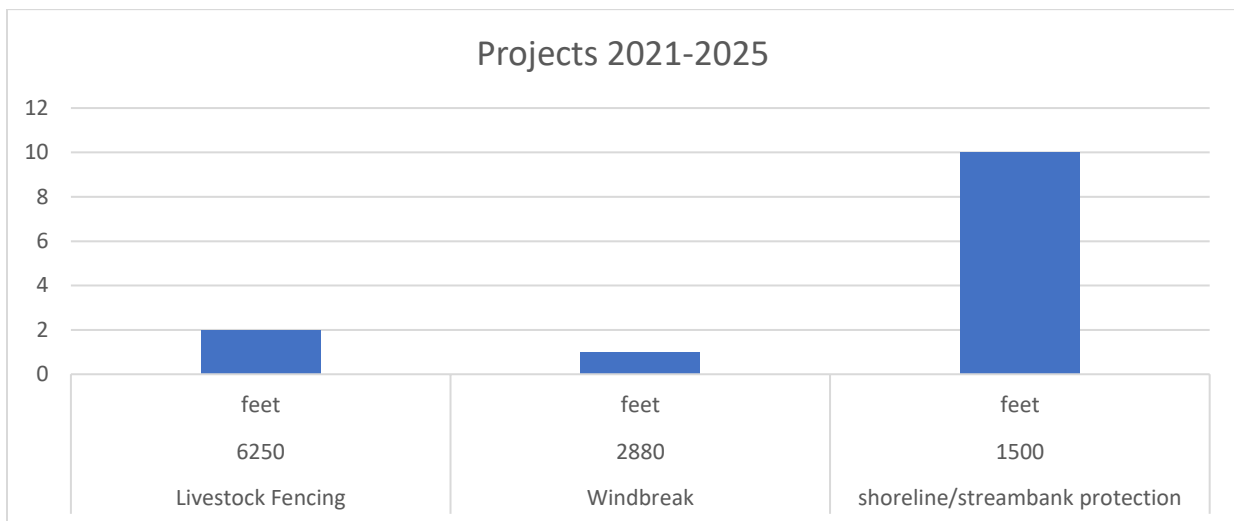
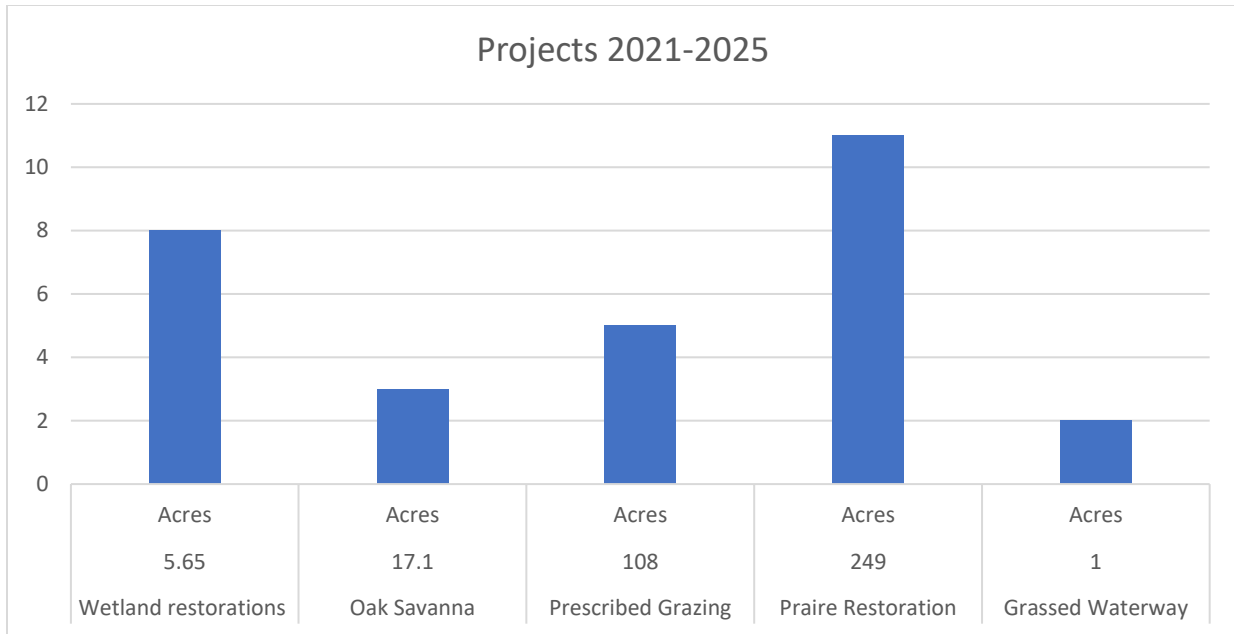
Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	1
Trainings/workshops	1
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	20-25
News release/story	1-2

Waushara County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

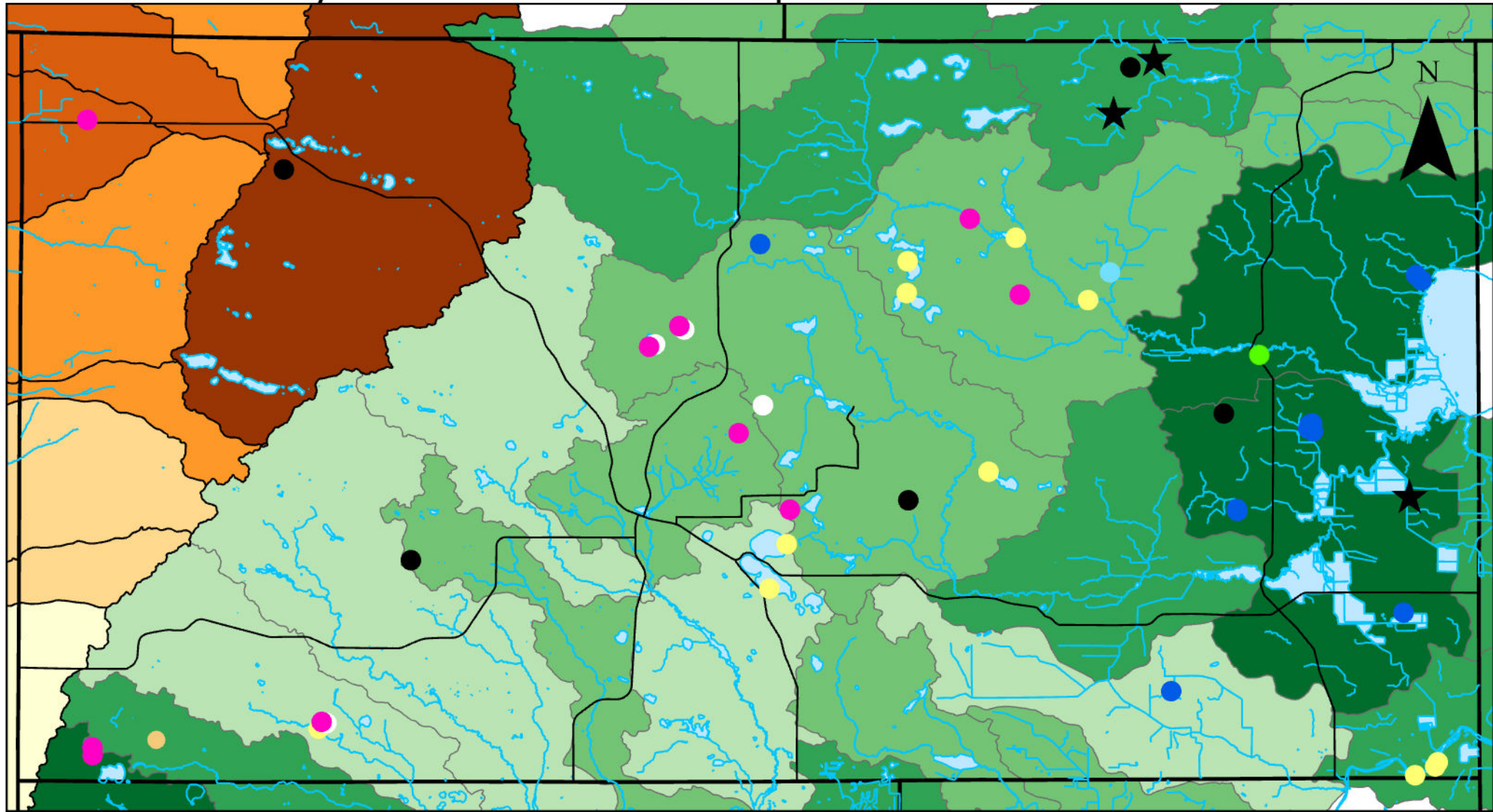
Table 5: Staff hours and expected costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours <i>(2080 hours is full time)</i>	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$114,888
<i>Technician</i>	2080	\$66,738
<i>Agronomist</i>	2080	\$78,084
Administrative Assistant	1664	\$61,466
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>SWRM Structural grant</i>	N/A	\$50,000
<i>SWRM SEG grant</i>	N/A	\$40,000
<i>County WQIP</i>	N/A	\$25,000
<i>GLSNRP Grant</i>	N/A	\$119,400

Waushara County Projects 2021-2025



Waushara County Conservation Practice Map 2021-2025 with TMDL Baseline Total P



Legend



GLSNRP Projects



Windbreak



Stream Buffer



Oak Savanna



Critical Area Seeding



Native Prairie Restoration



Shoreline/Streambank Protection



Managed Grazing



Wetland Scrape

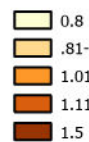


State Highways

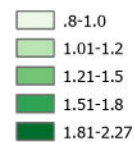


Waterbodies

WI River Watershed -
TMDL Baseline
lbs. P/ac/yr



Lake Michigan Watershed -
TMDL Baseline
lbs. P/ac/yr



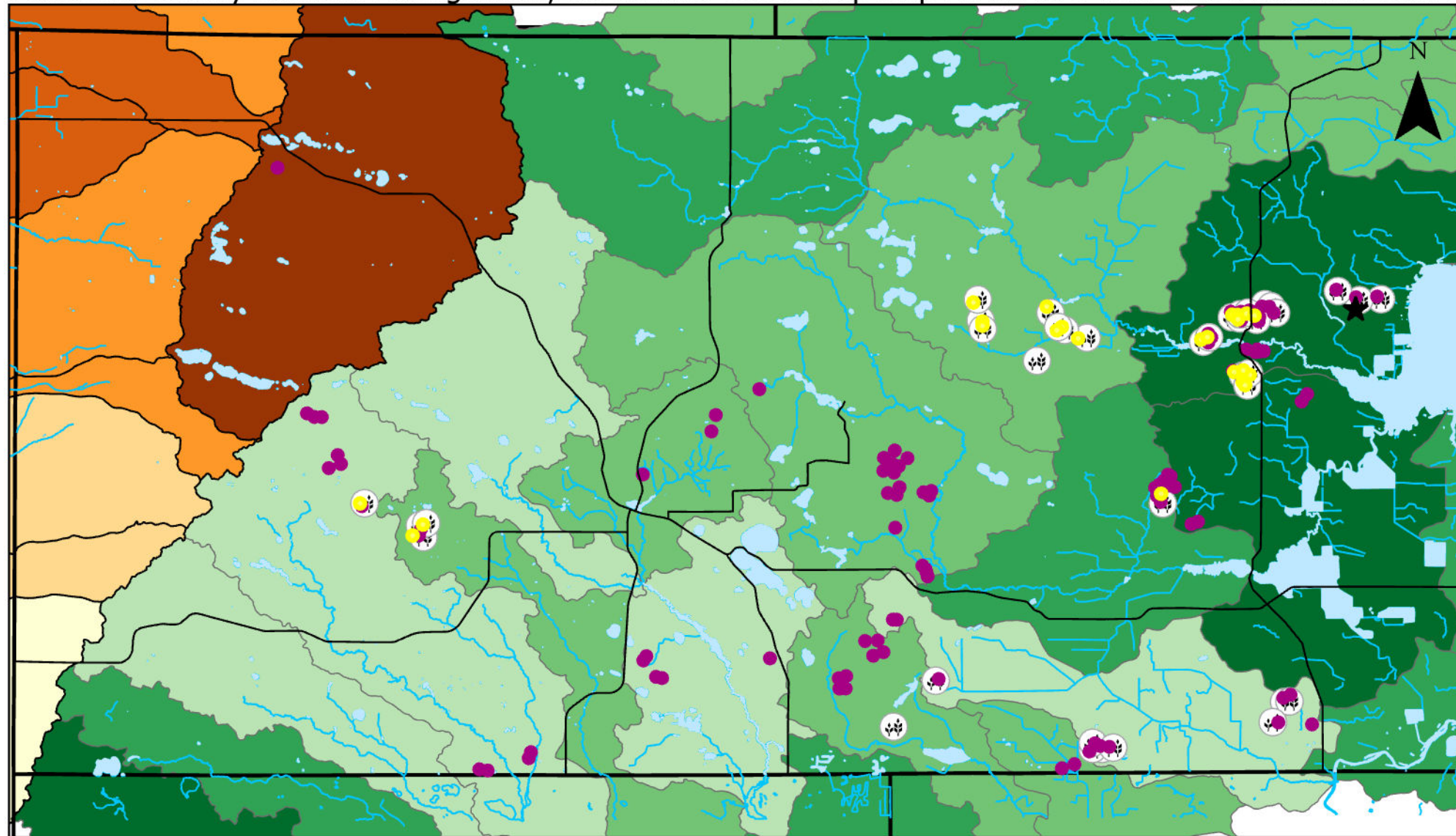
0

3.75

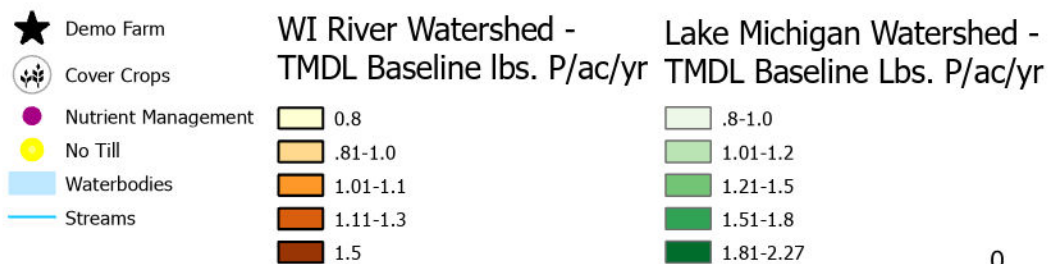
7.5

15 Miles

Waushara County Nutrient Management, No Till and Cover Crop Map 2021-2025 with TMDL Baseline Total P



Legend



CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: October 6, 2026

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP
Resource Management Section,
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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

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

Summary: The County County Land and Water Resource Management plan has been approved through December 31, 2031, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2026. In advance of the five-year review, County County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

Materials Provided:

- Completed Five Year Review Form
- 2025 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2026 Annual Workplan

Presenter(s): Todd Jenson, County Conservationist; Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist
Kristi Leonard, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair



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

County:

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

1. Provide a representative number of accomplishments that can be directly traced to activities identified in multiple work plans. For each accomplishment, explain how the planning process helped the county achieve its outcome, including planning adjustments that helped better target county activities.
2. Identify any areas where the county was unable to make desired progress in implementing activities identified in multiple work plans. For each area identified, explain the work plan adjustments that were made to refocus planned activities. If no areas are identified, explain how the county was able to make progress in all the areas planned.
3. Describe how the county's work plans implement its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of county actions implementing agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms. In particular, the county should describe outreach, farm inventories, and additional funds that were pursued to implement its strategy.
4. Provide representative examples that show changes in direction for work planning in the upcoming five years, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in planned activities in the county's most recent work plan.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

- a. The most current annual work prepared by the county.

- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year.

Board Review Process

The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning. Counties have the option to prepare a brief presentation to illustrate their successes and future priorities.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

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

Signature of Authorized Representative: Todd Jensen Date: 8/6/2026
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:
jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov

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

County: Green

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

Green County has implemented state, county, and federal programs over the past five years. We utilize several sources to help pay for implementing best management practices (BMP) such as DATCP bonding, general purpose revenue (GPR), producer led watersheds, NRCS contribution agreement, Sand County Foundation, Wisconsin Women in Agriculture, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Green County staff have helped in the design and installation of the following practices over the past five years:

Grassed waterways	36,124 feet
Streambank improvement	25,460 feet
Rock crossings	17
Roof runoff systems	6
Fence	62,863 feet
Animal trails	9384 feet
Well decommissioning	110
Manure storage structures	5
Shallow wildlife ponds	12
Wetland restorations	6
Nutrient management	185,315 acres
Filter strips	375 acres
Cover crops	14,321 acres
Trees sold	40,365
CREP contracts	31
CREP acres	375
CRP contracts written	204
CRP field status reviews	376

Last year our department took over the water testing program from UW-Extension. Every year four townships are targeted. We have tested 184 wells in the past two years. In 2024 our department took over the Clean Sweep program, once again from UW-Extension. In those two years, we have had 329 participants bring in 5845 pounds of agricultural waste and 15,783 pounds of household waste. We also make this event a prescription drop-off site.

For two years we had a program with Wisconsin Women in Conservation. Tonya walked farms with 40 women to give them ideas on how to improve their land and resources of how to get practices applied.

We host a Green County land judging contest each year. (We have been doing this since 1968.) We hosted the Southwest Wisconsin contest twice. (We take turns with Grant and Lafayette counties.) We co-hosted the state contest twice with Blackhawk Technical College. A total of 1397 high school FFA students participated in these contests.

We have two producer led watersheds that our department is the collaborator for. These groups have annual meetings and field days to learn from one another.

We work with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association to help control phragmites, which is an aquatic invasive species. We do not have a lot of it in the county, but are trying to keep it under control.

We administer the wildlife damage program. We had 13 landowners participate for deer damage, one for goose damage, and one for bear damage. (It was getting into their bee hives.)

We work with the county drainage board and attend their meetings. We do their annual inspection report every year of the four legal drains that Green County administers. Last year we used our drone to fly each of the drains.

We host two youth conservation days each year, one in May and the other in October. All fifth-grade students in Green County are invited. We average around 100 students at each event. Students learn about soil, forestry, fish management, prairies, watersheds, conservation, groundwater, recycling, and wildlife management.

We decided to inspect all the manure storage structures in the county and completed the project. (approximately 110, with 44 being built before we started issuing permits)

We have no exclusive ag zoning in Green County, so our Farmland Preservation Program is limited to long term contracts. We are down to less than 20 now, but we still do a status review on them every four years. We applied for an AEA to increase Farmland Preservation numbers.

Also, we have been doing a weekly radio program since 1951.

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

Every year we have projects that don't get done. Things change. The weather and the grain/livestock market are two of the biggest factors that either work in our favor or totally against us. Landowners are going to pay the bills that are necessary to survive, before they will dish anything out for a conservation practice that may have no real-life impact on their bottom line. When these projects don't get done right away, we don't discard them. We hold on to them and sometimes they will get constructed. It may not be next year, but eventually will get done.

