



State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

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

Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

December 3, 2024

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **December 3, 2024**. 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 847106309# or click the following Teams [hyperlink](#). The agenda for the meeting is shown below.

AGENDA ITEMS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 9:00 AM | 1 | Call the Meeting to Order – Mark Cupp, LWCB Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Roll Callb. Pledge of allegiancec. Open meeting noticed. Introductions, Acknowledgementse. Approval of agendaf. Approval of October 1, 2024 meeting minutes |
| 9:10 AM | 2 | Public appearances*

<i>*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</i> |
| 9:15 AM | 3 | Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Vilas County
Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist; Holly Tomlanovich, Land Conservation Committee Chair; Fred Heider, AICP North Central WI Regional Planning Commission |
| 10:00 AM | 4 | Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Wood County
Shane Wucherpennig, County Conservationist; Bill Leichtnam, Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee Chair |
| 10:45 AM | 5 | Presentation of the 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
Alex Elias, DATCP |

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

*Members: Andrew Buttlers; Ron Grasshoff; Rebecca Clarke; Yogesh Chawla; D.J. Nichols
Andrew Potts; Tim Anderson; Jason Knutson*

- | | | |
|----------|----|--|
| 11:05 AM | 6 | Approval of Proposed 2025 LWCB Annual Agenda
Mark Cupp, LWCB; Katy Smith, DATCP |
| 11:10 AM | 7 | Review of the LWCB Bylaws
Mark Cupp, LWCB; Katy Smith, DATCP |
| 11:20 AM | 8 | Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Langlade County
Katie Bahr-Bender, County Conservationist; Chris Arrowood, Assistant Director
Langlade Co. Land Records & Regulations Dept; Rick Bina, Water & Land Use
Planning & Land Conservation Committee Chair |
| 12:05 PM | 9 | Break |
| 12:20 PM | 10 | 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 |
| 12:50 PM | 11 | Planning for February 2025 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB |
| 12:55 PM | 12 | Adjourn |

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

October 1, 2024
2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room &
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of August 6, 2024, 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 **October 1, 2024**. 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, Tim Anderson, Andrew Potts, Ron Grasshoff, Rebecca Clarke, Yogesh Chawla and Chris Clayton for Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Nathan Fikkert (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension), Dr. Francisco Arriaga (UW-CALS), Ian Krauss (FSA)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by McGraw, 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

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Bayfield County

Ben Dufford, Bayfield County LWCD Director, and Marty Milanowski, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

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

Anthony Reali, Calumet County Conservationist, and Nick Kesler, Land and Water Conservation Committee Member, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County’s 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

Item #5 The Zone of Interaction: Assessing Water Quality Risks through Sampling- a Participatory Research Project

Chelsea Zegler, Ag & Water Quality Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension, presented on project *Assessing Water Quality Risks through Sampling*. The project seeks to help producers make informed decisions about land management by providing data, seeks to illustrate the importance of stacking best management practices and encourage review of soil test phosphorus.

Item #6 Presentation of the 2025 Joint Allocation Plan

Katy Smith, DATCP and Joanna Griffin, DNR presented to the Board the 2025 Joint Allocation Plan. The 2025 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan document is available online at the LWCB website within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of the final 2025 Joint Final Allocation Plan as presented, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously

Item #7 DNR Presentation of Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2025

Joanna Griffin, DNR, presented to the Board the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Applications for CY 2025. The memo describing the Scores and Rankings of TRM projects for CY 2025 is available within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, McGraw moved to recommend approval the ranking of TRM projects for CY25 as presented, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #8 DNR Presentation of Preliminary Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2025

Joanna Griffin, DNR, presented to the Board the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Applications (UNPS) for CY 2025. The memo describing the Scores and Rankings of UNPS projects for CY 2025 is available within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, Grasshoff moved to recommend approval the ranking of UNPS projects as presented, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Portage County

Steve Bradley, Portage County Conservationist and Nancy Eggleston, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

Item #10 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research- Committee Updates

Grasshoff reported that the Committee met on September 3, 2024 and reviewed the work plan and potential bylaw revisions to forward to the Board at its December meeting. Grasshoff noted that Osterman requested that the Board consider an additional revision beyond that recommended by the Committee. Proposed language includes:

The Advisory Committee on Research shall consist of no more than 5 voting members of the LWCB, whose terms shall be concurrent with their regular LWCB appointment. The committee shall include at least one board member elected under [s. 15.135\(4\)\(b\)2., Wis. Stats.](#) as a representative of county land conservation committees. New members may be appointed by the Board Chair in the event of a vacancy.

The committee shall include at least 2 advisors, including the designee from the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the UW- Madison, and the designee from the Dean of the Division of Extension, and such other person(s) as the Advisory Committee Chair may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

Osterman motioned to send a revised draft bylaw revision to staff for review and incorporation to the December 2024 bylaw revisions, seconded by Grasshoff, the motion carried unanimously.

Item #11 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Fikkert submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- c. UW CALS- Arriaga reported that the Dean's Office is restructuring and streamlining; there is no longer going to be a Dean of Extension and that responsibilities attached to that position will be attached to the Dean of Research; UW CALs will participate in two [Research Innovation and Scholarly Excellence \(RISE\) Initiatives](#), being RISE-AI and RISE-Earth. The initiatives will focus on faculty hiring, research infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaboration and student opportunities.
- d. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz reported that the [WI Water and Soil Health Conference](#) is coming on December 17th and 18th in the Wisconsin Dells; Extension continues to add new agriculture staff, a summary of topics and areas covered can be accessed [here](#); looking to fall, there are opportunities for participatory research in a number of areas, interested parties are encouraged to connect with Amber so she can connect them with the team members in charge of the topics of interest.
- e. WI Land + Water- Osterman reported that the association hired Lou Warpinski as an administrative manager; the County Conservationist Meeting is coming on October 17th and 18th; elections for WI Land + Water membership on the LWCB will take place in late October.
- f. DOA- Potts reported that agency budget requests have been submitted to the Governor.
- g. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- h. DNR- Clayton submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 1, 2024 [meeting packet](#). Jason Knutson has been hired to fill Jill Schoen's vacancy. Jason will join the Board as the DNR representative at the December meeting.

Item #12 Planning for the December 3, 2024 LWCB meeting

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

- Plan Revisions for Langlade, Vilas and Wood Counties
- If available, the 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- Possible Report and Recommendation on 2025 CREP Spending Authority
- Review of Bylaws
- Review of Proposed Annual Agenda
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates

Item #13 Adjourn

Motion

Cupp motioned to adjourn, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: November 20, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Vilas 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, 2034, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2029.