We are collocated with NRCS and FSA. When covid hit our three agencies decided to only have two staff from each department in the office each day. The others had to either work from home or take time off. Customers were not allowed in the building. If we had an appointment or needed to work with someone, we did so in the parking lot. This really slowed things down for us.

The other thing that really slowed our progress was due to politics. FSA had four staff members cut. That didn't really affect our department, but what did hit us hard is when NRCS lost three people. They had a conservation technician, administrative assistant, and summer intern position get slashed. Our offices work together and when you lose good people it hurts.

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

We had defined a priority farm as land lying within a 303 (d) watershed or within a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) and having one or more issues of non-compliance with the Performance Standards found in DNR Administrative Code NR 151. The Monroe High School has a LAUNCH program for juniors and seniors to experience project-based learning to solve real-world problems. We were selected to be part of their program at no cost to us. The students were given the task of using GIS to identify priority farms by ranking parcels on how many times they were flagged on using various susceptibility criteria.

That criteria was: parcels within 300 feet of a 303(d) stream, tax parcels within 250 feet of new wells drilled since 2008, tax parcels within 1000 feet of municipal wells, tax parcels within 250 feet of transient non-community wells (i.e. churches, campgrounds, gas stations, restaurants motels, public restrooms, and taverns), and parcels with soils that are susceptible to groundwater contamination with two feet or less to groundwater or bedrock. After a thorough review the students found only one tax parcel that was flagged on all five categories and it was a golf course!

With that being said, most of our work is from landowners voluntarily requesting assistance. However we are currently targeting one watershed with the ARPA funds we have received.

We often look to pursue additional sources of funding. In the last five years we secured four different pots of money. The first was ARPA funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of soil conservation practices. We are targeting that money for the northeast part of the county, since we have never targeted that area before. We received \$11,000 from WiWiC for assisting women landowners. We have two producer led watersheds and they have received \$155,586 in grant funding education and for promoting and installing conservation practices in their respective areas of the county. A contribution agreement with NRCS has brought in \$77,385 for work done on the Conservation Reserve Program. The biggest source of funding to date is a grant from the Sand County Foundation for \$200,000 for installing cover crops, field borders, and creating pastures.

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

We have applied for an Ag Enterprise Area. If approved it should ramp up conservation work in the Brodhead/Juda area. Having never had one before, we are unsure how many hours this will eat up annually. We are looking into what we can do for ag conservation easements. We have some farmers who are very interested in getting their farms into this protection program. We recently began looking into how the process works. It looks like partnering with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy would be a good approach. Work with the Sand County Foundation was not even a consideration in our last workplan. We were awarded a large grant in this program and will continue to work installing cover crops, field borders, and creating pastures. It is our best guess these practices will expand as farmers needs change.

Green County 2025 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)
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	3 waterways 2 new farmer written NMP's 30 alumni written NMP's (35,000 acres) 2 rock crossings 3000 acres of cover crops Write 2 conservation plans for WiWiC Write conservation plans to T Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight)	<i>1447' constructed</i> <i>1 new farmer plan written</i> <i>30 plans/38,032 acres</i> <i>4 constructed</i> <i>3859 acres planted/cost-shared</i> <i>None. Program ended.</i> <i>Some were done. Did not track acres.</i> <i>Approximately 12</i>
<i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock	<i>1 manure storage</i> <i>Install 2000' of fence</i> <i>Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and technical oversight)</i>	<i>1 structure installed</i> <i>18,149' of fence built</i> <i>Several done. Did not track.</i>
<i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>5 CREP contracts</i> <i>30 CRP contracts</i> <i>20 well abandonments</i> <i>50 CRP/CREP status reviews</i> <i>2000' of streambank improvement</i> <i>Issue 90 well permits</i> <i>75 acres of filter strips</i> <i>3 wetland restorations</i>	<i>6 CREP contracts</i> <i>47 CRP contracts</i> <i>19 well abandonments</i> <i>78 status reviews</i> <i>150' constructed</i> <i>94 permits issued</i> <i>42 acres of filter strips</i> <i>We didn't do any this year.</i>
Invasive species	<i>Eradicate 5 more areas of phragmites.</i> <i>Find a method to eradicate the 3 areas of Japanese knotweed that we know of and the several spots of johnsongrass</i> <i>Have a field day with the highway department staff on weed identification</i>	<i>We found a few more patches, but don't believe any were sprayed. Did not accomplish.</i> <i>Did not do this year.</i>
<i>Wildlife</i>		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Install 2 wildlife scrapes</i> <i>Sell 8000 trees and shrubs</i> <i>Assist 3 landowners in the wildlife damage program</i>	<i>3 wildlife ponds constructed.</i> <i>7275 trees and shrubs sold.</i> <i>3 landowners participated</i>

Green County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>Continue being the collaborator for the Farmers of the Sugar River and Green County Clean Waters producer led groups</i>	<i>Education and gaining positive relationships with farmers. Provided funding for their workshops, field events, meetings, etc.</i>
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- *Other*

Other		
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	1	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	4	6
Other (well permits)	90	94

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections
Total Farm Inspections	5
For FPP	5
For NR 151	0
Animal waste ordinance	1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

Green County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	5
Trainings/workshops	6
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Poster contest participants	91
Radio programs	58
News release/story	15

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	2080	<i>\$131,339</i>
<i>Soil Conservationist</i>	2080	<i>\$102,281</i>
<i>Technician</i>	2080	<i>\$80,314</i>
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>. Bonding</i>		<i>\$65,700</i>
<i>SEG</i>		<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Farmers of the Sugar River</i>		<i>\$13,000</i>
<i>Green County Clean Waters</i>		<i>\$14,000</i>
<i>ARPA</i>		<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Sand County Foundation</i>		<i>\$65,000</i>

Green County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY Goals and objectives from LWRM Plan can be added in each category <i>(examples in italics)</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable, identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code <i>(examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)</i>	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS <i>(examples in italics)</i>
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health, and/or nutrient management	3 waterways 5 new farmer written NMP's 25 alumni written NMP's (35,000) acres 4 rock crossings 3500 acres of cover crops Provide technical assistance (survey, design, install) 3 participants in the nitrogen optimization program Start an Ag Enterprise Area	<i>Reduce concentrated flow erosion.</i> <i>Education so they can write their own plan in the future.</i> <i>Reduce fertilizer over application and reduce soil erosion.</i> <i>Reduce in-stream erosion.</i> <i>Reduce erosion and increase soil health.</i> <i>Construct soil conservation and water quality practices.</i> <i>Find innovative ways to maximize nitrogen use</i> <i>Make landowners eligible for FPP tax credits</i>
<i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock ○	<i>1 manure storage</i> <i>Install 6000' of fence</i> <i>Provide technical assistance (survey, design, and install).</i> <i>Plan and implement 2 managed grazing programs</i>	<i>Reduce manure runoff into streams.</i> <i>Promote rotational grazing.</i> <i>Construct soil conservation and water quality practices.</i> <i>Healthier cows, reduced erosion, healthier soil</i>
<i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality and/or quantity	<i>100 water samples</i> <i>3 CREP contracts</i> <i>30 CRP contracts</i> <i>20 well abandonments</i> <i>50 CREP/CRP status reviews</i> <i>2000' of streambank improvement</i> <i>Issue 90 well permits</i> <i>30 acres of filter strips</i> <i>2 wetland restorations</i> <i>Host a Clean Sweep event</i>	<i>Home owner testing to make sure water is safe</i> <i>Reduce soil, phosphorus, and nitrate runoff into streams</i> <i>Reduce soil erosion.</i> <i>Decrease water contamination</i> <i>Education for landowners in the program</i> <i>Soil erosion reduction and fish habitat</i> <i>Make sure wells are properly placed</i> <i>Soil erosion reduction</i> <i>Improve habitat</i> <i>Safe disposal of hazardous materials</i>
<i>Invasive species</i>		
Invasive species	<i>Eradicate 5 or more areas of phragmites</i> <i>Work on eradicating one patch of purple loosestrife</i> <i>Find a method to eradicate the 3 areas of Japanese knotweed that we know of and the several spots of johnsongrass</i>	<i>Reduce/eradicate invasive species</i> <i>Invasive species reduction</i> <i>Invasive species reduction</i>

Green County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat	<i>Install 2 wildlife scrapes Sell 7500 trees and shrubs Assist 3 landowners in the wildlife damage program</i>	<i>Habitat improvement Reforestation and wildlife habitat improvement Education and decreased crop damage</i>
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>Continue to be the collaborators for the Farmers of the Sugar River and Green County Clean Waters producer led groups</i>	<i>Education and gaining positive relationships with farmers</i>
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• *Other*

Other- Education	<i>Host 2 youth conservation days Host a land judging contest Hold a youth conservation poster contest 52 radio programs 5 year update of Land and Water Plan Ag Conservation Easement Program</i>	<i>Teach 300 students on various forms of conservation 175 students learn about soils and conservation practices Competition that is held nationwide, 100 students Update listeners on current and upcoming events in the office State mandate Investigate and try to start a program</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)	5	5
Other (well permits)	90	90

Green County 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total farm inspections	5
For FPP	5
For NR 151	0
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	1
Field days	6
Trainings/workshops	4
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	4
Newsletters	5
Social media posts	25
News release/story	15

Table 5: Staff hours and expected costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours (2080 hours is full time)	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$139,804
<i>Technician</i>	2080	\$82,516
<i>Soil Conservationist</i>	2080	\$109,943
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>SWRM Structural grant</i>		\$72,000
<i>SWRM SEG grant</i>		\$20,000
<i>ARPA</i>		\$11,714
<i>Sand County Foundation</i>		\$96,000
<i>Producer Led</i>		\$31,000

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: **October 6, 2026**

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

FROM: **Jenn Chakravorty , DATCP
Resource Management Section,
Bureau of Land and Water Resources**

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Dunn 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, 2036, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2031.

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

Dunn County held a public hearing on August 20, 2026, as part of its public input and review process. The Dunn 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 Questionnaire
- 2025 workplan with accomplishments and current 2026 workplan

Presenters: Chase Cummings, Dunn County Conservationist
Mike Kneer, Planning, Resources, and Development Committee and Land Conservation
 Committee Chair
David Styer, Planning, Resources, and Development Committee and Land Conservation
 Committee member



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: DUNN – 2ND REVIEW

Date Plan Submitted for Review: final draft 09/03/2026

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)	☒	☐	2-3, 72-73

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	June '25, December '25, March '26
2.	Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	8/20/26
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	Pending- October or November County Board Meetings

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	☒	☐	21, 32, 35, 40-41

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.

b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county³, including:

- | | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| i. | location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries | ☒ | ☐ | 10,
27, 37-40 |
| ii. | identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources | ☒ | ☐ | 22-23,
29-31,
32-33 |
| iii. | identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years. | ☒ | ☐ | 22-27,
29-31,
32-33 |

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 | ☒ | ☐ | 37-40 |
| b. | pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available | ☒ | ☐ | 29-30,
33-34 |

Other comments:

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes	No	Page
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- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 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 | ☒ | ☐ | 2-3 |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|

Other comments: County worked closely with regional nonpoint coordinator and other DNR staff; draft of full plan was shared with DNR staff and comments were incorporated

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Yes	No	Page
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- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components : | | | |
| a. | A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices | ☒ | ☐ | 13-14 |
| b. | State and local regulations used to implement the plan | ☒ | ☐ | 46, 49-62 |

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.

c.	Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	☒	☐	13, 49, 53, 55
d.	Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	☒	☐	51-52, 63-64, 81-84
e.	A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	☒	☐	49, 54, 85-87
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	☒	☐	17, workplan, Appendix A
b.	the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	☒	☐	17, 80
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; as of 2024, ATCP 50.12(2)(f) also calls for identification of priority areas of resource concern for the county	☒	☐	8-12

Other comments: Application of priority areas: focus on watersheds to support improvements in water quality, soil productivity, community engagement & long term benefits (prioritization as an ongoing process) ; TMDLs; areas susceptible to nitrates (identified through groundwater testing)

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	☒	☐	14-15, 48, 53-54, 65-69, 71-72
2.	Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	☒	☐	56-62, 68, 69, 71-74

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING		Yes	No	Page
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1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan⁵ do both of the following:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks | ☒ | ☐ | Appendix A |
| b. Identify priorities | ☒ | ☐ | APPENDIX A |
-
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
- ☒ ☐ 17, 18, 64-65 APPENDIX A

Other comments: Appendix A includes the expected annual workplan for the duration of the LWRM plan; 1-year work plans will still be submitted annually and DATCP acknowledges that accomplishments/goals may change over the 10-years of the LWRM plan

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: Independent 9K Element Plan is being updated, to be completed in December 2026 (Page 28), coordinated updates in LWRM in relation to Implementation Plan
- RED CEDAR TMDL APPROVED BY EPA IN 2015, PLAN UPDATE COMMENCED IN 2025.

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: Jennifer Chakravorty Date: 9/4/2026

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: Dunn

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

Answer these five questions in writing (not to exceed 5 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.
Through the implementation of the 2017-2026 Dunn County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, several accomplishments have been consistent in several work plans. Those accomplishments include, increase in agricultural land covered by a nutrient management plan, increase in the use of cover crops, no till operations, as well as CREP acreage. Planning and implementation efforts for conservation practices on the land were also accomplished through two Producer Led Watershed Groups, where additional grant funding was awarded from The Nature Conservancy and the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program. The County updated it's manure storage ordinance to include NR151 Performance Standards and Prohibitions. The Ordinance is now titled "Chapter 10: Agriculture Performance Standards and Manure Storage and Management Ordinance". Through Chapter 10 and the Farmland Preservation Program status reviews we focused on compliance to ensure performance standards were implemented. This resulted in successfully addressing several long standing non compliant sites. Three of these sites received cost-share funding through successful TRM and NOD Grants. Three of these sites required additional enforcement through the County's Corporation Counsel or DNR and one case is still ongoing through the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Many of these sites were widely known through out the community and getting them into compliance ultimately helped demonstrate accountability and positive relationships in the community knowing that we are actively addressing non compliance. Many hours have been and continue to be invested in navigating the challenges surrounding compliance efforts. Additionally, the County has developed a successful groundwater/private well monitoring program, surfacewater monitoring program, and participation and implementation of the MDV program. We've continued to maintain and build partnerships within the greater community to continue the implementation of conservation practices identified in our LWRM Plan and beyond.
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.

Areas where we have not made as much progress as planned would be in the areas of grazing and incorporating a third crop in rotation. Due to staffing capacity and certification needs, the implementation of grazing and grazing plans have been more difficult. However, in the past two years we have secured funding support for grazing through The Nature Conservancy. This has allowed our staff to have more resources to promote grazing, starting with producer led group members and other producers already curious about grazing. We also have worked to promote a third crop, such as winter wheat, in cropping rotations to help improve soil health and diversify the landscape. This has been more difficult due to limited marketability for the third crop in rotation. Effort through our producer led groups has established more conversations, but the economics of the practice have not convinced producers to pursue consistent implementation. Through the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm a third crop of oats is used. We hope that better documenting the economics of this effort will support wider adoption in the community. One of our short comings in the first 5 years of the current plan was related to establishing a more robust groundwater program. To date we have secured more than 5 years of funding and have sampled close to 2,000 private wells. Our relationship with our county public health department has advanced to the development of their own water testing lab, where all of the samples we collect are analysed. This relationship provides meaningful perspective to participants in evaluating landuse and public health impacts to their drinking water.

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?

The priority farm approach identified in our 2017-2026 LWRM plan consists of Farmland Preservation participants, land and livestock facilities in the TMDL watershed, new and expanding livestock facilities subject to Livestock Siting rules, complaints, permitted livestock facilities through the County's Manure Management Ordinance, livestock facilities in surface water quality management areas, and voluntary requests from landowners. In the first 5 years of our LWRM plan work has been with Farmland Preservation Zoning in the Townships of Lucas, Wilson and Grant, as well as the Town of Grant Agricultural Enterprise Area. The development of the Hay River Farmer Led Watershed Group, the Red Cedar Conservation Farmers Watershed Group, the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm and demo farm network have also provided important opportunities for the implementation of agricultural performance standards and conservation practices in the Red Cedar Watershed TMDL. These activities have provided direct lines of communication and outreach to producers in critical watersheds to conduct farm inventories, provide capacity building in the community, as well as, additional funds to support those efforts. Funding opportunities such as the Producer Led Grants, DNR Lake Protection Grant and a National Association of Conservation Districts-Technical Assistance Grant have provided for staffing support and conservation practice implementation. In the last 5 years of our current plan we continued to focus on the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and used that work and experience to fine tune our interpretation and administration of our Chapter 10 Ordinance and implementation of NR151 performance standards. In addition to a more thorough implementation of FPP, we pursued the implementation of NR151 on several widely known non-compliant properties and have secured funding through TRM and NOD to address those issues. Our new 2027-2036 LWRM Plan has adjusted the priority farm approach to:

1. Voluntary
2. Farmland Preservation participant
3. Manure Storage Permitted facilities
4. Complaints
5. Recipients of cost-share funds
6. Cropland and livestock operations located in a Priority Area or priority

watersheds: such as the Red Cedar Watershed, specifically the portions of the watershed that are part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) approved for Lakes Tainter and Menomin, including but not limited to the Lower Pine Creek Watershed; the Eau Galle River Watershed; other priority watersheds (to be determined through the implementation of this plan); and Groundwater Priority Areas. Finally, Dunn County continues to explore other funding mechanisms and sources in support of the LWRM Plan implementation.

It is through this approach that we look to continue progress toward addressing land and water resources issues and the implementation of NR151/Chapter 10 ag performance standards and prohibitions.

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.

Our priority farm approach is intended to actively work towards addressing our priority issues and priority areas within the county. Leveraging other planning and implementation efforts through the Tainter and Menomin TMDL; the Eau Galle watershed; and the areas of the county with identified groundwater nitrate issues will direct our work for this next planning cycle. Actively reviewing for NR151 and Chapter 10 compliance in these areas is intended to make meaningful and measurable improvements. Changes to our internal LWCD structure through an implementation team approach that creates a closer tie to the LWRM Plan and sets meaningful and understandable expectations will provide better organization and guidance to stay focused on plan goals. Many other requests and unique projects are asked of the LWCD. We hope this new plan will provide guidance to the LWCD and LCC in determining workload and plan success.

5. What do you observe as gaps in understanding or research that hinder conservation progress or water quality improvement?

Part of the LWCB's duties is to advise the University of Wisconsin system on needed research and education programs relating to soil and water conservation. The answer to this question will be used in research and outreach efforts by the University of Wisconsin.

Nutrient Management Plan adoption by our larger, more advanced, farmers has been challenging. Some of our largest producers are communicating challenges or resistance to developing a NRCS 590 compliant nutrient management plan. Many reasons are tied to precision agriculture systems, variable rate systems, and lack of faith or understanding in UW nutrient recommendations. Snap Plus is not a program they feel fits their operation. We hope to continue these conversations and look for ways to inform producers as well as take their feedback to guide future improvements to software and planning tools. Many of these producers are farming large tracks of coarse textured soil, under irrigation and in many cases a diverse rotation of cash grains and specialty crops such as horseradish, kidney beans and potatoes. These are the areas we see of greatest need related to groundwater nitrate concentrations and the greatest impact/opportunity for improved relationships and meaningful cropland management. Continuous development of Snap Plus and nutrient management planning tools, as well as, implementation of NOPP outcomes and other UW

efforts to improve nutrient recommendations that can benefit the producers operations while at the sametime having an improved impact on our natural resources is encouraged.

Please consider answering the following optional question (not to exceed 1 page)

1. The LWCB is interested in learning how county conservation staff are addressing changing weather patterns. To this end, the LWCB reached out to WI Land+Water for guidance, see the [WI Land+Water memo](#) dated for October 28, 2020. Your response to the following question will be appreciated.

Is climate change resiliency contained in your LWRM plan (Yes ☒ or No ☐). If yes, indicate with page number(s) or statement(s) where within the LWRM plan it is located and please consider the factors below, as examples, in your answer.

- a. *Plants and natural communities (forests, wetlands, prairies, invasive species)*
- b. *Soil and agriculture*
- c. *Weather (growing season, seasonal temperatures, precipitation)*
- d. *Infrastructure*
- e. *Land owners (residents)*
- f. *Water resources (groundwater and surface water quality and quantity)*
- g. *Fisheries*
- h. *Wildlife*
- i. *Human health and recreation*

Answer Below

Pages 43-46. We identify increases in temperature and precipitation. The LWCD will continue promoting soil building practices that improve infiltration and reduce erosion, incorporate updated design standards for conservation structures that account for higher precipitation intensities, continue monitoring of groundwater and surface water conditions, and work closely with producers and partners to adapt conservation planning to evolving climate related risks. Collectively, these efforts will help ensure Dunn County remains prepared for the environmental and agricultural challenges associated with a warmer, wetter, and more variable climate.

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: August 20, 2026

Signature of Authorized Representative: Chase Cummings **Date:** Sep 4, 2026
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed form and attachments to:
jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov

DUNN COUNTY 2025 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 (Benchmarks/Goals) XX 2025 Actual
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	Farm Reviews/Evaluations (FPP/NR151/Co. Ord.) Cover Crops (acres new) Nutrient Management Plans (acres new) Maintain partnership with CVTC and NMFE for NMP implementation (1 program, # of participants) No-Till (acres new) Third Crop in Rotation (acres new) Full Season Covers (acres new) County Wide Transect Survey (one Survey)	33 farms 2,000 Acres (pounds of P reduced) 3,353 acres 500 Acres 504.5 acres 10 participants 7 participants (class completed in 2025) 1,000 Acres (pounds of P reduced) 3,564.5 acres 0 Acres 0 0 Acres 0 1 Survey Completed
<i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock	Livestock facility practices (NR151/Co. Ord.) Grazing Plans (acres/plans) Stream Crossings (number) Livestock Fencing (feet) Targeted Runoff Management Grant (TRM) or NOD	5 practices for NR151/Co. Ord. compliance 2 10 Acres / 2 plans (Hay River FLW TNC Grant) 5 activities: TNC 0 0 200 Feet 1,468 feet 3 grants (1 NOD & 1 TRM & 1 DATCP Reserve) 1 NOD & 1 TRM awarded late in 2025, 2026 implementation.
<i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	CREP (new contracts) CREP (contract renewals) Grassed Waterways (acres of 412) Wells Decommissioned (number) Idle Manure Storage Closures (number) Grade Stabilization Structures (number) Grassed Waterways (ft. of adequate sod, not 412) Critical Area Planting (acres) Lined Waterway (number) No-till Drill, Mulcher Rental Program (no.) Groundwater Monitoring Program (Private wells) Surface water Monitoring Program (HUC12 streams) Groundwater Ad Hoc Com. Recs. Implementation	2 New Contracts 1 3 Contract Renewals 7 Acres 3 3 3 2 5 3 3 1,500 PLW 1 4 1 0 6 17 NT drill; 1 mulcher 1 program implemented (300 wells) (EPA funding) 300 1 program maintained (WAV/DNR/UW-Stout) Yes Resolve Elements of Ad Hoc work plan Yes
<i>Forestry</i>		
Forestry		

DUNN COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Invasive*

Invasive species	Beaver Creek Reserve AIS Contract/Coordination	1 Contract 1
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- *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat	Wetland restoration (number of scrapes)	1 1
	Wildlife Damage Program (APHIS)	1 1
	Pollinator Habitat (Acres)	2
	Tree Planter Rental Program (incl. # of participants)	1 (10 participants) 10

- *Urban*

Urban issues	City Sewer Service Extension Reviews	2 1
	City Menomonie Sewer Service Area Plan update (steering committee)	1 1
	Stormwater and Construction Site Review/Plats (no.)	1 1

- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	Red Cedar Watershed Partnership (nine key element plan implementation)	6 Meetings, Implementation Progress to UW-Extension Yes
	Hay River Farmer Led Watershed	1 DATCP grant + 1 TNC grant Yes
	Red Cedar Conservation Farmers FLW	1 DATCP grant + 1 NOPP grant Yes
	One P Reduction tracking tool	
	Multi Discharge Variance--Red Cedar Watershed & Lower Chip watershed	6 MDV projects 3
	Prioritization of HUC12 watersheds	Complete prioritization strategy No
	Eau Galle Watershed partnership watershed plan	1 watershed assessment developed w/Pierce,Pepin,St.Croix Yes
	LWRM Plan update (full re-write)	Complete plan update by April 2026. In progress.

- *Other*

Other	Maintain 3 PL 566 Structures	3 Annual Inspections, 3 IOM development, 3 EAP Review Yes
	New Snowmobile Bridges	2 new construction No
	Snowmobile Trails Grant	1 Grant 1

DUNN COUNTY 2025 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
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	4 4	2 4
Manure storage closure	3 5	3 5
Livestock facility siting (P&Z admin; LWCD review)	2 2	2 2
Non-metallic reclamation sites	20 21	20 21
New Non-metallic Mining Permits	1 1	1 1
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	2 1	
Shoreland zoning	N/A	
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	33 19
For FPP	15 13
For NR 151 (Ag Perf Standard Ordinance)	10 2
Ag Perf. Std, Manure Storage Ordinance (Storage portion)	8 4
Livestock facility siting	2 2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control review (Major Subdivisions)	2 1
Nonmetallic mining	20 21

DUNN COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	4
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	10
News release/story	4
Adult Education/Presentations	2
Presentations to LCC Committee	16
LWCD Intern (hours)	520
Presentations to Groups	4

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	1
Conservation Planner	12480	6
One Support Specialist	2080	1
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	<i>N/A</i>	\$60,700 + \$21,006 (extensions)=\$81,706
SEG	<i>N/A</i>	\$20,000 + \$0(extensions)=\$20,000
MDV	<i>N/A</i>	\$26,275
Farmer Led Watersheds (incentives)	<i>N/A</i>	RCCF: \$22,000 (DATCP) + \$80,000 (NOPP)+\$6,570 (ext NOPP) = \$108,570. HR: \$26,000. + \$10,000 (TNC)= \$36,000

DUNN COUNTY 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY Goals and objectives from LWRM Plan can be added in each category <i>(examples in italics)</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable, identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code <i>(examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)</i>	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS <i>(examples in italics)</i>
<i>Cropland</i>		
Goal 1: Maintain, Protect and Improve Surface Water Resources Goal 2: Conserve Long Term Soil Productivity of Cropland Goal 3: Protect Groundwater Quantity and Quality	○ Farm Reviews/Evaluations (FPP/NR151/Co. Ord.) ○ Cover Crops (acres new) ○ Nutrient Management Plans (acres new) ○ Maintain partnership with CVTC and NMFE for NMP implementation (1 program, # of participants) ○ No-Till (acres new) ○ County Wide Transect Survey (one Survey)	○ 20 farms ○ 2,000 Acres (pounds of P reduced) ○ 3,353 acres ○ 500 Acres ○ 10 participants (class completed in 2026) ○ 1,000 Acres (pounds of P reduced) ○ 1 Survey Completed
<i>Livestock</i>		
Goals 1, 2, 3	○ Livestock facility practices (NR151/Co. Ord.) ○ Grazing activities (#) ○ Livestock pipeline/watering/fencing (#) ○ Targeted Runoff Management Grant (TRM) project ○ Notice Of Discharge Grant (NOD) project	○ 5 Practices for NR151/Co. Ord. Compliance ○ 5 Grazing activities ○ 2 ○ Construction/implementation of TRM Grant activities ○ Construction/implementation of NOD Grant activities
<i>Water quality</i>		
Goals 1, 2, 3	○ CREP (new contracts) ○ CREP (contract renewals) ○ Grassed Waterways (acres of 412) ○ Wells Decommissioned (number) ○ Idle Manure Storage Closures (number) ○ Grade Stabilization Structures (number)	○ 2 New Contracts ○ 3 Contract Renewals ○ 7 Acres ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 2

DUNN COUNTY 2026 Annual Work Plan

Locally Identified Priorities

	○ Grassed Waterways (ft. of adequate sod, not 412) ○ Critical Area Planting (acres) ○ Sinkhole treatment (number) ○ No-till Drill, Mulcher Rental Program (no.) ○ Groundwater Monitoring Program (Private wells) ○ Surface water Monitoring Program (HUC12 streams) ○ Groundwater Ad Hoc Com. Recs. Implementation	○ 1,500 ○ 1 ○ 1 ○ 15 NT drill; 1 mulcher ○ 1 program implemented (300 wells) (EPA funding) ○ 1 program maintained (WAV/DNR/UW-Stout) ○ Resolve Elements of Ad Hoc work plan
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• Forestry

Goal 4: Preserve Rural Character, Protect the Environment and Related Natural Resources for Residents, Visitors, and Future Generations.	Dunn County Island Management Plan (scope)	NA
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• Invasive species

Goal 4	○ Beaver Creek Reserve AIS Contract/Coordination	○ 1 Contract
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• Wildlife

Goal 4	○ Wetland restoration (number of scrapes) ○ Wildlife Damage Program (APHIS) ○ Pollinator Habitat (Acres) ○ Tree Planter Rental Program (incl. # of participants)	○ 1 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 1 (10 participants)
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• Urban

Goals 3, 4 Goal 5: Educate and Engage the Public in Natural Resource Management	○ City Sewer Service Extension Reviews ○ City Menomonie Sewer Service Area Plan update (steering committee) ○ Stormwater and Construction Site Review/Plats (no.)	○ 2 ○ 1 ○ 1
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• Watershed

Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	○ Red Cedar Watershed Partnership (nine key element plan implementation) ○ Hay River Farmer Led Watershed ○ Red Cedar Conservation Farmers FLW ○ One P Reduction tracking tool	○ 6 Meetings, Implementation Progress to UW-Extension ○ 1 DATCP grant + 1 TNC grant ○ 1 DATCP grant + 1 NOPP grant + 1 TNC grant ○ Develop SOP for tracking P reductions from LWCD activities
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DUNN COUNTY 2026 Annual Work Plan

Locally Identified Priorities

	○ Multi Discharge Variance--Red Cedar Watershed ○ Water Quality Trading with municipality ○ Prioritization of HUC12 watersheds ○ Eau Galle Watershed partnership watershed plan	○ 6 MDV projects ○ 1 WQT facilitated ○ Complete prioritization strategy ○ 1 watershed assessment plan developed w/Pierce, Pepin, St. Croix
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• *Other*

Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	○ Maintain 3 PL 566 Structures ○ New Snowmobile Bridges ○ Snowmobile Trails Grant ○ Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation inspections ○ Conservation Aids Program (new boat dock) ○ Conservation Aids Program (park improvements) ○ LWRM Plan update (full re-write) ○ Participate on Red Cedar Watershed Conference Planning Committee ○ Participate in WI L+W Health & Conservation Committee ○ Participate in WI L+W Technical Committee ○ Review/revise LWCD Staff meeting structure/purpose ○ Review/develop workload tracking process ○ Review/develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) ○	○ 3 Annual Inspections, review IOMs, EAPs ○ 2 new construction ○ 1 Grant ○ 22 ○ 1 (Lamb's Creek landing) ○ 1 (Fisherman's Park) ○ Complete update/present to LWCB in August 2026 ○ 1 Conference ○ 1 active member ○ 1 active member
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DUNN COUNTY 2026 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	NA	NA
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	4	4
Manure storage closure	2	2
Livestock facility siting (P&Z admin; LWCD review)	3	
Nonmetallic mine reclamation	22	22
Stormwater and construction site erosion control plan review (subdivisions)	1	
Shoreland zoning	NA	
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	NA	
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total farm inspections	20
For FPP	15
For NR 151	5
Animal waste ordinance	4
Livestock facility siting	3
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	1
Nonmetallic mining	22

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	4
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	NA
Social media posts	10
News release/story	5
Presentations	5

DUNN COUNTY 2026 Annual Work Plan
Locally Identified Priorities

Presentations to LCC/Co Bd.	16
LWCD Intern (hours)	520

Table 5: Staff hours and expected costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours <i>(2080 hours is full time)</i>	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$150,000
Conservation Planners (6)	12,480	\$670,000
Support Specialist	2080	\$103,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Structural grant	N/A	\$75,000
SWRM SEG grant	N/A	\$20,000
MDV funding	N/A	\$32,000
DNR TRM grant	N/A	\$225,000
DNR NOD grant	N/A	\$880,000
Producer Led Watersheds		HR FLW: \$22,000 (DATCP) + \$5,000 (TNC)= \$27,000; RCCF: \$26,800 (DATCP) + \$10,000 (TNC) + \$46,000 (NOPP)= \$82,800

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: October 6, 2026

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty , DATCP
Resource Management Section,
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Shawano 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, 2036, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2031.

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

Shawano County held a public hearing on September 10, 2026, as part of its public input and review process. The Shawano 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
- 2025 workplan with accomplishments and current 2026 workplan

Presenters: Scott Frank, Shawano County Conservationist
Martin Elmer, Land Conservation and Extension Committee member



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: Shawano

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 7/1/2026

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)	☒	☐	7-8

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	Jan 28, February 25, March 25, April 22
2.	Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	9/10/26
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	Pending 10/28/26

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	☒	☐	Appendix C, 30
b.	Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			

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.

i.	location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	☒	☐	Appendix C, 17
ii.	identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	☒	☐	17-21, 29, 32-35
iii.	identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.	☒	☐	19-21, 32-53, Appendix C
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	☒	☐	34-53
b.	pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	☒	☐	31, Appendix F
Other comments: Appendix F includes Upper Fox - Wolf Basins TMDL baseline, % reduction, and target TP and TSS loads; Targeted Watershed Assessment for North Branch Embarrass River				

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	☒	☐	2, 5
Other comments: Plan draft shared with DNR and comments incorporated; DNR attendance and participation in advisory committee				

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	☒	☐	56, 63-64
b.	State and local regulations used to implement the plan	☒	☐	54-55, 72-74

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.

c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATPC 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	☒	☐	57-58
d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	☒	☐	59-60, Appendix B
e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	☒	☐	73-74, Appendix E
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			Work plan - annual costs
b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	☒	☐	
	☒	☐	Workplan; 62-71
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; as of 2024, ATPC 50.12(2)(f) also calls for identification of priority areas of resource concern for the county	☒	☐	56-57

Other comments: Includes list of priorities for NR 151 compliance and sites to offer cost cost share assistance to address stream bank and shoreline erosion, upland erosion, and nutrient loading from unlimited livestock access. Note - State Regulations pg 72: DATCP ATPC 50 also applies to manure storage ordinances

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	☒	☐	58 (NR 151), 75-76
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	☒	☐	76-78

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
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1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan⁵ do both of the following:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks | ☒ | ☐ | NA |
| b. Identify priorities | ☒ | ☐ | 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

☒	☐	79-81
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Other comments: 6 objectives and corresponding activities detailed in the LWRM Plan

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: N/A

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: Jennifer Chakravorty Date: 9/11/2026

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: Shawano

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

Answer these five questions in writing (not to exceed 5 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.
 - 1) Our benchmark has been to increase annual NMP submittals by 2,000 acres. Our multiple efforts to increase submittals of nutrient management plans has proven successful with an increase from 84,675 acres in 2021 to 106,211 acres in 2026. We make it a priority to require submittals of NMPs annually to our office for Farmland Preservation Program, those with Livestock Waste Management permits and through our Livestock Facility Licensing Ordinance. We also continue to offer an annual workshop for farmers to write their own NMP and have incorporated an NMFE grant to aid it. We also ask crop consultants to share NMPs for any of their customers which we do receive some of them. The routine has helped us maintain receiving plans and get new plans along with the ever increasing acres that goes along with it from farm consolidation, including those for CAFOs. This has allowed us to have an increase in NMP acres of over 25% the past five years.
 - 2) We coordinated the formation of a Producer-led Watershed Group in 2025. This had been a goal in one of the Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO) surface water grants a few years back and an LCD work plan activity to help them. The LCD worked with them on it to a limited extent until 2024/25. Through a winter workshop (Feb 2025) on cover crops and a panel of speakers for the Producer-led program we found interested farmers to form a group, Shawano County Watershed Advisory Council.
 - 3) Participation in DNR's Multi-Discharger Variance Program has enabled us to provide cost sharing for installation of harvestable buffers with three landowners from 2023-2025 in the Pensaukee River watershed. This BMP has many conservation benefits, especially when coupled with other cropland practices. It appears to be kind of a niche market for it with farms that have a need for this forage and the equipment to implement it. We are currently trying to expand this to some sub-watersheds in the Wolf River watershed. Now that this BMP is in ATCP 50 we have another funding option through SWRM grants.
 - 4) Our annual Youth Conservation Field Day for 5th grade students has become the signature activity of our youth education programming. The learning goals for these field days are to help students develop an appreciation for the outdoors, introduce students to careers in natural resources and agriculture, and make students aware of the need for

conservation and preservation practices. They are held in September at Navarino Nature Center (began in 2013) and in May at Wilson Creek Orchard (began in 2022). Students (180 to 230) spend the day in the outdoors making their way to 9-10 stations where partners provide interactive presentations on conservation and natural resource topics as well as touch on possible careers in those areas. We offer this program to the area schools free of charge along with providing a bus stipend (\$75 per bus) to the participating schools to help offset their costs so they can attend. Morning snacks and lunch are provided for the presenters, volunteers and workers. In order to successfully carry out these events, we couldn't make them happen without funding from the county, grants, as well as donations and help of volunteers. A new feature we started in 2019 (and has continued since) is to promote reducing our use of single-use plastics and giving a reusable water bottle (dishwasher safe, BPA free) to each 5th grade student. The funds received are used to help with bussing stipends, rentals of portable restrooms/wash stations, purchase of drawstring backpacks and reusable water bottles. We have also provided drawstring backpacks (since 2022) to each 5th grade student. These backpacks give students a place to put their things which we noticed helped them when compared to prior years. We are grateful for the different agencies and organizations who come with their time, talents and knowledge to help make this event a continued success.