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

Vilas County held a public hearing on November 14, 2024, as part of its public input and review process. The Vilas 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
- 2023 workplan with accomplishments and current 2024 workplan

Presenters: Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist
Holly Tomlanovich, Land Conservation Committee Chair
Fred Heider, North Central WI Regional Planning Commission



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Agricultural Resource Management Division
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Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM)

LWRM Plan Review Checklist

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

County: Vilas County

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 11/12/2024

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ii, 1

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	Feb 1; Sep 5
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	Nov 14
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	Jan 21, 2025

III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the plan include the following information as part of a county-wide resource assessment:			
a. Soil erosion conditions in the county ³ , including:			
i. identification of areas within county that have high erosion rates or other soil erosion problems that merit action within the next 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map 5
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map 6
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	App H, Pg 57

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

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

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

- iii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.



Pg 59,
Map 7

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
- b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available



App F



App F

Other comments:

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes

No

Page

1. Did the county consult with DNR⁴ 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



N/A

Other comments: DNR assisted throughout the planning process and during Advisory Committee meeting 1& 2 (Terry Kafka & others)

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
- b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan
- c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations
- d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems
- e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program



Chap 7



Pg 107



107
108



App
D&K



Pg 105

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



86 &
W.P.

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.

b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	W.P.
3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pg 105

Other comments:

VI. OUTREACH AND PARTNERING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy to provide information and education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pg 103
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pg 109

Other comments:

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:			
a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
b. Identify priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
2. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and measure progress in meeting performance benchmarks and plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pg 108

Other comments:

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

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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Staff Signature: *Lisa K. Trumble*

Date: November 14, 2024



Land and Water Conservation Board

County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Review of LWRM Plan Revisions

County: VILAS

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

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

1. Provide a representative number of accomplishments within the last ~~five~~ seven 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.

Priority Activities	2018-2024 Benchmarks	Accomplished	2025-2026 Benchmarks
Plan / Install Conservation Practices			3 practices/yr (6)
Access Road	2	2	
Stream Crossing	2	2	
Streambank / Shoreline Protection	27	26	
Critical Area Stabilization	1	2	
Well Decommission	1/yr (7)	3	
Subsurface Drain / Diversion	0	2	
Nutrient Management Plan	0	1	
Grazing Plan	0	1	
Site Compliance Checks	6/yr (42)	43	5/yr (10)
Healthy Lakes BMPs	44	30	10/yr (20)
Lake Grants & Assessments			
Aquatic Plant Monitoring (Pt-Int)	5	5	1/yr (2)
Shoreland Health Inventory	5	5	1/yr (2)
Coarse Wood Habitat	5	5	1/yr (2)
Water Quality Monitoring & Follow-up	6	6	1/yr (2)
AIS Early Detection Surveys	31	31	2/yr (4)
Lake Grant Educational Workshops	5	3	0
Invasive Species Management			
Prevention Campaigns	16	12	2/yr (4)
Monitor Wetlands for Phragmites/PL	10	10	2/yr (4)
CB/CW (watercraft inspect) Training	36	55	5/yr (10)
Boat Decontamination Program Yrs	7	5	1/yr (2)
Management Planning			
HUC 12 Watershed Protection Plan	1	1	1
Groundwater Monitoring Event	1	0	1

Completing the annual work plans (& DATCP reporting) has become a positive task in my office for several reasons – first, it is a good time for me to review the current LWRM plan and evaluate if we are “on-task” or if adjustments will need to be made to meet objectives during a subsequent year. Once the annual work plan for DATCP is complete, I meet individually with each employee to discuss work tasks that are specific to them. For the Department staff, this practice helps them to “focus in” on their main tasks for each given year. I feel strongly that by doing this, it makes them feel less overwhelmed by workload and they perceive this as a positive and productive meeting.

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.

The items highlighted in pink on the table (Q1) are items that have fallen short of our original goals.

Well Decommissioning: Groundwater assessment and management are included in Goal 2 of our 2020-2024 workplan. Our target was to complete a minimum of 1 well decommission each year for a total of 7. To date, we have only completed 3, with no project to be installed in 2024. Educational clips on our monthly *Constant Contact* articles were completed each year but seemed to go unnoticed by the public. We will try to expand public awareness about this topic and strive to achieve at least 1 decommission project per year in the future.

Groundwater Monitoring: We intended to seek grant funds to conduct a large groundwater monitoring event where landowners could get a test for free. Once we received the test results, we would then hold an educational event about groundwater quality. However, we never got around to doing the project because of two unforeseen events: 1) A global pandemic and, 2) Staff that were out on family leave. We have this event included again in the new 2025-2029 workplan.

Watershed Protection Management Project: Although this project was completed, there were unforeseen bumps in the road, and it didn’t really end the way we expected. The biggest hurdle to starting a “protection” plan (similar to a 9KE) in an already healthy watershed community was selling the concept that we needed to plan any management at all! Both natural resource professionals and the watershed landowners were hesitant about the project. Success of the project involved having buy-in for the concept so that we could generate volunteers to help with the soil erosion survey portion of the project, and to generate a community leader who would take on the implementation of the plan. The volunteers did come through to help with field surveys, but a project leader did not come forth. In future projects of this type, there will need to be a few years of pre-education about the concept prior to initiating a grant proposal for a protection management plan.

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 the implementation of the agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms?

Vilas County does not have a large agricultural base. That said, our LWRM plan still addresses issues that are focused on surface and ground water protection. Most of our customers own property on riparian shorelines and we address soil erosion along those areas. In recent years though, we have reached out to the small-scale and hobby farmers that reside here. We have talked one on one to a few of them in the Conover and Phelps communities. The purpose of our visits have been to let them know what services we could provide for them as the need should arise, and to begin the process of building trusting relationships. We've tried to take a non-pressure / voluntary approach with these people. One landowner has utilized our cost-share program a few different times to address concerns in their small grass-fed beef operation. Our strategy these next few years will be to expand awareness of our existence among the local small farms and producers.

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.

As I examined the planned versus completed tasks that were written in our workplans for the last 10 years, I did notice a "maturing" of my planning and reporting style. By this I mean that in some cases in the past, I planned for a program or event but did not have a quantitative means to report as accomplished. I just reported "Y/N Complete". Another example I came across was in AIS training sessions. One year I planned for "5 Trainings", only to report "number of people trained". In the last 3-4 years there has been improvement. One thing that needs to happen in the future is consistency and quantification of planning AND reporting. For the new workplan, I will create a spreadsheet that clearly defines both.

The items highlighted in yellow in the table (Q1) were not included as part of our workload until recent years and have been added as priority tasks going forward.

1. Climate Change Resiliency: Refer to the answer to optional question below.
2. *Healthy Lakes* Best Management Practices (BMPs): When the last plan was drafted in 2014, the DNR *Healthy Lakes* program didn't exist. It was created so that grant funding would be available to riparian landowners wishing to place simple and inexpensive best management practices on their land to protect or improve water quality. We have added these practices on our menu of practices, and we strive to place these practices as often as possible. Five practices are available for this program and landowners can incorporate 1, or all 5 on their riparian property as needed. Vilas County Land and Water Conservation intends to incentivize landowner participation in this program by taking the grant application process and project planning away from landowners.
3. Boat Decontamination Program: As part of our strong invasive species management program, Vilas County Land & Water Conservation has started to have a consistent presence with a hot, high-pressure sprayer at strategic boat landings. The purpose is to decrease the likelihood that invasives species, like the Spiny waterflea, will spread to nearby surface water. The waterflea has been identified in 5 waterbodies in the county, and we prefer that it stay contained to those 5 only. We now seek grant money annually

so that we can hire a seasonal employee to work on this important prevention work for our lakes. There are no plans to stop this activity for the foreseeable future.

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*

Climate mitigation strategies have been incorporated and implemented as part of our program for several years, but not outwardly stated as such in our annual workplans. Climate change resilience is included in many areas of the newly revised plan (2025-2034).

- 1) For example, when placing streambank/shoreland protection practices (ATCP 50.88), we intentionally **enhanced the biological diversity of vegetation** within the design plans **for the benefit of wildlife** (including pollinator species) and to build climate resiliency throughout the county.
- 2) Another intentional activity we have been striving for in the last several years has been to expand our native plant seed collections and sharing program. The idea here is that existing species are **genetically adapted to the current fluctuations of climate and are more resistant** to invasive species and any potential new pests.
- 3) Our third strategy has been to **improve road / stream infrastructure by reducing the likelihood of flooding** events. We have been conducting culvert assessments to **increase natural reproduction for fish** populations, reduce soil erosion issues at the immediate crossing, and mitigate blockage of the crossing during intense storm events. Once data is collected, we share the results with local municipalities so they can begin to plan and budget for culvert replacements where they are needed most.
- 4) We have intentionally **increased our placement of *Healthy Lakes* practices**. There are a **multitude of benefits** with these five practices (fish habitat, diversions, native planting, rock infiltrations, raingardens). By improving fish habitat and shade cover, gamefish species are more resilient to increasing water temperatures. By placing water diversions and infiltration areas we are reducing sedimentation of our surface waters, which keeps them clean and oxygenated. Diverse native plantings are intentionally placed into buffers and

raingardens. Raingardens not only increase pollinator habitat, but they allow temporary storage and slow infiltration of stormwater so that the quantity and quality of groundwater supplies are maintained.

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. **2024**
- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year. **2023**

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:
November 14, 2024 (public hearing and regular monthly meeting)

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

 **Date:** 11/10/24

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

VILAS COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	Receive 2023 SEG funds for nutrient mngt planning	\$1,776 secured
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity	<p><u>Practice installation:</u> Includes technical planning, landowner/contractor assistance, survey, design, and implementation 4 – ATCP 50.88 – Streambank & Shoreland Protect 1 – ATCP 50.97 – Well Decommissioning 3 – Healthy Lakes Projects Fish Habitat (install Feb 2023) 8 – Healthy Lakes Projects Fish Habitat (install Feb 2024) 3 – Healthy Lakes Projects Rock Infiltration</p> <p><u>Planning / Design:</u> Design 2024-2025 Healthy Lakes Projects Seek DNR grant – Healthy Lakes 2024-2025 Lumberjack RC&D grant proposal – groundwater 2024 Seek DNR grant – Strategic Lake Protection 2024 - 2026 Write mini-plan for Northwoods’ Business</p> <p><u>Training:</u> Citizen monitor training: 4+ WAV sessions</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u> Monitor stream WQ at 8 sites Lake WQ Surveys (directed lakes assessment suite) (1)</p> <p><u>Modeling:</u> Calculate Lbs TP reduced for each site</p> <p><u>Coordination:</u> WI River Clean-up event Seek funding for plan implementation (Your Boat Club)</p>	<p>775 Linear Ft (4 projects installed) 1 installed 3 installed 7 coordinated for 2024 installation 3 installed</p> <p>15 designs complete \$ 15,188 approved Not completed \$ 50,000 approved 1 plan completed (Hawks’ Nest Outfitters)</p> <p>5 new volunteers trained</p> <p>12 sites monitored Stormy Lake completed</p> <p>Not completed</p> <p>Yes completed Not completed</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species	<p><u>Planning:</u> Seek DNR grant - Boat Decontamination Program Coordinate TIS mngt in RCWS</p>	<p>\$ 17,651 approved Not completed</p>

VILAS COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<u>Monitoring:</u> AIS Early Detection Monitoring Purple Loosestrife (mass rearing cage assist) Phragmites site check & removal assist <u>Mapping:</u> Update county-wide IS maps <u>Training:</u> 5 CB/CW Training Sessions <u>State Campaigns:</u> Landing Blitz, Drain Campaign, AIS Snapshot <u>Rearing Assistance:</u> Beetles (for PL Mngt); Weevils (for EWM Mngt)	2 Lakes completed; (Bittersweet, Stormy) Yes completed Yes completed (Razorback L) Yes completed 8 training sessions 3/3 completed; (0 volunteers for Snapshot) Yes both completed (Buckatabon L)
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wildlife damage / Venison donation program Improve lake fishery habitat - See 'Water Quality' above Native Mussel monitoring at 1 stream site Bat monitoring (by volunteers, staff coordinates) Enhance pollinator habitat – seed packs (Monarch, Bees) Enhance biological diversity of vegetation Expand # species in native seed collection	\$15,589 3 Fish Habitat installations Not completed 65 surveys completed 2 landowners received packets Yes completed Yes completed
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	N/A	
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<u>Management Plan:</u> Write protection mngt plan for Rice Cr Watershed (RCWS) Analyze data results for RCWS ID priority wetlands in RCWS Map priority wetlands in RCWS Close DNR grant for RCWS	In Progress Yes completed Not completed Not completed In Progress
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• *Other*

Other	<u>Planning:</u> Begin Vilas County LWRMP update (2025-2034) Complete DATCP 2024 SWRM grant <u>Recognize Volunteers:</u> Plan & hold volunteer appreciation event <u>Support Partners:</u> Support local boat wake initiatives Town Lakes Committee assistance WI Land + Water Association BOD WI Land + Water Association Executive Committee WI Land + Water Youth Education Committee WI Land + Water Youth Ed Outreach Committee	Local advisory committee contacted \$ 173,103 / \$55,000 requested Yes completed; ~40 attended 1 workshop; ~111 people attended 4 meetings attended 4 meetings attended; (minutes produced) 3 meetings attended; (minutes produced) 5 meetings attended 3 meetings attended; (minutes produced)
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VILAS COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	AITCOM Planning & Implementation Zoning Department Lake Organizations WI Headwaters Invasives Partnership	10 meetings attended 2 technical assists for mitigation ~26 orgs assisted (grants, LOS, presentations, etc) 5 meetings attended
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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		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems		
Manure storage closure		
Livestock facility siting		
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining		
Stormwater and construction site erosion control		
Shoreland zoning		
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	3 DNR applications	3 completed (2 shoreland; 1 fish sticks)
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections completed
Compliance Checks (Healthy Lakes; Cost Share)	3 HL; 7 CS
RSX Inspections	9 (Manitowish Waters)
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	
For NR 151	
Animal waste ordinance	
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	
Nonmetallic mining	