5) WAMSCO formed in 2015 and secured 501c(3) status in 2017. The LCD has partnered with them on many grants and educational programs the past 10 years. One of these has been the Shawano County Shoreland Restoration Program (started in 2014) providing county funds and DNR Surface Water grants along with WAMSCO coordinating Healthy Lakes grants through the DNR. We both make a strong effort to promote opportunities to landowners for shoreland BMPs and try to find the best fit for the funds available. The LCD has cost-shared 28 projects since 2014. WAMSCO has cost-shared 19 projects since 2023.

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.

1) We have not been able to consistently utilize our DATCP SEG funding each year. It goes in spurts but in years we do not have interested farms we transfer it to another county. In 2026 we begun to include cover crops as cost-share BMP for some of these funds. We likely need to do a more targeted approach each year to farms through farm visits. 2) We have not been able to get at working on two of the Priority Farm Strategies and have started an effort described in question 3. below to get at it. 3) We have not been able to get our 9-Key element plan for two sub-watersheds of the North Branch Embarrass River done. The draft plan is about 70% complete. Our goal is to get it over the finish line in 2027. One of the reasons these activities have not been getting done is the amount of time needed to oversee our Livestock Facility Licensing Ordinance. We currently have 20 farms under a license. Since 2021 we average 3 new licenses and 4 license modifications annually.

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?

The LCD has 3.6 FTEs. We are involved in many outreach events/activities including Demonstration Farm Networks, monthly updates at Shawano County Farm Bureau meetings, targeted mailings for waste storage closures and harvestable buffers, annual NMP Farmer Workshop, include information in Shawano County UWEX newsletters, contact farms about participating in DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education program, and have information about FPP and AEAs at Town of Maple Grove and Hartland on election days. We have not conducted any analysis on effectiveness other than it appears we have been able to keep up with the demand and associated program requirements for 5 of the 7 priorities. Without altering services or programming, we don't have the capacity and have made changes to allow us to get at these two priorities as described below. Priority 1) - We work regularly with DNR non-point staff to address complaints received and sites we have concerns about non-compliance with ag performance standards and prohibitions. Priority 2) We work with approximately 200 participating landowners in the Farmland Preservation Program including two Agricultural Enterprise Areas. Priority 3) We work with farms applying for a Livestock Waste Management Permit to also address ag performance standards and prohibitions. This mostly involves nutrient management plans. Priority 4) We work with farms requesting financial assistance for installation of conservation practices and have done so through multiple sources (SWRM, TRM, NOD, DATCP Engineering Reserve and coordinate w/NRCS on EQIP. We are fortunate to have two technicians that plan, design and oversee installation of conservation practices. We have been able to keep up with demand for these services due to less farms and larger farms using private consultants. Priority 5) We have not inventoried farms within 1,000 feet of surface water in any systematic way until recently. It had just been done sporadically. In 2026 we were awarded a DNR surface water grant that includes increasing our capacity by partnering with WAMSCO to work on this priority. Priority 6) We have not inventoried farms located in watersheds draining to 303(d) waters for compliance in any systematic way until recently. This is also included in the DNR surface water grant noted in Priority 5) above. Priority 7) We have been able to help most farms that voluntarily request assistance to install soil and water conservation practices. There have been instances where due to challenging site (ex. high groundwater) conditions or not able to meet landowners desired timeline we have directed them to private consultants.

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.

1) One change was working with WAMSCO to form a Producer-led group (see explanation in Question 1 above). 2) Another one was through DNR reaching out regarding our interest in creating a 9-Key element plan and providing funding to contract out the watershed modeling. This has been in a holding pattern for the past 18 months due to lack of LCD capacity to get the draft plan completed for DNR review. The LCD target is to do this in 2027. 3) The LCD was approached by NRCS in 2019/2020 to be part of another Demonstration Farm Network. In 2021 the Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Network began. County Participation in these networks includes monthly meetings, helping with field days and annual Farmer Roundtable events. 4) The DNR changed its grant program for aquatic invasive species and created the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network program. The LCD incorporated this into its workload in 2021. It was not a good fit so in 2022 we transitioned by partnering with WAMSCO to be our Cooperative Agent and implement the annual grant deliverables and receive the annual funding.

5. What do you observe as gaps in understanding or research that hinder conservation progress or water quality improvement?

Part of the LWCB's duties is to advise the University of Wisconsin system on needed research and education programs relating to soil and water conservation. The answer to this question will be used in research and outreach efforts by the University of Wisconsin.

There are so many parts to this conservation equation that are beyond our control. The ever changing dynamics of production agriculture including volatility in markets, land and rent prices and landownership changes being some primary ones. There is this eb and flow in our conservation world of making gains and seeing regression. There is not enough collective effort across all levels of government, private sector and society to avoid these ups and downs, keep conservation at the forefront and continue building an upward trajectory. We work with such a small fraction of the landowners in our respective areas and the combined approach of some regulation, some incentives and some voluntary does not seem to be getting us to where we need to go. This may be our best way to at least maintain a level of conservation but we will need something significant to occur that spurs large scale changes to go beyond it. The 590 Nutrient Management standard is primarily based on maintaining production while trying to account for the environment. Until this changes we are using a tool that does not fit the desired and needed outcomes for water quality and other environmental needs. The DNRs recent efforts to recognize the importance of watersheds needing protection compared to restoration is a key step in the right direction for our environment. More work should be done in this area and what it takes to maintain that level of a quality environment.

Please consider answering the following optional question (not to exceed 1 page)

1. The LWCB is interested in learning how county conservation staff are addressing changing weather patterns. To this end, the LWCB reached out to WI Land+Water for guidance, see the [WI Land+Water memo](#) dated for October 28, 2020. Your response to the following question will be appreciated.

Is climate change resiliency contained in your LWRM plan (Yes ☒ or No ☐). If yes, indicate with page number(s) or statement(s) where within the LWRM plan it is located and please consider the factors below, as examples, in your answer.

- a. *Plants and natural communities (forests, wetlands, prairies, invasive species)*
- b. *Soil and agriculture*
- c. *Weather (growing season, seasonal temperatures, precipitation)*
- d. *Infrastructure*
- e. *Land owners (residents)*
- f. *Water resources (groundwater and surface water quality and quantity)*
- g. *Fisheries*
- h. *Wildlife*
- i. *Human health and recreation*

Answer Below

This issue was explained and discussed during our citizen Advisory Committee meetings. They were supportive of acknowledging the climate data, its related effect on erosion, water quality and flooding. We have a section titled Climate on page 13 in our plan. It mentions the amount and intensity of precipitation are more important to soil and

water conservation as it applies to issues of increased erosion and the design of BMPs that are installed to reduce or prevent it. It also identifies BMPs like wetland restoration and those resulting in perennial cover will be key to addressing the impacts of increased rainfall. The Climate Profile of Shawano County produced by the Wisconsin State Climatlogy Office is included in the plan Appendix F.

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: 9/3/26

Signature of Authorized Representative: Scott M. Frank Date: 9-3-2026
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed form and attachments to:
jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov

SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 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)
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	➤ <i>Communicate with partner agencies and agronomists on promoting the development of nutrient management (NM) to increase annual submittals (2,000 ac) to the LCD</i> ➤ <i>Contact landowners with a cost share agreement for NM and those with a county Livestock Waste Management permit who have not submitted annual NM plan to LCD (20 landowners)</i> ➤ <i>Apply for \$50,000 of SEG cost share and \$12,136 NMFE Tier I funding through 2026 DATCP SWRM grant</i> ➤ <i>Utilize \$3,125 and secure transfer of \$21,875 more of SEG cost share funding from 2025 DATCP SWRM grant (NMPs)</i> ➤ <i>Promote conservation programs, including through partners like Shawano County Farm Bureau (500 contacts)</i> ➤ <i>Host Winter Farmer Workshop – Healthy Soils, Healthy Farms (40 participants)</i> ➤ <i>Provide training for new / recertifying landowners (15) to develop and/or update NM plans</i> ➤ <i>Implement 2025 NMFE grant (16 farms)</i> ➤ <i>Promote cropland BMP’s through participation in Upper Fox/Wolf River and Green Bay West Shore Demo-Farm Networks (2 events, 50 attendees)</i> ➤ <i>Promote cover crops, no-till and low-disturbance manure application through Climate Smart grant with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (mailings, emails, phone calls, workshops, facebook)</i> ➤ <i>In Wolf and Duck/Pensaukee watersheds, coordinate use of MDV funds for cost share of harvestable buffers – 30 targeted mailings/calls</i> ➤ <i>Distribution and receipt of 100% of annual FPP self-certification forms</i> Practice Installation ➤ <i>NM plan development (2 new participants, 800 Ac)</i> ➤ <i>Harvestable Buffers (20 acres)</i> ➤ <i>No-till - FWWA Back 40 Soil Health (100 ac)</i> ➤ <i>No-till - FWWA Climate Smart (550 ac)</i> ➤ <i>Cover Crops - FWWA Climate Smart (750 ac)</i> ➤ <i>Grassed Waterways (2 ac)</i>	<i>Increased NM plan reporting (6,559 acres)</i> <i>Contacted 4 landowners; 4 NMPs received</i> <i>Awarded \$3,125 ; \$15,375 amounts</i> <i>3 NM plans completed and \$10,088 payments made</i> <i>0 acres of Cover crops</i> <i>1 UWEX newsletters; 1 Demo Farm Networks;</i> <i>2 LCD mailings; info to county website; 11 SCFB mtgs</i> <i>21 attendees; 5 follow-up interest</i> <i>17 attendees at NMP SNAP+ Workshop on 12/8/2025</i> <i>2 NMFE visits</i> <i>Contacts made 1 event; 20 attendees</i> <i>Events held 0 Attendees 0 (grant was cancelled)</i> <i>Contacts made 0</i> <i>Contracts signed 0</i> <i>16 contacts made; 1 interested</i> <i>90% returned</i> <i>NoN issued to Joey Tauchen and Richard Holewinski</i> <i>1 New participants in NM Workshop, 151 Acres</i> <i>1.1 Acres installed</i> <i>44.4 Acres installed</i> <i>0 Acres installed</i> <i>0 Acres installed</i> <i>2.1 Acres installed</i>

SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories</i> ➤ Conduct annual Tillage Transect Survey w/SNAP+, update soil loss data reports and evaluate trends. ➤ Update GIS layer for 2025 NM Plans	<i>Completed survey</i> <i>Data layer updated</i>
• <i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock	➤ Coordinate with WI DNR on compliance with NR151 agricultural performance standards and prohibitions (3 sites) ➤ Promote opportunities for abandonment of Waste Storage Systems (50) ➤ Implement County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (5 complaints) ➤ Assist farms (2) with waste management planning, surveying, design and installation ➤ Apply for \$60,000 Bond cost share – 2026 SWRM grant ➤ Promote positive soil and water conservation efforts of landowners by hosting annual Conservation Partners Tour (1 event, 16 attendees) ➤ Utilize \$27,445 and \$44,500 of Bond cost share funding respectively from 2024 Ext and 2025 DATCP SWRM grants <i>Practice installation</i> ➤ Waste Storage Closure (5); 2 of them w/LCD assistance ➤ Manure Storage (3) and Waste transfer (8) <i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories</i> ➤ Farmland Preservation – Conservation Compliance onsite reviews (30) ➤ Review of Livestock Facility Licensing applications (2) and modifications (3), Public Information Mtgs held (2) ➤ Compliance monitoring of current Livestock Facility Licenses (5) ➤ Review of Waste Storage / Waste Transfer permit applications (8) ➤ Compliance monitoring of (DATCP/DNR) prior cost-share projects (5)	<i>Addressed 5 compliance violations</i> <i>60 Landowners contacted; 3 Responses; 2 Request \$</i> <i>Addressed 5 agricultural runoff complaints</i> <i>Provided technical services to 7 farms</i> <i>Awarded \$ 44,500 in bond funds</i> <i>Hosted a Conservation Partners Tour on August 7, 2025 – 21 participants</i> <i>\$121,059 payments made (incl \$75,000 of Eng Reserve</i> <i>5 installed; \$23,023 cost share; 3 LCD assisted</i> <i>18 installed; \$ 0 cost share</i> <i>29 onsite reviews completed; 30 CoC's issued</i> <i>8 Livestock Facility Licensing applications and modifications reviewed/approved for compliance with performance standards</i> <i>7 Livestock Facility Licenses reviewed for compliance with performance standards</i> <i>14 Waste Storage / Waste Transfer permit applications reviewed / approved</i> <i>0 Cost-share projects reviewed for compliance with performance standards</i>
• <i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	➤ Promote opportunities to landowners on well decommissioning (50) ➤ Provide technical assistance and cost sharing for well decommissions (1) ➤ With WAMSCO, promote DNR's Healthy Lakes Program - establishment of rain gardens, native buffers with help from local partners like Wolf River Wild Ones ➤ Awarded DNR Surface Water Management Grant for phase II	<i>Contacted 1 landowners/operators; added no info to county website</i> <i>See installation below</i> <i>2 posts made; ? responses received;</i> <i>4 onsites done; 3 cost share requests</i> <i>Grant awarded in Feb. 2025.</i>

SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	of shoreland protection project on Tilleda Pond ➤ Help WAMSCO with Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant activities as needed ➤ <i>What's in your water? Well water testing program/grant</i> Practice installation ➤ Shoreline restoration (150 linear feet) ➤ Shoreline Protection phase II (200 linear feet) ➤ Rain Gardens (1) ➤ Well decommissioning (1) ➤ Waste storage (2) through TRM/NOD grants Planning (e.g. lake, source water) ➤ Target impaired waters for use of MDV funds and Climate Smart funds (modeling tools)	Activities assisted: <i>none</i> <i>2,930 flyers mailed out w/tax bills for 5 townships</i> <i>0 linear feet restored; \$ _____ cost share (\$5,000 re-allocated to well water testing program)</i> <i>100 linear feet restored; \$3,867 cost share</i> <i>0 installed; \$ _____ cost share</i> <i>0 completed; \$ _____ cost share</i> <i>1 installed; \$224,803 cost share</i> <i>Areas determined by models Made proposal to DNR for use of MDV funding in multiple HUC12 watersheds; Climate Smart Funding was cancelled</i>
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- *Forestry*

Forestry	➤ Continue implementation of the Shawano County Forest Stewardship Management Plan ➤ Continue coordination with local DNR foresters on county owned tree planters	2025 planned actions completed or modified: <i>targeting timber sale in 2026</i> <i>Maintenance completed on and continued use of tree planters</i> <i>81,000 trees planted</i>
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- *Invasive species*

Invasive species	➤ Coordinate programming and activities with Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), and County Highway/Parks Dept ➤ Continue work with Lumberjack RC&D and TIP on a demonstration site for invasive species control and restoration ➤ Complete maintenance of AIS Kiosks at boat landings (5) ➤ Help WAMSCO with Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant activities as needed Management plans ➤ Continue implementation of the Shawano County Invasive Species Strategic Management Plan and work with TIP and WAMSCO. Surveys ➤ Assist DNR and WAMSCO as needed Control ➤ Assist TIP as time and resources allow	<i>Continued being an active member in TIP organization; 4 meetings attended</i> <i>Assistance provided - none</i> <i>0 AIS Kiosks maintained</i> <i>Aquatic invasive species activities completed - none</i> <i>Work done and assistance provided (as time and resources allow) Multiple landowners were referred to TIP and WAMSCO</i> <i>0 Events and Activities</i> <i>Assistance provided at 1 site</i>
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SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	➤ Continue to implement the Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims program (24 landowners) ➤ Work with partners to provide education benefits of Healthy Lakes practices (1-3 events; 75 people)	<i>Assisted one landowner with damage payment; Ten enrolled landowners</i> Education at 0 events; 0 communications with lake organizations; informed 3 people
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- *Urban*

Urban issues	NA	NA
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- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories</i> ➤ Complete development of 9-Key Element Plan for N. Br. Embarrass River with DNR ➤ Work with Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO) to: promote good conservation effort and help implement DNR surface water grants ➤ Conduct outreach to increase awareness and participation in Farmland Preservation Program ➤ Assist with process and application to establish AEA in Town of Lessor ➤ Coordinate interested farmers and partners on development and submittal of grant application for Producer-Led Watershed Group ➤ Work with WAMSCO to implement streambank protection on tributaries of Shawano Lake	<i>Final plan submitted to DNR/EPA: not yet</i> <i>Number of partnership development activities accomplished ____ meetings attended 3; advisor to organization</i> <i>Number of goals/objectives/projects in grants accomplished</i> <i>Multiple DNR surface water grants were completed and met deliverables</i> <i>Mailing to 9 landowners and participated in Town of Lessor Board mtg for AEA support</i> <i>Application submitted by Aug. 1 2025 deadline; Application was approved.</i> <i>3 Meetings held and application submitted by Sept 2025 deadline. Application was awarded.</i> <i>Practices installed N/A; # of sediment reduced N/A</i> <i># of P reduced 1 project started and to continue into 2026</i>
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- *Other*

Youth Education	➤ Continue coordination of annual Youth Conservation Field Days for area 5th grade students (440 students) at two events ➤ Educate others on our Youth Conservation Field Day events and seek grant funds to support it ➤ Coordinate local youth Conservation Awareness Poster Contest as part of WI Land+Water contest (200 students enter posters) ➤ Recognize students that place (1st, 2nd and 3rd) in local, area and state Conservation Awareness Poster Contest at Shawano County Board meeting ➤ Promote Youth Conservation Camps and offer	<i>28 partner contacts made; 10 schools attended; 406 students participated</i> <i>multiple Contacts made; \$3,000 grant funds received from Green Bay Packers Foundation</i> <i>Contacted all area schools, youth organizations; 176 students enter posters</i> <i>11 students participated in Mar 26, 2025 County Board meeting</i> <i>Contacted all area schools; no scholarships requested; Scott</i>
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SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<i>camp scholarships; Assist with high school camp</i> ➤ <i>Assist WI Land+Water with Envirothon event</i>	<i>Frank assisted with H.S. conservation camp</i> <i>Help as needed – Scott Frank assisted at event on April 11, 2025</i>
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits/Licenses anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	12	8
Manure storage closure	5	5
Livestock facility siting (License)	5	5
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	45
For FPP	30
For NR 151	8
Livestock waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	7
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

SHAWANO COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	3
Presentations	3
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	6
News release/story	1