VILAS COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Group Presentations	10
Tours	2 wetland (Native Plant Society Paddle; Master Naturalists Tour)
Field days	
Trainings/workshops	5 (WHIP Workshop; TFT Reforestation; Shoreland Workshop; CS/HL Workshop; SOAR Student Native Garden)
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	1 classroom; Poster/Speaking Contest
Newsletters / Constant Contact	12 posts
Social media posts	12 posts
News release/story	4
Brochures	1 completed (Dept Brochure)
Website Updates	

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	2080	
<i>Technician Lands</i>	2080	
<i>Technician Waters</i>	2080	
<i>LTE Summer (1) Surface Water Technician</i>	~560	
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Bond Funds</i>	N/A	\$33,000
<i>Healthy Lakes Funds</i>	N/A	\$9,986
<i>LMPN Funds</i>	N/A	\$18,581

VILAS COUNTY 2024 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	<u>Planning and Staff Training:</u> 1 – ATP 50.78 – Nutrient mgmt plan development 1 – Attend plan development training (landowner & co staff)	<i>\$1,776 cost-share dollars SEG</i> <i>Y/N complete</i>
• <i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock	<u>Planning:</u> 1 – Grazing Plan	<i>Y/N complete</i>
• <i>Water quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity	<u>Practice Installation:</u> Includes technical planning, landowner/contractor assistance, survey, practice design, and implementation 3 – ATP 50.88 – Streambank & Shoreland Protection 1 – Healthy Lakes Project Raingarden 7 – Healthy Lakes Projects Native Shoreland Planting <u>Planning:</u> Landowner initial site visits for potential Cost Share Develop Landowner Cost Share Contracts Landowner Site Visits for Healthy Lakes Program Design DNR 2025-2026 Healthy Lakes Projects Submit DNR Grant Proposal – Healthy Lakes 2025-2026 Submit DNR Grant Proposal for LMPN 2025 <u>Monitor / Data Collection:</u> 2 – Comprehensive, targeted lake assessments 13 – Stream assessments (WAV); 2 incl Tot Phosphorus <u>Training / Education:</u> 2 – New WAV volunteers trained	<i>Linear Ft installed; # of projects</i> <i># installed</i> <i># installed</i> <i># site visits</i> <i># completed</i> <i># site visits</i> <i># designs complete</i> <i>\$ requested</i> <i>Y/N complete</i> <i>2 completed (Moccasin L., Little Portage L.)</i> <i># completed</i> <i>(Mill Cr., Pine Cr.)</i>
• <i>Forestry</i>		
Forestry		

VILAS COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Invasive*

Invasive species	<p><u>Monitor / Data Collection:</u> 12 – Monitor lakes for spiny waterflea 7 – Monitor lakes for non-native phragmites 3 – Monitor lakes for purple loosestrife 3 – AIS Early Detection Surveys Monitor the ER Chain of Lakes for knotweed</p> <p><u>Management Implementation:</u> CB/CW Boat Inspections - ER chain of lakes Boat Decontamination Phragmites management</p> <p><u>Training / Education:</u> Prevention Campaigns (Stop SWF; Drain; Blitz; Snapshot) AIS Prevention – post a billboard along busy traffic area 5+ – Clean Boats / Clean Waters training sessions</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance:</u> Follow up for suspected new AIS</p> <p><u>Partner Support:</u> Statewide Coordinator Meetings Other Meetings (Youth Ed, AITCOM, Others) Letters of Support for grants Data input assistance WHIP assistance (PL biocontrol, Native Seed, etc)</p>	<p># surveys complete (Decon Grant) # surveys complete (Decon Grant) # surveys complete # surveys complete Y/N complete</p> <p># people contacted # boats decontaminated # activity hours</p> <p>3 of 4 campaigns complete Y/N complete 8 trainings given</p> <p># requests (Specify activity & lake)</p> <p># attended # attended # complete (Specify who & for what) # activity hours # activity hours</p>
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<p><u>Practice Installation:</u> 8 – Healthy Lakes Projects Fish Habitat (install Feb 2024) 7 – Healthy Lakes Projects Fish Habitat (install Feb 2025)</p> <p><u>Department Operations:</u> Wildlife damage / venison donation program 2024 Expand Native Seed Library in Conservation Dept.</p> <p><u>Monitor / Data Collection:</u> Bat Monitoring / population & species assessment</p> <p><u>Management Implementation:</u> Enhance biological diversity of vegetation for wildlife & climate</p>	<p># installed # coordinated for 2025 installation</p> <p>\$ spent; # deer processed Y/N complete</p> <p># surveys completed</p> <p>Y/N complete</p>
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VILAS COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Urban*

Urban issues	
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- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<u>Planning / Design:</u> ID priority wetlands RCWS Map priority wetlands RCWS Finish Protection Mngt Plan (Rice Creek Watershed) Close DNR grant for RCWS	<i>Y/N complete</i> <i>Y/N complete</i> <i>Y/N complete</i> <i>Y/N complete</i>
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- *Other*

Other	<u>Department Operations:</u> Update Vilas County LWRMP 2025-2034 Complete DATCP 2025 SWRM grant application <u>Volunteer Recognition:</u> Plan & hold volunteer appreciation event	<i>Y/N complete</i> <i>\$ requested</i> <i>Y/N complete</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		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems		
Manure storage closure		
Livestock facility siting		
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining		
Stormwater and construction site erosion control		
Shoreland zoning		
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2+	
Other		

VILAS COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	
For NR 151	
Animal waste ordinance	
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	
Nonmetallic mining	
Compliance Checks (Healthy Lakes; Cost Share)	3; 3

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	
Trainings/workshops	1 Shoreland Contractor Workshop
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	1 classroom activity; 1 youth field day; 2 local poster events; 1 local speaking contest
Newsletters	12 Constant Contact
Social media posts	12 Facebook
News release/story	

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	FTE	\$81,000 + Fringe
Conservation Specialist	FTE	\$64,000 + Fringe
Lake Conservation Specialist	FTE	\$64,000 + Fringe
LMPN LTE (2024)	520	\$8,704
AIS Decontamination LTE (2024)	560	\$10,312 (9240+1071.84)
Cost Sharing		
Bond Funds		\$31,200
SEG Funds		\$1,776
Healthy Lakes Projects		

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: November 20, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Wood 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, 2034, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2029.