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>LCD Staff</i>	9,568	\$410,000
<i>Support Costs</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$40,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Bonding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$44,500</i>
<i>Bonding – 2024 carryover</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$27,445</i>
<i>SEG (Nutrient Management Plans)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>NMFE (stipends and cost share; LCD expenses)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$16,875</i>
<i>Back 40 Soil Health Program (No-till)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>
<i>Climate Smart Project (No-till, Cover Crops)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>County Shoreland Restoration Program</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>TRM / NOD grants (2)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$450,000</i>
<i>MDV</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>

SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 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)
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	➤ <i>Communicate with partner agencies and agronomists on promoting the development of nutrient management (NM) to increase annual submittals (2,000 ac) to the LCD</i> ➤ <i>Contact landowners with a cost share agreement for NM and those with a county Livestock Waste Management permit who have not submitted annual NM plan to LCD (20 landowners)</i> ➤ <i>Apply for \$40,000 of SEG cost share and \$4,835 NMFE funding through 2027 DATCP grants</i> ➤ <i>Utilize \$45,000 of SEG cost share funding from 2026 DATCP SWRM grant (NMPs and Cover Crops)</i> ➤ <i>Promote conservation programs, including through partners like Shawano County Farm Bureau (500 contacts)</i> ➤ <i>Work w/SCWAC to have a Soil Health Workshop – (20 participants)</i> ➤ <i>Provide training for new / recertifying landowners (15) to develop and/or update NM plans</i> ➤ <i>Implement 2026 NMFE grant (16 farms)</i> ➤ <i>Promote cropland BMP’s through participation in Upper Fox/Wolf River and Green Bay West Shore Demo-Farm Networks (2 events, 50 attendees)</i> ➤ <i>Promote cover crops, no-till, perennial forages and low-disturbance manure application through Producer-led grant with (mailings, emails, phone calls, workshops, facebook)</i> ➤ <i>Wolf River sub-watersheds, coordinate use of MDV funds for cost share of harvestable buffers – 30 targeted mailings/calls</i> ➤ <i>Distribution and receipt of 100% of annual FPP self-certification forms</i> Practice Installation ➤ <i>NM plan development (2 new participants, 300 Ac)</i> ➤ <i>Harvestable Buffers (20 acres)</i> ➤ <i>Soil Health Tests (2 farms)</i> ➤ <i>Cover Crops – SWRM (150 ac); SCWAC (120 ac)</i> Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories ➤ <i>Conduct annual Tillage Transect Survey w/SNAP+, update soil loss data reports and evaluate trends.</i> ➤ <i>Update GIS layer for 2026 NM Plans</i>	<i>Increased NM plan reporting (_____ acres)</i> <i>Contacted _____ landowners; _____ NMPs received</i> <i>Awarded \$ _____ ; _____ amounts</i> <i>_____ NM plans completed and \$ _____ payments made</i> <i>_____ acres of Cover crops</i> <i>_____ UWEX newsletters; _____ Demo Farm Networks; _____ SCWAC</i> <i>_____ LCD mailings; info to county website; _____ SCFB mtgs</i> <i>_____ attendees; _____ follow-up interest</i> <i>_____ NMFE visits</i> <i>Contacts made _____</i> <i>Events held _____ Attendees _____</i> <i>Contacts made _____</i> <i>Contracts signed _____</i> <i>_____ contacts made; _____ projects planned</i> <i>_____ % returned</i> <i>_____ New participants in NM Workshop, _____ Acres</i> <i>_____ Acres installed</i> <i>_____ Farms</i> <i>_____ Acres installed</i> <i>Completed survey</i> <i>Data layer updated</i>

SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• Livestock

Livestock	➤ Coordinate with WI DNR on compliance with NR151 agricultural performance standards and prohibitions (3 sites) ➤ Promote opportunities for abandonment of Waste Storage Systems (50) ➤ Implement County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (5 complaints) ➤ Assist farms (2) with waste management planning, surveying, design and installation ➤ Apply for \$60,000 Bond cost share – 2027 SWRM grant ➤ Utilize \$18,873 and \$40,800 of Bond cost share funding respectively from 2025 Ext and 2026 DATCP SWRM grants Practice installation ➤ Waste Storage Closure (4); 2 of them w/LCD assistance ➤ Manure Storage (2) and Waste transfer (8) Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories ➤ Farmland Preservation – Conservation Compliance onsite reviews (40) ➤ Review of Livestock Facility Licensing applications (2) and modifications (4), Public Information Mtgs held (2) ➤ Compliance monitoring of current Livestock Facility Licenses (5) ➤ Review of Waste Storage / Waste Transfer permit applications (8) ➤ Compliance monitoring of (DATCP/DNR) prior cost-share projects (5)	Addressed ____ compliance violations ____ Landowners contacted; ____ Responses; ____ Request \$ Addressed ____ agricultural runoff complaints Provided technical services to ____ farms Awarded requested \$ ____ amount \$ ____ payments made ____ installed; \$ ____ cost share; ____ LCD assisted ____ installed; \$ ____ cost share ____ onsite reviews completed; ____ CoC's issued ____ Livestock Facility Licensing applications and modifications reviewed/approved for compliance with performance standards ____ Livestock Facility Licenses reviewed for compliance with performance standards ____ Waste Storage / Waste Transfer permit applications reviewed / approved ____ Cost-share projects reviewed for compliance with performance standards
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• Water quality

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	➤ Promote to landowners on well decommissioning (50) ➤ Provide technical assistance and cost sharing for well decommissions (1) ➤ With WAMSCO, promote DNR's Healthy Lakes Program - establishment of rain gardens, native buffers with help from local partners like Wolf River Wild Ones ➤ Help WAMSCO with Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant activities as needed ➤ Promote soil and water conservation efforts of landowners and uniqueness of Shawano County in hosting Lake Michigan Area Summer Tour (1 event, 45 attendees) ➤ Well Water Testing Program w/County Public Health Dept (152 participants in eastern Shawano County) ➤ Well Water Screening for nitrates at the Shawano County Fair with WAMSCO and UWEX (100)	Contacted ____ landowners/operators; added ____ info to county website See installation below ____ posts made; ____ responses received; ____ onsites done; ____ cost share requests Activities assisted: Tour on <u>July 24, 2026</u>; ____ attendees 146 participated; 35-40 attended education event ____ participated
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SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	Practice installation ➤ Shoreline Protection (Tilleda Falls) phase II (200 linear feet) ➤ Well decommissioning (1) ➤ Waste storage (2) through TRM/NOD grants Planning (e.g. lake, source water) ➤ Target high P loading watersheds for use of MDV funds (modeling tools)	____ installed; \$ ____ cost share ____ completed; \$ ____ cost share ____ installed; \$ ____ cost share Areas determined by models
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• *Forestry*

Forestry	➤ Continue implementation of the Shawano County Forest Stewardship Management Plan – (Coordinate timber marking and put out for bids) ➤ Continue coordination with local DNR foresters on county owned tree planters	2026 planned actions completed or modified: Maintenance completed on and continued use of tree planters # ____ trees planted
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• *Invasive species*

Invasive species	➤ Coordinate programming and activities with Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), and County Highway/Parks Dept ➤ Continue work with Lumberjack RC&D and TIP on a demonstration site for invasive species control and restoration ➤ Complete maintenance of AIS Kiosks at boat landings (3) ➤ Help WAMSCO with Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant activities as needed Management plans ➤ Continue implementation of the Shawano County Invasive Species Strategic Management Plan and work with TIP and WAMSCO. Surveys ➤ Assist DNR and WAMSCO as needed Control ➤ Assist TIP as time and resources allow	Continue being an active member in TIP organization; ____ meetings attended ____ Assistance provided ____ AIS Kiosks maintained Aquatic invasive species activities completed Work done and assistance provided (as time and resources allow) ____ Events and Activities Assistance provided at ____ sites
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	➤ Continue to implement the Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims program (25 landowners) ➤ Work with partners to provide education benefits of Healthy Lakes practices (1-3 events; 75 people) ➤ Support partner efforts in projects that aid fish and aquatic organism passage and wetland connectivity	Assisted ____ landowners Education at ____ events; ____ communications with lake organizations; informed ____ people ____ Letters of support
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	NA	NA
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SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	➤ <i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories</i> ➤ <i>Complete development of 9-Key Element Plan for N. Br. Embarrass River with DNR</i> ➤ <i>Work with Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO) to: promote good conservation effort and help implement DNR surface water grants</i> ➤ <i>Conduct outreach to increase awareness and participation in Farmland Preservation Program</i> ➤ <i>Assist with promotion and signup of landowners (10) for Farmland Preservation AEA in Town of Lessor</i> ➤ <i>Complete inventory of selected sites (17) needing data for statewide NR 151 Progress & Resource Analysis Project</i> ➤ <i>Work with WAMSCO to implement streambank protection on tributaries of Shawano Lake</i>	<i>Final plan submitted to DNR/EPA:</i> <i>Number of partnership development activities accomplished ____ meetings attended ____; advisor to organization</i> <i>Number of goals/objectives/projects in grants accomplished</i> <i>Mailing to landowners and local government officials</i> ____ Landowners signed up ____ Sites inventoried <i>Practices installed ____; # of sediment reduced ____</i> <i># of P reduced ____</i>
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• *Other*

Youth Education	➤ <i>Continue coordination of annual Youth Conservation Field Days for area 5th grade students (440 students) at two events</i> ➤ <i>Educate others on our Youth Conservation Field Day events and seek grant funds to support it</i> ➤ <i>Coordinate local youth Conservation Awareness Poster Contest as part of WI Land+Water contest (150 students enter posters)</i> ➤ <i>Recognize students that place (1st, 2nd and 3rd) in local, area and state Conservation Awareness Poster Contest at Shawano County Board meeting</i> ➤ <i>Promote Youth Conservation Camps and offer camp scholarships; Assist with high school camp</i> ➤ <i>Assist WI Land+Water with Envirothon event</i>	____ partner contacts made; ____ schools attended; ____ students participated WCO=25, 6, 215 ____ Contacts made; ____ grant funds received <i>Contact all area schools, youth organizations; <u>133</u> students enter posters</i> <u>15</u> Number of students participate in County Board meeting <i>Contact all area schools; ____ area students attended camp</i> <i>Help as needed</i> <i>Receives approval of plan on _____</i>
Land & Water Resource Management Plan	➤ <i>Complete revision of plan and present for 10-year approval to Land and Water Conservation Board</i>	<i>Receives approval of plan on _____</i>

SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits/Licenses anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	10	8
Manure storage closure	4	4
Livestock facility siting (License)	6	6
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	56
For FPP	40
For NR 151	5
Livestock waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	6
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	0

SHAWANO COUNTY 2026 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	1
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	5
Presentations	3
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	6
News release/story	1

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>LCD Staff</i>	7,488	\$354,000
<i>Support Costs</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$45,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Bonding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$40,800</i>
<i>Bonding – 2025 carryover</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$18,873</i>
<i>SEG (Nutrient Management Plans, Cover Crops)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>
<i>NMFE (stipends and cost share; LCD expenses)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$10,500</i>
<i>Producer-led Watershed Group (SCWAC)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$17,500</i>
<i>Surface Water Grant (Tilleda Falls) CSS, LCD ex</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>
<i>County Shoreland Restoration Program</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>TRM / NOD grants (2)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>
<i>MDV</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$18,000</i>



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: September 25, 2026

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Susan Mockert, DATCP
Bureau of Land and Water Resources Management

SUBJECT: *2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan for the Soil and Water Resource Management Program and the Nonpoint Source Program*

Recommend Action: This is an action item. Staff request that the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) recommend approval of the 2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan.

Procedural Summary: On August 4, 2026, DATCP provided a link to the 2027 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) to interested parties, including county land conservation departments and current and former DATCP grant cooperators. Interested parties were advised of their opportunities to comment on the preliminary allocation including the option of submitting written comments by September 8, 2026. No substantive comments were submitted.

Allocation Summary: The *2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan* provides details on how both the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will allocate \$26,872,725 of available nonpoint grant funds to county land conservation committees and other project cooperators. This plan does not include DNR award of grants to cities, towns, and villages for projects under ss. 281.65 or 285.66, Wis. Stats.

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

Materials Provided:

- 2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan, 2027 Environmental Assessment
- Presenter: Susan Mockert (DATCP)

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2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan

Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program and Nonpoint Source Program



October 2026

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Summary of Changes for Final Allocation

There have been no substantive changes from the preliminary allocation plan.

Approval Signatures

DATCP has determined that the action described in this allocation plan for the 2027 Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program shown in Table A conforms to the applicable DATCP provisions of s. 92.14, Wis. Stats., and ch. ATCP 50, Wis. Admin. Code. DATCP reserves the right to reallocate grant funds unexpended by recipients.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Randy Romanski, Secretary

DNR has determined that the action described in this allocation plan for the 2027 allocations of DNR funds shown in Table B conforms with the provisions of ss. 281.62, and 281.66, Wis. Stats.,

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Dr. Karen Hyun, Secretary

Introduction

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

DATCP is allocating grants to county land conservation committees (counties) and other project cooperators (OPC) in 2027 through the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Program ([Table A](#)).

DNR is allocating grants to counties through the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM), the Notice of Discharge (NOD), and the Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Projects (UNPS) Grant programs ([Table B](#)).

For 2027, a total of \$26,872,725 is allocated based on the state budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. [Table C](#) summarizes all allocations by grantee. Organized by funding category, [Chart 1](#) summarizes grant fund requests, unmet funding requests, and allocation amounts. If required, these allocations may be adjusted based on reductions or lapses in appropriations or authorizations.

Funding Sources and Allocation Requests

CHART 1: GRANT REQUESTS AND ALLOCATIONS			
Funding Category	Total Requests	Unmet Requests	Allocation Amounts
DATCP			
County Staff/Support	\$22,250,142	\$6,845,035	\$15,405,107
LWRM Cost-Share	\$6,466,700	\$2,656,116	\$3,810,584
Bond Reserve (B)	\$1,057,914	\$757,914	\$300,000
LWRM Cost-Share (SEG)	\$2,905,000	\$565,000	\$2,340,000
Cooperator Contracts (SEG)	\$1,299,247	\$261,071	\$1,038,176
Innovation Grants (SEG)	\$124,055	\$124,055	\$0
NMFE Grants (SEG)	\$333,334	\$36,510	\$296,824
SUBTOTAL	\$34,436,392	\$11,245,701	\$23,190,691
DNR			
UNPS Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0
UNPS Construction	\$115,000	\$0	\$115,000
TRM	\$2,567,034	\$0	\$2,567,034
NOD Reserve (B)			\$1,000,000
SUBTOTAL	\$2,682,034	\$0	\$3,682,034
TOTAL			\$26,872,725

CHART 2: FUNDING SOURCES	
Staff and Support Grants	
\$9,698,000	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe)
\$5,707,107	DATCP GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c)
\$15,405,107	DATCP Subtotal
\$140,000	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(aq)
\$231,265	DNR GPR from s. 20.370(6)(ag)
\$0	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(dq)
\$28,363	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
\$399,628	DNR Subtotal
\$15,804,735	TOTAL Staff & Support Grants
Cost-Share Grants	
\$3,810,584	DATCP GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c)
\$300,000	DATCP Bond Reserve from s. 20.866(2)(we)
\$2,340,000	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
\$6,450,584	DATCP Subtotal
\$1,436,284	DNR Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(tf)
\$1,203,086	DNR GPR from s. 20.370(6)(ag)
\$115,000	DNR GPR from s. 20.370(6)(aq)
\$160,000	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(aq)
\$368,036	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
\$3,282,406	DNR Subtotal
\$9,732,990	TOTAL Cost-Share Grants
Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) & Other Project Cooperator (OPC) Grants	
\$296,824	DATCP SEG (NMFE) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
\$1,038,176	DATCP SEG (OPC) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
\$0	DATCP SEG (Innovation) from s.20.115(7)(qf)
\$1,335,000	TOTAL NMFE & Other Grants
\$26,872,725	Grand Total

DATCP Allocations

Staff and Support

The allocation made under this category provides county staff and support funding. Grant awards are consistent with the terms of the 2027 grant application and instructions located at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx. Allocations are made in support of local land conservation personnel under the SWRM program.

The allocations listed in [Table A-1](#) consist of the 2027 annual appropriations of \$5,664,400 in General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funds and \$9,698,000 in segregated (SEG) funds, including base appropriations and one-time funding increases. There was \$42,707 in underspending of the staffing grant awards in 2026 to increase the allocation for the 2027 grant year to \$15,405,107.

County staff and support grants are awarded according to a:

- Base allocation of \$5,400,000 composed of \$75,000 to each county
- Tier 1 award of \$3,010,408 for first position eligibility (round 1)
- Tier 2 award of \$4,797,972 for 70% of the second position (round 2)
- Tier 3 award of the remaining \$2,196,727 in funding (round 3)

Awards are allotted in three rounds to reach statutory percentage funding at 100, 70, and 50 percent of the prorated costs of three conservation staff positions in every county. For 2027, SEG and GPR allocations allowed for complete funding of the first position (at 100%), and the second position (at 70%), and 79% of the third position (at 50%). DATCP would need an increase of \$597,282 to meet the statutory amount in 2027. If requests equal the ten-year average increase, DATCP would need \$16,464,495 to meet estimated statutory goals in 2028.

DATCP awards grants for a county's first position only if the staff is actively engaged in qualified conservation activities. DATCP also requires annual work planning and reporting in order to qualify for DATCP funding. These requirements build county conservation capacity and better account for the performance of conservation activities using state funds.

If additional staffing funding remains available, DATCP may consider future adjustments to the grant formula to advance the goals of capacity building and accountability without compromising the basic funding for county staff.

DATCP reserves the right to adjust awards to accommodate changing state budgets. If adjustments to the staffing formula are made in the future, DATCP will proceed with caution in consideration of any challenges and after input from the counties.

General Purpose Revenue (GPR) and Bond Funds

The 2025-2027 Wisconsin Biennial Budget allocates \$7 million for structural cost-share.

This year's allocation amount consists of \$3.5 million, half of SWRM's \$7 million authorization in the 2025-2027 biennium budget of GPR funds. Previously allocated, but unspent 2024 extended GPR funds and unspent 2025 GPR funds increased the 2027 allocation by \$310,584. Approved extended Bond and GPR funds remain available for documented extended projects.

Cost Sharing Structural Practices

After providing each applying county with \$10,000 in base funding, DATCP awarded the remaining \$3,090,584 using two performance-based criteria (a three-year record of cumulative spending of cost-share funds and a three-year average of underspending of cost-share funds) and one needs-based criteria (farmland acres based on 2022 Census of Agriculture data).

[Table A-2](#) shows each county's total award amount and the factors that contributed to the county's award. DATCP was unable to meet 41% of the counties' requests for structural cost-share funds. The impact of this shortfall is limiting capacity to meet NR 151 performance standards.

Engineering Reserve Projects (Bond)

DATCP will allocate \$300,000 to projects primarily addressing discharges on farms. Funds may also be used for priority projects related to extreme weather events or other priority projects not otherwise addressed.

Segregated (SEG) Funds

The 2025-2027 Wisconsin Biennial Budget allocates \$6,475,000 under s. 92.14, with the following annual adjustments:

- \$1,000,000 redirected to Producer-led Watershed Protection grants
- \$1,000,000 redirected to the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)
- \$800,000 redirected to the Crop Insurance Premium Rebates for Planting Cover Crops program

The allocations under this category provide funding for:

- Landowner cost sharing for "soft" practices in support of a nutrient management (NM) plan
- Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE)
- Nutrient Management implementation support and other projects of statewide importance
- Innovative projects focused on creative implementation of Nutrient Management projects

\$3,675,000 was allocated to SEG programming for cost-share grants, NMFE trainings, and cooperator grants. Unless otherwise noted, awards are consistent with the terms of the 2027 grant application and instructions located at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx.

Innovation Grants receive funding only if resources remain after priority projects have been awarded. There were no funds available to make innovation awards for 2027.

2027 SEG Allocations

Landowner Cost-share	\$2,340,000
Nutrient Management Farmer Education	\$296,824
Other Project Cooperators	\$1,038,176
Innovation Grants	No funds available
Total	\$3,675,000

Landowner Cost-Share

DATCP provides grants to counties primarily for cost-sharing NM plans to meet the 2015 NRCS 590 Standard. Sixty-three counties applied for \$2,905,000 and awards were made in the amount of \$2,340,000 based on scores in:

- Acres in Farmland Preservation Zoning and Agricultural Enterprise Areas
- Impaired water miles
- Nutrient management planning and implementation
- Last three year's positive spending

[Table A-3](#) enumerates each county's score, grouping, and grant award. NA identifies the 9 counties who did not apply for funding. Applications are ranked according to scores and are organized into five groups. Counties receive the highest maximum award for their grouping unless a county requests, and subsequently receives, an amount lower than they are eligible for as indicated by the blue highlights in [Table A-3](#).

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Training Grants

NMFE grant recipients are contracted with DATCP to teach farmers to develop their own nutrient management plans. For 2027, DATCP funded 22 NMFE requests in the amounts listed in Chart 3 below.

All grant recipients contract with DATCP to incorporate the requirements of s. ATCP 50.35 to develop NM plans that meet the 2015 NRCS 590 Standard. Laptops remain eligible costs but due to limited funds no laptop purchases were funded for 2027.

Tier 1 funding supports NM training to farmers and plan writers to develop a 590 compliant plan, complete soil tests, training, and administrative costs. Tier 2 awards offer nutrient management related outreach and education opportunities but completed 590 compliant plans are not required.

Chart 3: 2027 NMFE Awards			
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Total Award
Ashland		\$3,000	\$3,000
Burnett	\$10,000		\$10,000
Calumet		\$3,000	\$3,000
Columbia		\$3,000	\$3,000
Dane	\$15,400		\$15,400
Douglas (with Ashland, Bayfield, & Iron)	\$21,630		\$21,630
Eau Claire	\$22,150		\$22,150
Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Council	\$25,000	\$3,000	\$28,000
Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council		\$2,992	\$2,992
Green Lake	\$10,200		\$10,200
Kewaunee	\$35,000		\$35,000
Langlade	\$14,950		\$14,950
Manitowoc	\$18,500	\$800	\$19,300
Marathon et al (Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Taylor, Wood)	\$49,400		\$49,400
Marinette & Oconto	\$12,127		\$12,127
Ozaukee		\$2,000	\$2,000
Shawano	\$4,325	\$450	\$4,775
Trempealeau	\$10,000		\$10,000
Vernon	\$20,900		\$20,900
Washington		\$3,000	\$3,000
Waukesha		\$3,000	\$3,000
WI State Cranberry Growers Association		\$3,000	\$3,000
Totals	\$269,582	\$27,242	\$296,824

Statewide Project Cooperator Grants (OPC)

DATCP uses a portion of its SEG appropriation for projects that contribute to statewide conservation goals, meeting the following grant priorities in s. ATCP 50.30(3):

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

To achieve these priorities, DATCP has selected the following areas for funding: nutrient management implementation activities including SnapPlus, statewide training of conservation professionals, development and support of technical standards, and the support of DATCP programming.

Other Project Cooperator	Award	Objectives
UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS)	\$300,000	SnapPlus Development and Support
UW-Extension Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM)	\$312,176	Nutrient Management Training Development, materials, and outreach
Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Support (NOPP) - UW	\$80,000	NOPP Outreach and Education
Wisconsin Land+Water	\$300,000	Statewide training of conservation professionals and conservation staff support
Standards Oversight Council	\$46,000	Development of technical standards among statewide agencies and organizations for soil and water programs
Total	\$1,038,176	

DATCP continues to consider how it can best utilize its SEG funding to improve conservation and implement conservation practices. Emerging areas or practices where SEG funds could be used include grazing plans, agricultural conservation trainings, precision agriculture and soil health. Before making major changes to what is funded and how it is distributed, DATCP will engage key stakeholders to develop a workable approach.

DNR Allocations

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

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

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

Introduction

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

Allocations to counties for UNPS-Construction projects, when requested, are from GPR funds appropriated under s. 20.370(6)(dg), Wis. Stats.

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

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

- For all grant programs, funds will be considered “committed” when a grantee has returned to the DNR a signed copy of the grant agreement.
- For the TRM program, grant agreements not signed by the deadline may be rescinded by DNR, and the associated grant funds may be used to fund other eligible projects in rank order based on project scores. If, for any reason, funds committed through this allocation plan become available after March 31, 2027, these funds may be held to fund projects selected in the next grant cycle.

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)

DNR allocates up to \$2,567,034 to counties for cost sharing of TRM projects during calendar year 2027. This amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for all six eligible county Small-Scale TRM applications. Additionally, this amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for all three eligible county Large-Scale TRM applications. As shown in [Chart 1](#), there are not any unmet needs for county TRM projects.

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

TRM allocations made through this plan will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2027 through 2028 for Small-Scale projects and through 2029 for Large-Scale projects. Project applications are screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.65(4c), Wis. Stats. Adjustments to grant amounts may occur to account for eligibility of project components, cost-share rates, or ch. NR 151 enforcement action at the time that DNR negotiates the actual grant agreement with an applicant.

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS)

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

UNPS grant awards will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2027 and 2028. Project applications have been screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.66, Wis. Stats.

CONSTRUCTION. UNPS-Construction grant applications were solicited in 2026 for the 2027 award cycle. One eligible application was received from a county. The DNR allocates up to \$115,000 to fully fund the grant application.

PLANNING. UNPS-Planning grant applications were not solicited in 2025 for the 2026 award cycle. UNPS-Planning grant applications will be available early 2027 for 2028 awards.

Notice of Discharge (NOD) Program

This Allocation Plan establishes a reserve of \$763,329 for NOD projects during calendar year 2027. The reserve includes funds for structural practices in eligible locations. DNR may use its discretion to increase this reserve if needed. To receive a grant award, a governmental unit must submit an application to DNR that describes a specific project and includes documentation that an NOD or NOI has either already been issued or will be issued by DNR concurrent with the grant award. Once DNR issues a grant to the governmental unit to address an NOD or NOI, DNR will designate a portion of the reserve specifically for that project.

DNR will require that county grantees commit funds to a cost-share agreement with the landowner within a timeframe that is consistent with the compliance schedule in the NOD. The county grantee shall use the grant award to reimburse the landowner for costs incurred during the grant period, which may extend beyond calendar year 2027. If the landowner fails to install practices listed in the cost-share agreement within the timeframe identified, DNR will terminate its grant with the county, leaving the landowner to correct the problems identified in the NOD without the benefit of state cost sharing.

Fund balances from terminated NOD grants and projects completed under budget may be returned to the reserve account and made available to other NOD applicants. Reserve funds remaining at the end of calendar year 2026 may either be carried over for the calendar year 2027 NOD reserve account or may be allocated for calendar year 2027 TRM projects.

Tables

Table A: DATCP Allocations

STAFFING AND COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS										
County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation Allocation		Total DATCP Allocation		County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation Allocation		Total DATCP Allocation
		Structural Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing					Structural Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing	
Adams	191,090	65,000	29,000	285,090		Marinette	212,471	38,800	64,000	315,271
Ashland	204,630	70,000	30,000	304,630		Marquette	205,221	35,000	80,000	320,221
Barron	245,338	65,000	25,000	335,338		Menominee	139,182	20,000	0	159,182
Bayfield	248,025	72,500	29,000	349,525		Milwaukee	101,585	10,000	5,000	116,585
Brown	246,556	50,000	50,000	346,556		Monroe	206,014	80,000	50,000	336,014
Buffalo	232,396	60,000	20,000	312,396		Oconto	219,879	67,500	0	287,379
Burnett	134,130	35,000	8,000	177,130		Oneida	185,389	30,000	0	215,389
Calumet	302,821	38,800	40,000	381,621		Outagamie	287,173	65,000	60,000	412,173
Chippewa	252,176	75,000	75,000	402,176		Ozaukee	232,424	35,000	25,000	292,424
Clark	217,790	75,000	75,000	367,790		Pepin	173,246	31,000	29,000	233,246
Columbia	221,608	58,000	75,000	354,608		Pierce	230,782	70,000	20,000	320,782
Crawford	193,014	52,500	8,000	253,514		Polk	221,980	42,500	0	264,480
Dane	371,835	90,000	90,000	551,835		Portage	232,792	80,000	10,000	322,792
Dodge	254,439	60,000	20,000	334,439		Price	152,407	47,500	0	199,907
Door	265,193	32,500	10,000	307,693		Racine	239,302	62,500	64,000	365,802
Douglas	193,055	30,000	10,000	233,055		Richland	141,474	55,000	10,000	206,474
Dunn	288,621	80,000	35,000	403,621		Rock	199,784	59,000	90,000	348,784
Eau Claire	229,016	52,500	30,000	311,516		Rusk	146,305	50,000	25,000	221,305
Florence	101,940	34,000	0	135,940		Saint Croix	225,995	55,000	45,000	325,995
Fond du Lac	212,970	40,000	15,000	267,970		Sauk	280,166	80,000	80,000	440,166
Forest	103,140	14,000	10,000	127,140		Sawyer	151,625	18,000	8,000	177,625
Grant	205,723	75,000	25,000	305,723		Shawano	222,783	45,500	31,000	299,283
Green	234,508	80,000	20,000	334,508		Sheboygan	205,132	77,500	25,000	307,632
Green Lake	250,690	55,000	30,000	335,690		Taylor	210,982	42,500	64,000	317,482
Iowa	223,087	45,000	65,000	333,087		Trempealeau	176,189	65,000	60,000	301,189
Iron	163,174	46,500	2,000	211,674		Vernon	210,048	90,000	80,000	380,048
Jackson	230,741	58,984	0	289,725		Vilas	206,246	29,000	0	235,246
Jefferson	262,497	35,000	12,000	309,497		Walworth	268,299	77,500	20,000	365,799
Juneau	215,753	50,000	20,000	285,753		Washburn	158,440	47,500	10,000	215,940
Kenosha	151,743	30,000	10,000	191,743		Washington	241,842	49,000	29,000	319,842
Kewaunee	227,970	42,500	15,000	285,470		Waukesha	298,428	35,000	10,000	343,428
LaCrosse	258,613	75,000	20,000	353,613		Waupaca	245,111	80,000	80,000	405,111
Lafayette	186,204	52,000	0	238,204		Waushara	191,020	43,000	31,000	265,020
Langlade	155,302	35,000	55,000	245,302		Winnebago	265,843	65,000	50,000	380,843
Lincoln	153,391	35,000	8,000	196,391		Wood	214,026	55,000	54,000	323,026
Manitowoc	223,153	42,500	75,000	340,653		Reserve		300,000		300,000
Marathon	253,190	70,000	90,000	413,190		Sub-Totals	\$15,405,107	\$4,110,584	\$2,340,000	\$21,855,691
PROJECT COOPERATOR ALLOCATIONS										
UW Madison CALS SnapPlus				300,000		WLWCA-SOC				46,000
UW Extension NPM				312,176		Nutrient Management Farmer Education				296,824
UW NOPP Support				80,000		Innovation Grants				-
WLWCA				300,000		Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation				\$1,335,000
DATCP PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS:							\$15,405,107	\$4,110,584	\$2,340,000	\$23,190,691

Table A-1

County Staffing and Support Awards										
County	Base Allocation	Tier 1			Tier 2			Tier 3		Total
		First Position at 100% (Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Base + Round 1)	Second Position at 70% (Round 2)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 100% of 70%	Third Position at 50% (Round 3)	Round 3 Award 70% of 50% Third Position	2027 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
Adams	\$75,000	\$105,775	\$30,775	\$105,775	\$55,759	\$55,759	\$55,759	\$37,592	\$29,556	\$191,090
Ashland	\$75,000	\$121,300	\$46,300	\$121,300	\$58,591	\$58,591	\$58,591	\$31,465	\$24,739	\$204,630
Barron	\$75,000	\$120,161	\$45,161	\$120,161	\$81,186	\$81,186	\$81,186	\$55,952	\$43,991	\$245,338
Bayfield	\$75,000	\$131,266	\$56,266	\$131,266	\$77,496	\$77,496	\$77,496	\$49,938	\$39,263	\$248,025
Brown	\$75,000	\$130,835	\$55,835	\$130,835	\$76,698	\$76,698	\$76,698	\$49,633	\$39,023	\$246,556
Buffalo	\$75,000	\$139,558	\$64,558	\$139,558	\$62,581	\$62,581	\$62,581	\$38,484	\$30,257	\$232,396
Burnett	\$75,000	\$94,458	\$19,458	\$94,458	\$32,393	\$32,393	\$32,393	\$9,258	\$7,279	\$134,130
Calumet	\$75,000	\$155,600	\$80,600	\$155,600	\$94,436	\$94,436	\$94,436	\$67,137	\$52,785	\$302,821
Chippewa	\$75,000	\$126,655	\$51,655	\$126,655	\$80,833	\$80,833	\$80,833	\$56,839	\$44,688	\$252,176
Clark	\$75,000	\$122,215	\$47,215	\$122,215	\$63,659	\$63,659	\$63,659	\$40,594	\$31,916	\$217,790
Columbia	\$75,000	\$109,398	\$34,398	\$109,398	\$72,269	\$72,269	\$72,269	\$50,801	\$39,941	\$221,608
Crawford	\$75,000	\$105,773	\$30,773	\$105,773	\$68,713	\$68,713	\$68,713	\$23,566	\$18,528	\$193,014
Dane	\$75,000	\$183,067	\$108,067	\$183,067	\$127,892	\$127,892	\$127,892	\$77,428	\$60,876	\$371,835
Dodge	\$75,000	\$134,007	\$59,007	\$134,007	\$80,658	\$80,658	\$80,658	\$50,588	\$39,774	\$254,439
Door	\$75,000	\$143,178	\$68,178	\$143,178	\$78,173	\$78,173	\$78,173	\$55,763	\$43,842	\$265,193
Douglas	\$75,000	\$96,138	\$21,138	\$96,138	\$62,141	\$62,141	\$62,141	\$44,232	\$34,776	\$193,055
Dunn	\$75,000	\$150,409	\$75,409	\$150,409	\$88,663	\$88,663	\$88,663	\$63,021	\$49,549	\$288,621
Eau Claire	\$75,000	\$127,644	\$52,644	\$127,644	\$69,602	\$69,602	\$69,602	\$40,408	\$31,770	\$229,016
Florence	\$75,000	\$67,685	\$0	\$75,000	\$34,255	\$26,940	\$26,940		\$0	\$101,940
Fond du Lac	\$75,000	\$114,082	\$39,082	\$114,082	\$63,713	\$63,713	\$63,713	\$44,739	\$35,175	\$212,970
Forest	\$75,000	\$65,728	\$0	\$75,000	\$31,395	\$22,123	\$22,123	\$7,653	\$6,017	\$103,140
Grant	\$75,000	\$116,872	\$41,872	\$116,872	\$62,172	\$62,172	\$62,172	\$33,933	\$26,679	\$205,723
Green	\$75,000	\$131,338	\$56,338	\$131,338	\$71,597	\$71,597	\$71,597	\$40,157	\$31,573	\$234,508
Green Lake	\$75,000	\$129,153	\$54,153	\$129,153	\$81,027	\$81,027	\$81,027	\$51,525	\$40,510	\$250,690
Iowa	\$75,000	\$135,843	\$60,843	\$135,843	\$56,054	\$56,054	\$56,054	\$39,670	\$31,190	\$223,087
Iron	\$75,000	\$87,570	\$12,570	\$87,570	\$62,755	\$62,755	\$62,755	\$16,342	\$12,849	\$163,174
Jackson	\$75,000	\$113,387	\$38,387	\$113,387	\$75,921	\$75,921	\$75,921	\$52,702	\$41,433	\$230,741
Jefferson	\$75,000	\$146,725	\$71,725	\$146,725	\$82,344	\$82,344	\$82,344	\$42,517	\$33,428	\$262,497
Juneau	\$75,000	\$118,956	\$43,956	\$118,956	\$66,304	\$66,304	\$66,304	\$38,784	\$30,493	\$215,753
Kenosha	\$75,000	\$102,330	\$27,330	\$102,330	\$37,782	\$37,782	\$37,782	\$14,793	\$11,631	\$151,743
Kewaunee	\$75,000	\$131,949	\$56,949	\$131,949	\$61,521	\$61,521	\$61,521	\$43,881	\$34,500	\$227,970
LaCrosse	\$75,000	\$133,762	\$58,762	\$133,762	\$80,758	\$80,758	\$80,758	\$56,082	\$44,093	\$258,613
Lafayette	\$75,000	\$102,012	\$27,012	\$102,012	\$57,128	\$57,128	\$57,128	\$34,422	\$27,064	\$186,204
Langlade	\$75,000	\$90,214	\$15,214	\$90,214	\$44,724	\$44,724	\$44,724	\$25,901	\$20,364	\$155,302
Lincoln	\$75,000	\$86,201	\$11,201	\$86,201	\$58,174	\$58,174	\$58,174	\$11,468	\$9,016	\$153,391
Manitowoc	\$75,000	\$131,552	\$56,552	\$131,552	\$58,929	\$58,929	\$58,929	\$41,555	\$32,672	\$223,153
Marathon	\$75,000	\$122,792	\$47,792	\$122,792	\$84,452	\$84,452	\$84,452	\$58,438	\$45,946	\$253,190
Marinette	\$75,000	\$111,213	\$36,213	\$111,213	\$70,597	\$70,597	\$70,597	\$38,998	\$30,661	\$212,471