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

Wood County held a public hearing on November 6, 2024, as part of its public input and review process. The Wood 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
- 2023 workplan with accomplishments and current 2024 workplan

Presenters: Shane Wucherpennig, Wood County Conservationist
Bill Leichtnam, Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee Chair



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: WOOD

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 10/28/2024

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2, 81

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	6/19/24
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	11/6/24
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	12/17/24

III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the plan include the following information as part of a county-wide resource assessment:			
a. Soil erosion conditions in the county ³ , including:			
i. identification of areas within county that have high erosion rates or other soil erosion problems that merit action within the next 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5,34-35
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3,5,Ch. 2

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

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

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

- | | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| iii. | identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2,3,7,11,42-47 |
|------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|

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

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| a. | specific water quality objectives identified for each watershed based upon the resource assessment, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2,3,7-11,19,57,63 |
| b. | pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6,7,11,44,47,55-58 |

Other comments:

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| 1. | Did the county consult with DNR ⁴ to obtain water quality assessments, if available; to identify key water quality problem areas; to determine water quality objectives; and to identify pollutant load reduction targets, if any; and to review NR 151 implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ch 2 |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|

Other comments: DNR participated throughout the planning process

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components : | | | | |
| a. | A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6,10,69-70 |
| b. | State and local regulations used to implement the plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11,15,18 |
| c. | Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6,10,73 |
| d. | Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 84 |
| e. | A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22,23,80 |

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.

2. Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate:			
a. expected costs of implementing the plan including cost-sharing for conservation practices needed to achieve plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	W.P.
b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	W.P.
3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	71-72

Other comments: _____

VI. OUTREACH AND PARTNERING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy to provide information and education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	73
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-76

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:			
a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
b. Identify priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
2. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and measure progress in meeting performance benchmarks and plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	78-80

Other comments: _____

VIII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS

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.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Staff Signature: Lisa K. Trumble

Date: November 14, 2024



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

County: WOOD

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

The following activities are a representative snapshot of the last five years of planning, implementing and tracking the Wood County LWCD's annual work plans:

1) Cropland, Soil Health & Nutrient Management - A consistent assessment of agricultural fields for crops planted, tillage methods used and residue left on the field has been completed annually over the past 5 years. This has been achieved by conducting a county wide transect survey visiting the same 312 fields annually documenting our findings. This is very pertinent information and annually provides trend data that can be analyzed for changes on the landscape. Planning this activity in our work plan also helps to provide a goal for the data collection and helps to quantify our findings in the data.

Promoting soil health practices has been a common theme over the past five years. Through the use of no-till, reduced tillage, cover crops, harvestable buffers and other soil health practices the LWCD is able to track progress in terms of total phosphorous (TP), total suspended solids (TSS) & nitrogen (N) reductions by watershed. The work plan helps us budget and plan implementation strategies year by year. This has been done consistently with all watersheds in the county.

Nutrient management planning and training has also been a common theme over the last five years. Wood County is part of a six county collaborative effort sharing a Nutrient Farmer Education Grant from DATCP to host and hold six NM training sessions every spring across the multi-county area. These sessions train farmers to develop, write & certify their own plans. The work plan is used as a tool to budget and track our progress, track the number of landowners participating and acres developed under NM plans. Little adjustments to the work plans have been needed as this process has been a fairly well oiled machine.

2) Water Quality/Quantity Activities - These activities have been repeated very consistently over the last five years. Programs like CREP, private well water testing, closures of decommissioned/unused private wells, stream water quality monitoring and streamflow monitoring have been conducted annually.

CREP program lands are monitored and tracked for TP, TSS and N reductions along with the number of landowners in the program and acres of land in the program. The annual work plan highlights the objectives for the year and helps plan the workload.

The LWCD puts priority on well closures for idle or non-compliant private wells as they are a direct conduit to groundwater. This is a practice that occurs annually and is tracked in our annual work plan.

Stream Monitoring for 4 HUC 12 watersheds in the Mill Creek 9 Key Element project has been performed annually 6 months out of the year every year since 2019. This monitoring is outlined in the annual work plan consistently to help budget and allocate staff time to do the monitoring.

Stream Flow monitoring is done annually on ten groundwater fed streams in Southern Wood County. This monitoring is to collect baseflow information and is part of a collaborative effort between Central Sands Counties and the DNR to yield data on agricultural land use impacts on groundwater. This project has been ongoing for over ten years and has been identified consistently in the annual work plan accomplishments. The work plan helps to allocate staff time to the project.

These are just a few representative activities outlined in the annual work plan and identified in the LWRM plan consistently over the past 5 years.

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.

One program area that Wood County has struggled with and has not had desirable outcomes with is the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).

The major reason for this is that Wood County does not have county wide zoning and none of our 22 townships have exclusive ag. zoning in their zoning plans. There are also currently no Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA's) in the county.

The county has promoted FPP zoning in several townships, attended meetings, presented at and provided language to townships to encourage town zoning to incorporate FPP exclusive ag. zoning. Unfortunately, without this language in township zoning ordinance, landowners in the county are not eligible for FPP tax credits on their agricultural land. With this eligibility scenario, the LWCD has no mechanism to re-enroll landowners/participants into the FPP program.

As for workplan adjustments and refocusing on this issue, the Wood County LWCD & county planning staff will continue to promote & support the development of local exclusive ag. zoning with townships and continue to encourage interested landowners to form an AEA in the county or try to join contiguous land parcels to adjacent AEA's in the neighboring counties of Clark & Marathon.

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?

Wood County's approach for the implementation of a priority farm strategy has two main objectives:

- 1) Implementation of priority cropland Best Management Practices (BMPs) which support the many principles of soil health include but are not limited to cover crops, no-till and conservation reduced tillage, managed grazing, grassed waterways, clean water diversions, perennial forages, manure spreading during low-risk times of the year and implementing nutrient management plans.
- 2) Implementation of NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

By conducting farm inventories and utilizing a multitude of funding sources the LWCD is able to efficiently and cost-effectively meet the demands for technical and financial assistance, while addressing the high resources concerns. The LWCD staff follows the priorities listed below based upon farm size, location, NR 151 compliance and programing available:

- 1) Mill Creek Watershed farms.
- 2) Animal Waste Storage, Nutrient Management and Groundwater Protection Ordinance.
- 3) Manure application during high risk (frozen, snow covered or saturated) soil conditions.
- 4) Farmland Preservation Program participants.
- 5) Farms located within the impaired waters identified by the WI DNR that want to advance their farms to superior levels of management by implementing the five principles of soil health.
- 6) Status reviews for compliance with NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions on farms that receive cost sharing, permitting, or other programs that require compliance with one or more of the state standards.
- 7) Livestock operations between 300 animal units and 500 animal units.
- 8) Managed Grazing Program in Wood County.
- 9) Participants in other voluntary cost sharing programs outside of high priority locations, farm size, or program.
- 10) Riparian and wetland buffer installation and maintenance.