County	Base Allocation	Tier 1			Tier 2			Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1&2)	Tier 3			2027 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
		First Position at 100% (Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Base + Round 1)	Second Position at 70% (Round 2)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 100% of 70%		Third Position at 50% (Round 3)	Round 3 Award 70% of 50% Third position	Round 3 Award 70% of 50% Third position	
Marquette	\$75,000	\$128,357.00	\$53,357.00	\$128,357.00	\$53,489.00	\$53,489.00	\$53,489.00	\$181,846.00	\$29,730.00	\$23,374.55	\$23,375.00	\$205,221
Menominee	\$75,000	\$76,295.00	\$1,295.00	\$76,295.00	\$62,887.00	\$62,887.00	\$62,887.00	\$139,182.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$139,182
Milwaukee	\$75,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$57,558.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$33,813.00	\$26,584.71	\$26,585.00	\$101,585
Monroe	\$75,000	\$133,396.00	\$58,396.00	\$133,396.00	\$48,105.00	\$48,105.00	\$48,105.00	\$181,501.00	\$31,178.00	\$24,513.00	\$24,513.00	\$206,014
Oconto	\$75,000	\$111,976.00	\$36,976.00	\$111,976.00	\$73,249.00	\$73,249.00	\$73,249.00	\$185,225.00	\$44,076.00	\$34,653.77	\$34,654.00	\$219,879
Oneida	\$75,000	\$113,153.00	\$38,153.00	\$113,153.00	\$63,194.00	\$63,194.00	\$63,194.00	\$176,347.00	\$11,500.00	\$9,041.62	\$9,042.00	\$185,389
Outagamie	\$75,000	\$157,062.00	\$82,062.00	\$157,062.00	\$83,213.00	\$83,213.00	\$83,213.00	\$240,275.00	\$59,649.00	\$46,897.69	\$46,898.00	\$287,173
Ozaukee	\$75,000	\$129,195.00	\$54,195.00	\$129,195.00	\$72,759.00	\$72,759.00	\$72,759.00	\$201,954.00	\$38,755.00	\$30,470.25	\$30,470.00	\$232,424
Pepin	\$75,000	\$72,592.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$80,805.00	\$78,397.00	\$78,397.00	\$153,397.00	\$25,246.00	\$19,849.10	\$19,849.00	\$173,246
Pierce	\$75,000	\$113,550.00	\$38,550.00	\$113,550.00	\$76,068.00	\$76,068.00	\$76,068.00	\$189,618.00	\$52,356.00	\$41,163.73	\$41,164.00	\$230,782
Polk	\$75,000	\$124,151.00	\$49,151.00	\$124,151.00	\$63,790.00	\$63,790.00	\$63,790.00	\$187,941.00	\$43,294.00	\$34,038.94	\$34,039.00	\$221,980
Portage	\$75,000	\$117,508.00	\$42,508.00	\$117,508.00	\$76,830.00	\$76,830.00	\$76,830.00	\$194,338.00	\$48,909.00	\$38,453.61	\$38,454.00	\$232,792
Price	\$75,000	\$88,577.00	\$13,577.00	\$88,577.00	\$58,372.00	\$58,372.00	\$58,372.00	\$146,949.00	\$6,942.00	\$5,457.99	\$5,458.00	\$152,407
Racine	\$75,000	\$128,557.00	\$53,557.00	\$128,557.00	\$81,705.00	\$81,705.00	\$81,705.00	\$210,262.00	\$36,936.00	\$29,040.10	\$29,040.00	\$239,302
Richland	\$75,000	\$75,165.00	\$165.00	\$75,165.00	\$44,594.00	\$44,594.00	\$44,594.00	\$119,759.00	\$27,619.00	\$21,714.82	\$21,715.00	\$141,474
Rock	\$75,000	\$96,891.00	\$21,891.00	\$96,891.00	\$66,074.00	\$66,074.00	\$66,074.00	\$162,965.00	\$46,830.00	\$36,819.04	\$36,819.00	\$199,784
Rusk	\$75,000	\$68,792.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$62,462.00	\$56,254.00	\$56,254.00	\$131,254.00	\$19,143.00	\$15,050.76	\$15,051.00	\$146,305
Saint Croix	\$75,000	\$116,262.00	\$41,262.00	\$116,262.00	\$75,156.00	\$75,156.00	\$75,156.00	\$191,418.00	\$43,978.00	\$34,576.72	\$34,577.00	\$225,995
Sauk	\$75,000	\$142,497.00	\$67,497.00	\$142,497.00	\$89,611.00	\$89,611.00	\$89,611.00	\$232,108.00	\$61,125.00	\$48,058.16	\$48,058.00	\$280,166
Sawyer	\$75,000	\$78,641.00	\$3,641.00	\$78,641.00	\$50,493.00	\$50,493.00	\$50,493.00	\$129,134.00	\$28,606.00	\$22,490.83	\$22,491.00	\$151,625
Shawano	\$75,000	\$125,857.00	\$50,857.00	\$125,857.00	\$67,675.00	\$67,675.00	\$67,675.00	\$193,532.00	\$37,204.00	\$29,250.81	\$29,251.00	\$222,783
Sheboygan	\$75,000	\$104,480.00	\$29,480.00	\$104,480.00	\$69,393.00	\$69,393.00	\$69,393.00	\$173,873.00	\$39,758.00	\$31,258.84	\$31,259.00	\$205,132
Taylor	\$75,000	\$118,589.00	\$43,589.00	\$118,589.00	\$67,826.00	\$67,826.00	\$67,826.00	\$186,415.00	\$31,247.00	\$24,567.25	\$24,567.00	\$210,982
Trempealeau	\$75,000	\$98,479.00	\$23,479.00	\$98,479.00	\$52,688.00	\$52,688.00	\$52,688.00	\$151,167.00	\$31,825.00	\$25,021.69	\$25,022.00	\$176,189
Vernon	\$75,000	\$107,230.00	\$32,230.00	\$107,230.00	\$68,676.00	\$68,676.00	\$68,676.00	\$175,906.00	\$43,425.00	\$34,141.93	\$34,142.00	\$210,048
Vilas	\$75,000	\$102,997.00	\$27,997.00	\$102,997.00	\$69,882.00	\$69,882.00	\$69,882.00	\$172,879.00	\$42,440.00	\$33,367.50	\$33,367.00	\$206,246
Walworth	\$75,000	\$124,409.00	\$49,409.00	\$124,409.00	\$100,752.00	\$100,752.00	\$100,752.00	\$225,161.00	\$54,867.00	\$43,137.95	\$43,138.00	\$268,299
Washburn	\$75,000	\$99,410.00	\$24,410.00	\$99,410.00	\$52,466.00	\$52,466.00	\$52,466.00	\$151,876.00	\$8,349.00	\$6,564.21	\$6,564.00	\$158,440
Washington	\$75,000	\$128,893.00	\$53,893.00	\$128,893.00	\$75,049.00	\$75,049.00	\$75,049.00	\$203,942.00	\$48,205.00	\$37,900.10	\$37,900.00	\$241,842
Waukesha	\$75,000	\$167,194.00	\$92,194.00	\$167,194.00	\$84,818.00	\$84,818.00	\$84,818.00	\$252,012.00	\$59,036.00	\$46,415.73	\$46,416.00	\$298,428
Waupaca	\$75,000	\$121,538.00	\$46,538.00	\$121,538.00	\$79,481.00	\$79,481.00	\$79,481.00	\$201,019.00	\$56,081.00	\$44,092.43	\$44,092.00	\$245,111
Waushara	\$75,000	\$111,417.00	\$36,417.00	\$111,417.00	\$51,221.00	\$51,221.00	\$51,221.00	\$162,638.00	\$36,099.00	\$28,382.03	\$28,382.00	\$191,020
Winnebago	\$75,000	\$147,779.00	\$72,779.00	\$147,779.00	\$77,615.00	\$77,615.00	\$77,615.00	\$225,394.00	\$51,447.00	\$40,449.05	\$40,449.00	\$265,843
Wood	\$75,000	\$142,515.00	\$67,515.00	\$142,515.00	\$49,432.00	\$49,432.00	\$49,432.00	\$191,947.00	\$28,082.00	\$22,078.84	\$22,079.00	\$214,026

Table B: DNR Allocations

County	Targeted Runoff Mgmt. BMP Construction	Local Assistance Funding for Large Scale TRM	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. BMP Construction	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. Planning	Total DNR Final Allocations
Ashland	\$225,000				\$225,000
Brown	\$225,000				\$225,000
Columbia	\$123,960				\$123,960
Fond du Lac	\$323,850	\$123,200			\$447,050
Outagamie	\$126,024				\$126,024
Polk	\$225,000				\$225,000
St. Croix	\$265,000	\$105,000			\$370,000
Walworth	\$225,000				\$225,000
Washington			\$115,000		\$115,000
Wood	\$428,572	\$171,428			\$600,000
DNR NR243 NOD Reserve					\$1,000,000
Total	\$2,167,406	\$399,628	\$115,000	\$0	\$3,682,034

Table C: Summary of DATCP and DNR Allocations

County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding	County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding
Adams	191,090	94,000	285,090	Marinette	212,471	102,800	315,271
Ashland	204,630	325,000	529,630	Marquette	205,221	115,000	320,221
Barron	245,338	90,000	335,338	Menominee	139,182	20,000	159,182
Bayfield	248,025	101,500	349,525	Milwaukee	101,585	15,000	116,585
Brown	246,556	325,000	571,556	Monroe	206,014	130,000	336,014
Buffalo	232,396	80,000	312,396	Oconto	219,879	67,500	287,379
Burnett	134,130	43,000	177,130	Oneida	185,389	30,000	215,389
Calumet	302,821	78,800	381,621	Outagamie	287,173	251,024	538,197
Chippewa	252,176	150,000	402,176	Ozaukee	232,424	60,000	292,424
Clark	217,790	150,000	367,790	Pepin	173,246	60,000	233,246
Columbia	221,608	256,960	478,568	Pierce	230,782	90,000	320,782
Crawford	193,014	60,500	253,514	Polk	221,980	267,500	489,480
Dane	371,835	180,000	551,835	Portage	232,792	90,000	322,792
Dodge	254,439	80,000	334,439	Price	152,407	47,500	199,907
Door	265,193	42,500	307,693	Racine	239,302	126,500	365,802
Douglas	193,055	40,000	233,055	Richland	141,474	65,000	206,474
Dunn	288,621	115,000	403,621	Rock	199,784	149,000	348,784
Eau Claire	229,016	82,500	311,516	Rusk	146,305	75,000	221,305
Florence	101,940	34,000	135,940	Saint Croix	490,995	205,000	695,995
Fond du Lac	336,170	378,850	715,020	Sauk	280,166	160,000	440,166
Forest	103,140	24,000	127,140	Sawyer	151,625	26,000	177,625
Grant	205,723	100,000	305,723	Shawano	222,783	76,500	299,283
Green	234,508	100,000	334,508	Sheboygan	205,132	102,500	307,632
Green Lake	250,690	85,000	335,690	Taylor	210,982	106,500	317,482
Iowa	223,087	110,000	333,087	Trempealeau	176,189	125,000	301,189
Iron	163,174	48,500	211,674	Vernon	210,048	170,000	380,048
Jackson	230,741	58,984	289,725	Vilas	206,246	29,000	235,246
Jefferson	262,497	47,000	309,497	Walworth	268,299	322,500	590,799
Juneau	215,753	70,000	285,753	Washburn	158,440	57,500	215,940
Kenosha	151,743	40,000	191,743	Washington	241,842	193,000	434,842
Kewaunee	227,970	57,500	285,470	Waukesha	298,428	45,000	343,428
LaCrosse	258,613	95,000	353,613	Waupaca	245,111	160,000	405,111
Lafayette	186,204	52,000	238,204	Waushara	191,020	74,000	265,020
Langlade	155,302	90,000	245,302	Winnebago	265,843	115,000	380,843
Lincoln	153,391	43,000	196,391	Wood	642,598	280,428	923,026
Manitowoc	223,153	117,500	340,653	DATCP NR243 Res.		300,000	300,000
Marathon	253,190	160,000	413,190	DNR NR243 Res.		1,000,000	1,000,000
				Sub-Totals	16,221,879	9,315,846	25,537,725
PROJECT COOPERATOR ALLOCATIONS							
UW Madison CALS SnapPlus			300,000	WLWCA SOC			80,000
UW Extension NPM			312,176	Nutrient Management Farmer Education			296,824
UW NOPP Support			300,000	Innovation Grants			-
WLWCA			46,000	Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation			1,335,000
JOINT PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS					\$ 16,221,879	\$ 9,315,846	\$ 26,872,725

Table A-2: County Structural Cost-Share Awards

County	Structural Practice Awards				County	Structural Practice Awards			
	23-25 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2022 Census Acres**	23-25 Percent of Total Allocation Spent***	Award		23-25 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2022 Census Acres**	23-25 Percent of Total Allocation Spent***	Award
Adams	0.16%	114,792	49%	\$65,000	Marathon	0.47%	477,577	25%	\$70,000
Ashland	0.00%	68,629	83%	\$70,000	Marinette	0.00%	132,155	38%	\$38,800
Barron	0.00%	282,265	57%	\$65,000	Marquette	33.82%	104,952	49%	\$35,000
Bayfield	0.00%	93,254	95%	\$72,500	Menominee	0.00%	290	90%	\$20,000
Brown	0.00%	181,018	61%	\$50,000	Milwaukee	0.00%	98	0%	\$10,000
Buffalo	0.23%	309,976	24%	\$60,000	Monroe	0.00%	263,476	65%	\$80,000
Burnett	0.23%	77,858	21%	\$35,000	Oconto	0.00%	194,482	64%	\$67,500
Calumet	10.56%	143,801	54%	\$38,800	Oneida	0.00%	42,083	19%	\$30,000
Chippewa	0.00%	338,969	51%	\$75,000	Outagamie	6.45%	241,653	86%	\$65,000
Clark	0.00%	409,582	87%	\$75,000	Ozaukee	0.01%	49,769	31%	\$35,000
Columbia	2.45%	290,003	22%	\$58,000	Pepin	1.75%	111,859	27%	\$31,000
Crawford	0.00%	194,544	46%	\$52,500	Pierce	0.00%	229,659	62%	\$70,000
Dane	0.23%	449,464	72%	\$90,000	Polk	0.00%	239,493	37%	\$42,500
Dodge	0.00%	374,456	41%	\$60,000	Portage	0.00%	273,256	61%	\$80,000
Door	0.00%	108,658	11%	\$32,500	Price	0.00%	84,387	53%	\$47,500
Douglas	0.00%	67,866	33%	\$30,000	Racine	0.00%	99,108	76%	\$62,500
Dunn	0.00%	372,774	86%	\$80,000	Richland	16.64%	244,767	63%	\$55,000
Eau Claire	0.00%	168,016	41%	\$52,500	Rock	1.27%	296,636	49%	\$59,000
Florence	0.00%	17,926	28%	\$34,000	Rusk	5.15%	118,421	75%	\$50,000
Fond du Lac	1.58%	308,888	45%	\$40,000	Saint Croix	0.00%	254,630	78%	\$55,000
Forest	7.09%	27,368	13%	\$14,000	Sauk	0.04%	298,103	72%	\$80,000
Grant	0.00%	586,453	44%	\$75,000	Sawyer	7.78%	40,786	3%	\$18,000
Green	0.00%	282,888	77%	\$80,000	Shawano	1.79%	253,092	62%	\$45,500
Green Lake	3.42%	122,086	66%	\$55,000	Sheboygan	0.02%	198,776	84%	\$77,500
Iowa	0.00%	374,179	71%	\$45,000	Taylor	0.00%	216,009	36%	\$42,500
Iron	0.00%	8,578	57%	\$46,500	Trempealeau	0.00%	296,684	58%	\$65,000
Jackson	0.00%	228,011	51%	\$58,984	Vernon	0.00%	354,885	69%	\$90,000
Jefferson	0.00%	191,783	1%	\$35,000	Vilas	0.00%	5,847	5%	\$29,000
Juneau	3.67%	167,871	90%	\$50,000	Walworth	0.00%	179,902	83%	\$77,500
Kenosha	13.94%	67,322	63%	\$30,000	Washburn	0.00%	70,390	41%	\$47,500
Kewaunee	3.71%	168,893	45%	\$42,500	Washington	0.00%	118,210	30%	\$49,000
LaCrosse	0.00%	138,200	89%	\$75,000	Waukesha	0.00%	70,268	39%	\$35,000
Lafayette	1.65%	316,462	15%	\$52,000	Waupaca	0.45%	230,412	82%	\$80,000
Langlade	0.00%	109,487	100%	\$35,000	Waushara	1.87%	149,098	55%	\$43,000
Lincoln	0.00%	79,496	25%	\$35,000	Winnebago	0.00%	145,208	61%	\$65,000
Manitowoc	0.00%	236,367	38%	\$42,500	Wood	0.00%	216,635	58%	\$55,000
									Total
									\$3,810,584
Each County was given a base of \$10,000 to help counties receive closer to their requested amount. The following criteria were also applied to finalize a county's Structural Practice award.									
*Graduated awards based on 3-yr avg underspending, excluding extended underspending: less than 1% = \$15,000, 1-1.99% = \$8,000, 2-4.99% = \$5,000, >5% = \$0.									
**Graduated awards based on 2022 Census acres: 300,000 or more=\$30,000; 250,000-299,999=\$20,000; 200,000-249,999=\$10,000; 150,000-199,999 = \$7,500; 100,000-149,999=\$5,000 40,000-99,999 = \$2,500; <40,000=\$1,500.									
***Graduated awards based on % of Three-year total allocation spent: >80% = \$45,000; 60%-80% = \$35,000; 40%-60% = \$20,000; 20%-40% = \$7,500; <20%=\$2,500									
County Name in <i>Italics</i> = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year									
County Name Shaded: County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award.									