The most effective outreach has been through hosting local workshops, field days, tours and other events which highlight what local producers are doing, what works or doesn't work, new equipment and technologies in the industry and new techniques that have been successful. These opportunities also provide great networking platforms for producers to share ideas and ask questions with their peers.

Wood County continues to evaluate the farm priority strategy through the annual workplan and our accomplishments on an annual basis and the LWCD adjusts the workplan if needed.

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.

The most notable change in direction that the Wood County LWCD made started almost 8 years ago. The introduction of Soil Health Principles, through hosting our very first Healthy Soil, Healthy Water Workshop, set in motion a whole new mind set of how agriculture needs to change in order heal our land. This workshop focused on holistic ecology and the importance of relationships between people, animals, plants, and their environment. (Interconnectedness). The event drew 135 people and kicked off a soil health movement in our county. For the last 5 plus years our focus has been on soil health practices and principles.

Another significant change was writing a 9 key element plan for the Mill Creek Watershed, which has redirected our focus on a watershed approach versus a shotgun approach of conservation on the ground. Through the implementation of this watershed plan we align the conservation work with the Wisconsin River TMDL reduction goals for Wisconsin.

Wood County has also taken on three DNR Multiple Discharge Variances projects in multiple watersheds. Not only has this given us more funding opportunities, but it also gives us the ability to align this work with the Wisconsin River TMDL reduction strategy as well.

These adjustments in programing have been outlined in past years workplans and allowed us to refocus our approach toward a watershed-based effort. This systematic approach is allowing us to get much better results and reductions on the landscape.

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

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

Climate Resiliency is discussed in the plan in Chapter 2 on Page 61. This section recognizes the need to be prepared and proactive on changing climate conditions and their impact on ecosystems and communities. Climate Resiliency is taken into consideration throughout this plan when assessing & planning the implementation of conservation practices. With the approach of stacking multiple practices together as a system on the landscape rather than a single catch all practice, these systems can start to build some adaptability and sustainability. These enhanced land management systems have a multitude of protections working together, which starts to build resilience with volatile and variable climate conditions.

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 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: November 6th, 2024.

Signature of Authorized Representative: Bill Cenktram **Date:** 11-6-24
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

WOOD COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<i>No-Till/Cover crops</i> <i>NM planning and training</i> <i>NM Plans/Compliance county wide</i> <i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories(Transect Survey)</i>	<i>34 Landowners/3,050 acres/ 3,593 # P reduced 3,476 tons of sediment reduced</i> <i>NM – 6 farmers trained 3,390 acres</i> <i>NM Plans – 92 Plans/ 58,096 acres</i> <i>Transect – 312 sites across the county</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>Manure storage system</i> <i>Manure transfer systems</i> <i>Barnyard runoff control</i> <i>Manure storage closure</i>	<i>Manure storage -1 installed</i> <i>Manure transfer systems - 2 installed</i> <i>Barnyard runoff control – 1 installed</i> <i>Manure storage closures – 2 closed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>CREP</i> <i>Groundwater testing-private wells</i> <i>Well closures</i> <i>Stream monitoring</i> <i>Stream Flow</i>	<i>CREP – 1,956 #P reduced/ 1,022 # N reduced/ 1,065 tons sed. reduced</i> <i>Private wells - 36 wells tested for Nitrates- funded by county</i> <i>Well closures – 4 wells closed</i> <i>Stream water quality sampling for P and sediment – 6 sites monthly for 6 months annually TMDL watershed</i> <i>Stream flow – 8 sites measuring base flow on groundwater feed streams</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	N/A	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species	<i>Survey – Wild parsnip</i> <i>Control – wild parsnip(multiple treatment methods)</i> <i>Rusty Crayfish</i>	<i>Wild parsnip – annual survey</i> <i>Wild parsnip – 4 sites treated – 11 miles of road ditch</i> <i>Rusty Crayfish – Local high school on Yellow River – trap/count/age/sex and report</i>

WOOD COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Wildlife damage program- Claims and abatement</i> <i>Tree and plant sales</i> <i>Prairie/Native seed sales</i>	<i>Wildlife damage – 55 crop appraisals/ \$15,050 claims pd.</i> <i>Abatement – 15,102' of fencing installed – inspected 15 fences</i> <i>Tree sale - 14,775 trees sold/156 landowners</i> <i>Prairie/Native seed sales – 7 landowners</i>
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>P-compliance- TMDL Plan</i> <i>TMDL coordination</i> <i>Producer-led – Education/Field days</i>	<i>Meeting goals in matrix of phase 1 LS TRM Grant</i> <i>Number of meetings attended/presentations given - 3</i> <i>Modeling completed – annually for 9-key</i> <i>Number of partner contacts made – 20 partners</i> <i>Information system/tracking developed – using ARC GIS and BITS</i> <i>Number of partnership development activities accomplished - 3</i>
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• *Other*

Other	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</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	N/A	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3
Manure storage closure	3	3
Livestock facility siting	N/A	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	10	10
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A	0
Shoreland zoning	2	2
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	1	1
Other		

WOOD COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	20
For FPP	0
For NR 151	20
Animal waste ordinance	3
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	53

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

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

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$124,754
<i>Engineering Technical</i>	2080	\$ 80,595
<i>Conservation Program Coordinator</i>	2080	\$ 80,964
<i>Conservation Specialist</i>	2080	\$73,470
<i>Conservation Specialist</i>	1040	\$39,654
<i>Administrative Services</i>	2015	\$68,902
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>BOND</i>	N/A	\$54,000
<i>SEG</i>	N/A	\$ 54,000.
<i>MDV</i>	N/A	\$ 31,632.44

WOOD COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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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)
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WOOD COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: December 3, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: DATCP
Land and Water Resource Bureau

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed 2025 LWCB Annual Agenda

Recommended Action: This is an action item. The LWCB may choose to approve the proposed 2025 annual agenda or choose to amend it before approval.

Summary: DATCP have prepared a proposed annual agenda for LWCB meetings in 2025. Subject to LWCB approval, the meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

February 4, 2025

April 1, 2025

June 3, 2025

August 5, 2025

October 7, 2025

December 2, 2025

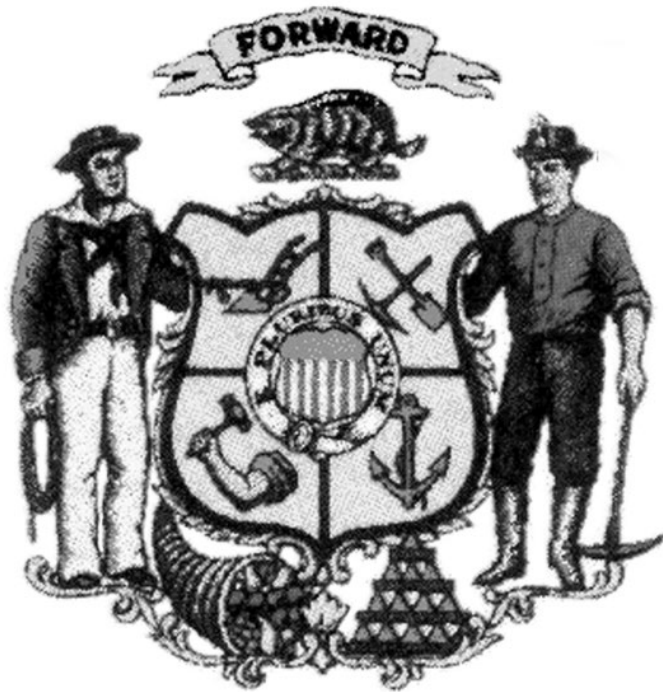
One or more meetings may be held remotely by teleconference in accordance with Board Bylaws for Schedule and Place of Meetings.