Table A-3: County SEG Cost-Share Awards

County	Ranking and Award			County	Ranking and Award		
	Score	Grouping	Award		Score	Grouping	Award
Adams	45	4	\$29,000	Marathon	100	1	\$90,000
Ashland	50	3	\$30,000	Marinette	60	3	\$64,000
Barron	45	4	\$25,000	Marquette	70	2	\$80,000
Bayfield	30	4	\$29,000	Menominee			NA
Brown	60	3	\$50,000	Milwaukee	25	4	\$5,000
Buffalo	55	3	\$20,000	Monroe	55	3	\$50,000
Burnett	50	3	\$8,000	Oconto			NA
Calumet	60	3	\$40,000	Oneida			NA
Chippewa	75	2	\$75,000	Outagamie	50	3	\$60,000
Clark	75	2	\$75,000	Ozaukee	55	3	\$25,000
Columbia	85	2	\$75,000	Pepin	40	4	\$29,000
Crawford	30	4	\$8,000	Pierce	40	4	\$20,000
Dane	110	1	\$90,000	Polk			NA
Dodge	70	2	\$20,000	Portage	35	4	\$10,000
Door	35	4	\$10,000	Price			NA
Douglas	35	4	\$10,000	Racine	60	3	\$64,000
Dunn	60	3	\$35,000	Richland	60	3	\$10,000
Eau Claire	55	3	\$30,000	Rock	105	1	\$90,000
Florence			NA	Rusk	30	4	\$25,000
Fond du Lac	85	2	\$15,000	Saint Croix	55	3	\$45,000
Forest	10	5	\$10,000	Sauk	70	2	\$80,000
Grant	60	0	\$25,000	Sawyer	10	5	\$8,000
Green	40	4	\$20,000	Shawano	45	4	\$31,000
Green Lake	55	3	\$30,000	Sheboygan	45	4	\$25,000
Iowa	80	2	\$65,000	Taylor	50	3	\$64,000
Iron	30	4	\$2,000	Trempealeau	60	3	\$60,000
Jackson			NA	Vernon	70	2	\$80,000
Jefferson	60	3	\$12,000	Vilas			NA
Juneau	40	4	\$20,000	Walworth	50	3	\$20,000
Kenosha	25	4	\$10,000	Washburn	10	5	\$10,000
Kewaunee	45	4	\$15,000	Washington	35	4	\$29,000
La Crosse	70	2	\$20,000	Waukesha	25	4	\$10,000
Lafayette			NA	Waupaca	85	2	\$80,000
Langlade	60	3	\$55,000	Waushara	35	4	\$31,000
Lincoln	25	4	\$8,000	Winnebago	60	3	\$50,000
Manitowoc	95	1	\$75,000	Wood	55	3	\$54,000
							Total \$2,340,000
County Name in Italics = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year NA= County did not apply for SEG funds				County Name Shaded = County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award.			

Glossary of Terms

Chapter 92: Wisconsin statute establishing soil and water conservation and animal waste management.

ATCP 50: State administrative rule (updated June 1, 2024) that provides the framework to cost-share conservation practices including nutrient management plans. It describes the parameters for grants for conservation practices; identifies the costs to be included in cost-share grants to landowners; identifies conservation practice standards available for cost-sharing; defines the requirements for a land and water resource management plan; establishes the process and priorities for allocating grants to support county conservation efforts; describes conservation compliance requirements for the Farmland Preservation Program; describes the process to certify conservation engineering practitioners; establishes qualifications for nutrient management planners; allows for certification of soil and manure testing laboratories; and ensures access to education and training opportunities.

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

Bond: Bond authority was appropriated to DATCP through state's biennial budget process prior to the 2023-2025 cycle. Bonds can only be used to fund projects with a minimum of a 10-year life span. County LCDs have used bonding for cost-sharing of hard practices. As part of the 2024 Allocation Plan, the only bond funds are approved extension funds and the engineering reserve fund.

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Program through which counties are encouraged to plan for agricultural and agricultural-related uses; local governments may adopt zoning ordinances that restrict lands to agricultural or agricultural-related uses; landowners and local governments may jointly petition for an agricultural enterprise area (AEA) to qualify local areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural and economic future; landowners may enter into a farmland preservation agreement with the state for farms within an AEA to commit to keeping all or a part of their farm in agricultural use and to implement farm conservation practices for 15 years. Participating landowners must implement applicable soil and water conservation standards (see ATCP 50.04)* to qualify for an income tax credit. *Note: Landowners of farmland subject to a farmland preservation agreement must meet the soil and water conservation standards in place at the time the agreement was signed. Contact the department for assistance in determining which standards apply to a specific agreement.

General Purpose Revenue (GPR): GPR is funding that comes from the state's income and sales tax revenues. These dollars are very flexible and can be used for most purposes. In relation to the joint allocation plan, DATCP has a small GPR appropriation that helps fund the staffing grants. Additionally, the 2023-2025 biennium budget approves \$7 million in GPR to fund structural practices associated with SWRM, at \$3.5 million a year over the two years. When the governor calls for budget cuts from agencies, GPR is usually the money that is targeted for reductions. GPR is allocated on an annual basis.

Land Conservation Committee (LCC): Committee of county-board elected officials that oversee the LCDs.

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

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

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

Notice of Discharge (NOD): The notice of discharge program is an enforcement process through Ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, addressing unacceptable practices at animal feeding operations with less than 1,000 animal units. Local governmental units (typically county land conservation offices) work with department staff to identify and categorize discharges at animal feeding operations.

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

Producer Led Watershed Protection Grants Program (PL/PLWPG): The PL watershed grant program funds farmer-led projects intended to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality. By statute, the PL watershed grant program is funded via the SWRM SEG account and is capped at \$1,000,000 annually.

Segregated Funds (SEG): Segregated funds are collected from fees and held in designated funds for specific purposes under state law. In relation to the joint allocation plan, the Environmental Fund is the source of the segregated funds. The joint allocation plan has two uses for these segregated funds. One appropriation designates some segregated funds to the staffing allocation. The second appropriation of segregated funds is for "aids" that explicitly excludes county conservation staffing and is used for nutrient management and other soft practice cost-sharing, training and other related purposes.

Three programs are funded via these funds outside of this allocation plan:

- \$1,000,000 annually is directed to Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants.
- \$1,000,000 annually is directed to Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program
- \$800,000 annually is directed to Crop Insurance Premium Rebates for Planting Cover Crops

SEG funds are allocated on an annual basis and if not utilized they return to the Environmental Fund and are no longer available for this allocation.

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

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

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

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

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM): The TRM program is a competitive grant program administered by DNR for targeted nonpoint source pollution control projects. TRM grants use multiple funding sources to allocate funds to counties and non-county governmental units.

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS): The UNPS program administered by DNR for urban nonpoint source and storm water management projects. UNPS grants use multiple funding sources to allocate funds to counties and non-county governmental units for construction and planning projects.

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection(DATCP): Administers many conservation programs that are implemented by counties including the soil and water resource management grant program, Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program, Farmland Preservation Program, agricultural enterprise areas, Nutrient Management Farmer Education Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Land and Water Resource Management Planning Grants Program, Livestock Facility Siting Program, Drainage Program, and conservation engineering support.

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

DATCP's Environmental Assessment for the 2027 Joint Allocation Plan – Preliminary

Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program and Nonpoint Source
Program



August 2026

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Signature Page and Final Determination

This assessment finds that the 2027 Final Allocation Plan will have no significant negative environmental impact and is not a major state action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. No environmental impact statement is necessary under s. 1.11(2), Stats.

Date 08/31/2026 By *Susan Mockert*

Susan Mockert
Land and Water Resources Bureau Unit Supervisor
Agricultural Resource Management Division

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

Date 9/10/2026 By *Timothy P Anderson*

Timothy P. Anderson
Administrator
Agricultural Resource Management Division

Nature and Purpose of the Proposed Action

Each year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), together with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), allocates grant funds to counties and others for the purpose of supporting county conservation staff, landowner cost-sharing, and other soil and water resource management (SWRM) activities. DATCP funds are allocated in accordance with chs. 92 and 281, Wis Stats. and ATPC 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are required to have DATCP-approved Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans as an eligibility condition for grants. The details of DATCP's proposed action are set forth in charts and tables in the 2027 Joint Allocation Plan that accompanies this Environmental Assessment.

I. The Environment Affected by the Proposed Action

DATCP's Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) grant program operates in every county, potentially covering all of Wisconsin's approximately 35 million acres. While the program can fund a range of activities that protect surface and ground waters throughout the state, grant funds are primarily used to protect rural areas and install conservation practices on farms, which account for 13.7 million acres (*2022 Census of Agriculture*), nearly 40% of Wisconsin's land. Ultimately, each county's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan determines the nature and scope of conservation activities in the area and the natural resources impacted by DATCP funds.

II. Foreseeable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

a. Immediate Effects

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

County Staffing: The annual funding for conservation staff increases from a recent low of \$10.9 million in 2024 to a program high of \$15.4 million in 2027. Staffing grants enable counties to hire and retain conservation staff who have the experience and technical skills required to implement county resource management plans, including:

- Supporting compliance with state agricultural performance standards
- Facilitating landowner participation in state and federal cost-share programs
- Ensuring eligibility of producers in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
- Supporting the development of technical standards, nutrient management training, and coordination between the public and private sector.

The significant increase in staff and support grant funding may better enable counties to provide support for programs such as producer-led watershed councils, phosphorus and nitrate management, and creation of programming to address the persistence of intractable ground and surface water issues throughout the state.

Cost-sharing for conservation practices: Each year counties use cost-share funds to address state and local priorities identified in their local plans. In 2024 and 2025, counties spent a cumulative total of \$10.52 million in DATCP funds to install cost-shared practices. Table A highlights the top conservation practices funded by DATCP cost-share and spent by counties in 2024 and 2025.

Table A: Cost-Share Expenditure Comparison				
Conservation Practice	2024 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)	2024 Units of Practice Installed	2025 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)	2025 Units of Practice Installed
Barnyard Runoff Control	0.15	10 systems	0.15	10 systems
Manure Storage System	0.27	7 systems	0.13	6 systems
Manure Storage Closure	0.42	50 systems	0.30	30 systems
Cover and Green Manure	0.8	18,496 acres	0.92	19,437 acres
Grade Stabilization	0.40	45 structures	0.32	40 structures
Livestock Watering Facilities	0.12	25 systems	0.12	17 systems
Nutrient Management Planning	1.25	31,961 acres	0.88	22,078 acres
Prescribed Grazing /Permanent Fencing	0.12	83,707 feet	0.06	25,967 feet
Streambank Crossing	0.18	1,688 feet	0.23	2,953 feet
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	0.35	10,386 feet	0.46	11,271 feet
Waterway Systems	0.47	2,073 acres	0.49	1,546 acres

Notably, from 2024 to 2025 there were:

- an increase in streambank crossings, streambank, and shoreline protection installed;
- an increase in cover and green manure practices installed, reflecting the multiple levels of cover crop support in ATCP 50; and
- continued significant grant funds to support nutrient management planning.

b. Long-Term Effects

Over time, DATCP's annual financial support of county staff and other project cooperators, including the Universities of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, has built and sustained a statewide conservation infrastructure that delivers the following benefits:

- Conservation outreach and education
- Development of conservation technologies (such as SnapPlus and the Manure Advisory System) and the training systems to effectively use these technologies
- Technical and engineering assistance that ensures proper design and installation of conservation practices
- Resource management planning that addresses local and state priorities with an emphasis on annual work planning and reporting
- Permitting and other regulation of livestock farms that require properly designed manure storage and nutrient management plans
- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) administration that protects valuable resources and promotes conservation compliance
- Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program administration and technical assistance

With the increase to the staffing allocation for fiscal biennium 2025-2027, the amount of funding DATCP can give to support county conservation increased by \$815,607 from the 2026 allocation for a total of \$15.4 million. This level of funding covers the first and second positions fully and 79% of a third position (funded at 50%), the most funding ever available via SWRM staffing grants.

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

Fully assessing the long-term benefits, however, is complicated. The DATCP grant program operates within a collection of conservation and natural resource programs, and as such, other program priorities will affect DATCP funds.

c. Direct Effects

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

d. Indirect Effects

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

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

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

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

e. Cumulative Effects

While it is difficult to accurately gauge the cumulative effects of delivery of this allocation plan, SWRM grant funds play an integral part in supporting a comprehensive framework of federal, state, and local resource management programs. With the increase to the staffing allocation for the 2025-2027 biennium, DATCP can provide support for 119 of the 383 conservation employees in the state's 72 counties. This helps to secure the foundation necessary for delivering myriad conservation programs, which, among other accomplishments, achieved the following:

- The conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP) protects important soil and water resources while allowing landowners to make use of valuable adjacent agricultural lands. As of early 2026, there are 39,433 acres of water quality conservation practices currently under active agreements. During the 2025 federal fiscal year, the state processed and paid incentives for 79 CREP contracts totaling 533 acres. New enrollments account for 40 of the contracts on 234 acres

with an additional reenrollment of 39 existing contracts on 299 acres that expired in 2025. Approximately 23.34 miles of stream or shoreline were buffered by CREP conservation practices (e.g. riparian buffers and filter strips) enrolled in federal fiscal year 2025. These practices have resulted in an estimated annual reduction of 2,181 pounds of phosphorus, 1,177 pounds of nitrogen, and 1,014 tons of sediment runoff.

- The DNR continued annual funding in 2025 for Targeted Runoff Management Projects (TRM), providing over \$5.2 million to counties to cost-share 13 small-scale and five large-scale projects. The DNR set aside \$1 million for farms issued a notice of discharge. The DNR received 24 applications for cost-sharing of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Construction Projects. The Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Planning grants were not solicited for 2025.

Table B: DNR Funding 2025		
Program	Number of Projects	Total Amount Awarded
Large-scale TRM	5	\$2,925,000
Small-scale TRM	13	\$2,279,010
Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. Construction	21	\$2,757,391

- In 2025, through the Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant program, DATCP offered support to 49 producer-led groups around the state, encompassing 2,310 members managing 972,693 farmland acres. DATCP has awarded over \$8.2 million since the program's inception in 2016.
- Through 2025, there have been 49 unique Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program projects with 159 individual trials across the state actively contributing to the data used to create nitrogen recommendations in Wisconsin.

III. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Affected by the Activity

a. Those Directly Affected

County Conservation Programs and Cooperators: The proposed allocation plan provides funding to support 72 county conservation programs. The increase to the staffing grant allocation for the 2027 Allocation will enable DATCP to completely support one employee, 70% of a second employee, and 79% of the requests for the third position (funded at 50%) per program. The DATCP awards fall short of funding three staff per county at the prescribed rates in s. 92.14(6)(b), Stats, but funding levels are the highest in the program's history.

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

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

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

b. Those Significantly Affected

Landowners whose soil and water resources are improved or protected because of DATCP funded activities benefit from DATCP allocations. Benefits may include protection of drinking water and improved soil health and stability or reduction in upstream nutrient and sediment delivery runoff. Certain measures, such as nutrient management plans and protective cropping practices, can help protect drinking water wells that serve neighboring landowners and communities. The public benefits from conservation practices that protect water resources and promote natural resources.

IV. Significant Economic and Social Effects of the Proposed Action

DATCP grants support cost-sharing and technical assistance that enable producers and other landowners to meet their conservation goals and maintain eligibility for state program benefits. The economic impacts of installing conservation practices vary with each farmer and the type of practices involved. To receive cost-sharing, producers usually pay 30% of the costs (10% in the case of economic hardship) to install a practice. Non-agricultural practices are capped at 50% cost-share. By providing financial support to meet state runoff standards for farms, DATCP cost-sharing helps producers with the cost of compliance.

Producers often need to adjust their management routines when adopting conservation practices. With these changes, producers may face new risks, including potential for reduced productivity. However, producers implementing these practices may also see long-term benefits, including savings on labor and fertilizer and improved soil health that may lead to yield gains and reduced liability for environmental problems.

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

Socially, DATCP allocations provide needed support for the farming community and others who take an active role in the protection and preservation of natural and agricultural resources. Through the increased adoption of conservation measures, producers and landowners showcase their role as responsible and conscientious neighbors in rural communities. Improved water quality enhances recreational opportunities and protects the scenic rural landscape, essential to tourism.

V. Controversial Issues Associated with the Proposed Action

For the 2025-2027 biennium, the SWRM grant program will monitor impacts of the increase in staffing funds.

The \$7 million authorization for structural cost-sharing has not increased since 2002 and fails to meet current program needs. Over the last 20+ years, landowner costs for practices have increased for several reasons:

- Rising labor and material costs means construction costs of engineered practices in the last five to 10 years have increased significantly. ([United States Construction Market Trends | CBRE](#)).
- Expanded conservation responsibilities require producers to install more conservation practices. For example, the Silurian bedrock standard will influence the need for conservation practices in specific areas of the state.

The unmet need for cost-sharing structural practices may call for creative solutions, including the expanded use of SEG funds to pay for these practices. Increases in conservation spending are critically needed.

VI. Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Action

a. No Action

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

b. Delay Action

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

c. Decrease the Level of Activity

Decreasing the allocations would reduce environmental benefits, impede local program delivery, is not warranted based on the available funding for DATCP programs, and would be inconsistent with legislative intent to implement the nonpoint pollution control program.

d. Increase the Level of Activity

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

e. Change the Amounts Allocated to Some or All Recipients

The awards made in the allocation plan are based on specific grant criteria and reflect the input and consensus of the counties on funding issues. The allocation plan implements ch. ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code and legislative directives regarding allocation of grant funds. It also reflects the input and consensus of the counties on funding issues.

VII. Mitigation of Adverse Environmental Effects

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

DATE: September 21, 2026

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jason Knutson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

SUBJECT: DNR Update, August - September 2026, for October LWCB meeting

Surface Water Grants Program Update

The [Surface Water Grant](#) staff are reviewing the annual round of 300+ pre-applications, providing feedback to applicants ahead of the November final application deadline.

The DNR anticipates that the Surface Water Grant programs will be oversubscribed, as has been true for several years, and that funds for aquatic invasive species planning, management and research will be notably competitive this year. The DNR will award ~\$6M total across several grant subprograms for lake, river and invasive species projects. Awards will be announced in February 2027.

NR 151 Progress & Resource Analysis (NPRA) Project Updates

Data gathering for the project was completed in August and UW researchers have begun analysis. We hope to see a final report quantifying the statewide adoption rate of NR 151's agricultural standards and the resources needed to achieve full compliance in November.

Partnership Projects in the NER from a Grass Root Organization

Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano County's (WAMSCO), founded in 2016, has been instrumental in the completion of numerous watershed implementation projects. WAMSCO received special attention from Outdoor News (<https://www.outdoornews.com/author/greg-seubert/page/4/>) and WLUK (<https://fox11online.com/news/local/restoration-project-completed-at-shawano-countys-cloverleaf-lakes>) in September 2025 with the creation of an ADA-accessible trail and large restoration project on Gibson Island, of the Cloverleaf Lake Chain in Shawano county (funded by Surface Water Restoration grants).

WAMSCO is also in the stages of implementing demo projects on Shawano Lake that involve the removal of seawalls to be replaced with vegetated riprap, a 20-year project in the making.

Additionally, WAMSCO is partnering with the Shawano County Land Conservation Department and the DNR for a demo project on a Wolf River shoreline that is being eroded by severe wave action and natural currents. WAMSCO, in partnership with DNR Biologist Brenda Nordin, has recently received accommodation from State Representative Elijah Behnke and State Senator Eric Wimberger for their customer service and implementation efforts on this particular project.

Last but certainly not least, WAMSCO is working with the DNR, Shawano County LCD and several producers for the newly established Agricultural Led Council for Shawano County.

WAMSCO has already maxed out the Healthy Lakes Grant category for 2027 on numerous shoreline implementation practices as well.

Staffing Update

Susan Eichelkraut started on Sept. 6 as the Nonpoint Source Grant Program Manager stationed in Milwaukee. Susan previously worked as a DNR Wastewater Specialist and as the Lake Michigan Ballast Water Inspector.