If you have any questions about the annual agenda, please contact Stacy Tierman at (608)224-4633 or Katy Smith at (608)224-4621.

Materials Provided: LWCB 2025 Proposed Annual Agenda.

Presenter: DATCP

Land and Water Conservation Board



2025 ANNUAL AGENDA

February 4, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five-Year Reviews (Columbia, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties)
Responsible Party: LWRM Planner
- ◆ Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2025 CREP Spending Authority (Carryover Item from December 2024)
Responsible Party: Brian Loeffelholz

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ Election of 2025 Officers
Responsible Party: LWCB Chair
- ◆ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ◆ Board Education Item

APRIL 1, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approval (Lafayette County) and Five-Year Reviews (Jefferson and Marathon Counties)
Responsible Party: LWRM Planner
- ◆ Extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 into 2025
Responsible Party: Susan Mockert
- ◆ Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2024 Cost-Share Dollars (written report only)
Responsible Party: Susan Mockert and DNR Representative

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ◆ Board Education Item

JUNE 3, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approval (Rusk County) and Five-Year Reviews (Marinette and Winnebago Counties)
Responsible Party: LWRM Planner

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ◆ Board Education Item

AUGUST 5, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approval (Oconto County) and Five-Year Reviews (Door and Iron Counties)
Responsible Party: LWRM Planner
- ◆ Presentation of 2026 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan
Responsible Party: Susan Mockert and Joanna Griffin
- ◆ DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2026
Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin
- ◆ DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2026
Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin

- ♦ The Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report (written report only)
Responsible Party: Alex Elias

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ♦ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ♦ Board Education Item

OCTOBER 7, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ♦ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approval (Manitowoc County) and Five-Year Reviews (Pepin and Walworth Counties)
Responsible Party: LWRM Planner
- ♦ DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2026
Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin
- ♦ Recommendation for approval of the 2026 Joint Final Allocation Plan
 - ❖ Response to comments regarding the 2026 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan**Responsible Party: Susan Mockert and Joanna Griffin**
- ♦ Presentation on the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
Responsible Party: Alex Elias

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ♦ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ♦ Board Education Item

DECEMBER 2, 2025 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ♦ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approvals (Adams, Iowa, and Sheboygan Counties)

Responsible Party: LWRM Planner

- ◆ Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2026 CREP Spending Authority
Responsible Party: Brian Loeffelholz
- ◆ Farmland Preservation Program Biennial Report
Responsible Party: Wednesday Coye, Tim Jackson

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ Approval of Proposed 2026 LWCB Annual Agenda
Responsible Party: LWCB Chair
- ◆ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Responsible Party: Committee Representative
- ◆ Board Education Item



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: December 3, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Katy Smith, DATCP
Bureau of Land and Water Resources Management

SUBJECT: 2024 Review of Land and Water Conservation Board Bylaws and Revisions

Recommend Action:

This is an action item. In accordance with Section IX. Of the Land and Water Conservation Board Bylaws, bylaws shall be reviewed at the December meeting of even numbered years. The Board may make a motion to accept the Bylaw Revisions as drafted.

Summary of Drafted Changes:

- 1) Administrative cleanup of abbreviations, references.
- 2) Clarification on notice of absence for members and advisors.
- 3) Drafted insertions clarify composition of the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research.

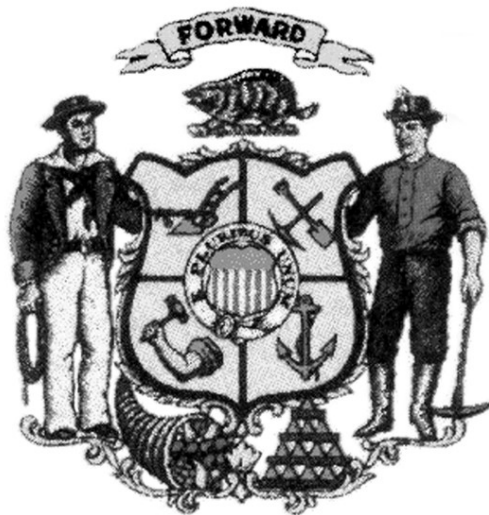
Wisconsin - America's Dairyland

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An equal opportunity employer

WISCONSIN LAND & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

BYLAWS



LAST AMENDED 12-~~36~~-202~~42~~

*Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade
and Consumer Protection
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911*

I. PURPOSE

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board ("LWCB" or the "board"), which is attached to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), advises DATCP on issues related to the soil and water resource management program. The board also advises the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on issues related to the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program including Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Notice of Discharge (NOD) funding projects.

The board is responsible for making decisions relative to adjudicatory matters, policy review and program administration, and rulemaking. Specific authorities and duties are listed in Appendix A.

II. MEMBERS

A. Members

As required by s. 15.135(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the board consists of:

- 1) The secretaries of administration, of natural resources, and of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, or their designees;
- 2) Three members of county land conservation committees elected biennially by the county land conservation committees at their annual meeting in even-numbered years for 2-year terms; and
- 3) Four other members appointed by the Governor for staggered 4-year terms. One of those members shall be a resident of a city with a population of 50,000 or more, one shall represent a governmental unit involved in river management, one shall be a farmer and one shall be a member of a charitable corporation, charitable association or charitable trust, the purpose or powers of which include protecting natural resources, including scenic or open space, and maintaining or enhancing air or water quality.
- 4) One representative appointed by the Governor for a 2-year term.

B. Advisory Members

As required by s. 15.135(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the board shall invite:

- 1) The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and a representative of the Farm Service Agency to serve as advisory members of the board.
- 2) The ~~d~~Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the ~~d~~Director of the University of Wisconsin-Extension to serve or appoint a person to serve as an advisory member of the board.
- 3) The staff of the county land conservation committees employed under s. 92.09, Stats., to designate jointly a person to serve as an advisory member of the board.

The board may invite representatives of other organizations to provide information and advice relative to its responsibilities.

C. Vacancies

If one or more of the county land conservation committee member positions on the board is vacant, the president of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc. (Wisconsin Land + Water) board of directors may call a special meeting of the committees to fill the vacancies, but vacancies may be filled only if a majority of the committees are represented at the special meeting. [s. 15.135(4), Stats.]

D. Terms

The terms of members of the board appointed under s. 15.135(4)(b)2., ~~Stats.~~ (representing Wisconsin Land + Water) shall expire on January 1. [s. 15.07(1)(cm), Stats.]

The term of the member appointed by the Governor under s. 15.135(4)(b)2m., ~~Stats.~~ for a 2-year term shall expire on May 1 of an even-numbered year. [s. 15.07(1)(cm), Stats.]

The terms of other members shall expire on May 1. If the term is for an even number of years, it shall expire in an odd-numbered year. [s. 15.07(1)(c), Stats.]

E. Attendance

1) Member Attendance

If a member cannot attend a meeting in-person or virtually, the member shall notify DATCP staff as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. DATCP staff will attempt to make alternative arrangements to allow attendance by telephone, video or internet conferencing, if such alternative arrangements do not impede the meeting as defined in ~~Section-s.~~ 19.82(2), Stats., and the member's motions and votes can be recorded as required by ~~Section-s.~~ 19.88(3), Stats.

If a member is absent at two consecutive meetings without reasonable justification, as determined by the board, the board may notify the Governor's office or the entity that the member represents.

2) Advisor Attendance

If an advisor cannot attend a meeting in-person or virtually, the advisor shall notify DATCP staff as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. DATCP staff will attempt to make alternative arrangements to allow attendance by telephone, video or internet conferencing, if such alternative arrangements do not impede the meeting as defined in ~~Section-s.~~ 19.82(2), Stats.

If an advisor is absent at two or more consecutive meetings without reasonable justification, the board chair may contact the entity responsible for the advisor's appointment to determine the causes for the person's absence and to establish a basis for re-engagement of the appointed person, and if circumstances warrant, to request a new appointee.

F. Oath of Office

Each member shall take and file the official oath prior to assuming office. [s. 15.07(7), Stats.]

III. OFFICERS

At its first meeting in each year, the board shall elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary, each of whom may be re-elected to succeed himself or herself. [s. 15.07(2), Stats.] Candidates for each office shall be nominated from the floor unless the Board agrees to a different procedure in a meeting held prior to the election.

Committees formed in accordance with Section VIII of these ~~Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board~~ Bylaws may, but are not required to, elect officers. Advisors serving on a committee shall not ~~be~~ serve as officers.

IV. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Adjudication

Withdrawn.

B. Policy Review and Program Administration

The board has various authorities and responsibilities related to policy review and program administration. -These include general program responsibilities under the soil and water resource management program, and the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program, including the ~~TRM~~ Targeted Runoff Management Program and ~~NO~~ Notice of Discharge ~~G~~ grants. These authorities are listed in full in Appendix A.

The board may take such actions including the issuance of guidance and adoption of resolutions as are necessary to carry out its authorities and responsibilities.

C. Program Evaluation

The board has the authority to require DNR and DATCP to conduct or contract for another person to conduct any evaluation or audit of the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program that the board determines is necessary.

D. Rulemaking

Under s. 92.04(3)(f), Stats., the board has no rulemaking authority on matters related to land and water conservation. The board may make recommendations to rules relevant to these issues.

V. DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

The board will use the following procedures when exercising its authority in the categories identified under Section IV.

A. Adjudication

Withdrawn.

B. Policy Review and Program Administration

When a policy or program administrative item is brought before the board for decision, staff shall provide the board with the following:

- 1) the statutory authority under which the board is authorized to act, and the scope of that authority;
- 2) a statement indicating whether the board is responsible for making a final decision or for recommending a decision to another entity;
- 3) an accurate and objective statement of relevant facts;
- 4) an objective statement of policy issues and background;
- 5) options available to the board; and
- 6) staff recommendations.

C. Program Evaluation

In fulfilling the program evaluation responsibilities of the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program and the soil and water resource management program, staff shall prepare the following materials for the board:

- 1) an evaluation plan, which includes water quality monitoring and analysis;
- 2) a biennial joint program evaluation report of the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program and the soil and water resource management program;
- 3) statewide accomplishment reports; and
- 4) fiscal information related to cost share grants and technical assistance.

D. Forum

The board may provide a forum for discussion of emerging issues related to land and water conservation.

VI. MEETING PROCEDURES

A. Schedule and Place of Meetings

Regular meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December unless an alternate date is approved by the chair. The LWCB Advisory Committee on Research will hold regular meetings on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Special meetings may be called or canceled by the chair at any time.

Meetings will generally be held at DATCP or DNR in Madison, or other appropriate locations approved by the chair. Other locations for meetings may be scheduled for special events or to accommodate particular agenda items.

The LWCB and its committees may hold a meeting by telephone, video or internet conferencing as long as it meets the definition of a meeting as set forth in ~~Section s.~~ 19.82(2), Stats., in that it is for the purpose of conducting governmental business and involves a sufficient number of members of the body to determine the body's course of action on the business under consideration. If any unit of state or local government issues a public health emergency that precludes the LWCB and its committees from meeting in-person, the LWCB and its committees shall hold meetings by telephone, video or internet conferencing consistent with the definition of a meeting as set forth in ~~Section s.~~ 19.82(2), Stats. Deference to in-person meeting shall be consistent with DATCP guidance. The LWCB must follow all ~~o~~Open ~~m~~Meetings ~~l~~Law requirements in ~~c~~Chapter 19, ~~Subchapter subch.~~ V, Stats., and provide the public with an effective means to monitor the meeting.

All meetings shall be noticed in accordance with the open meetings laws, ~~Chapter ch.~~ 19, ~~subch. V,~~ Stats.

B. Agendas

1) Individual Meeting Agendas

The agenda shall be prepared by the staff of DATCP Land and Water Resources Bureau in consultation with the DNR Watershed Management Bureau, and coordinated with the chair of the board, 14 calendar days prior to the next scheduled meeting. The agenda will be electronically transmitted to members at least 10 days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, except in the case of special or emergency meetings.

The agenda shall include:

- a) approval of minutes of the previous meetings(s),
- b) public appearances, if any,
- c) approval of agenda,
- d) actions as authorized by statutes,
- e) recommendations to DATCP or DNR as authorized by statutes,
- f) recommendations to DATCP or DNR on program policy issues,
- g) advisory member reports,
- h) committee or departmental reports,
- i) other business authorized by law, and
- j) future meetings scheduled.

2) Annual Agenda

During the board's December meeting, DATCP and DNR staff will submit a proposed annual agenda for the board's activities for the following year. Preparation of the annual agenda shall be coordinated with the board chair. The board shall take action during the December meeting to approve or disapprove the proposed annual agenda. The annual agenda shall indicate the party(ies) responsible for each agenda item.

C. Record of Meetings

A record of each board or committee meeting shall be prepared and preserved by DATCP, consistent with Section VI-E below. The record of a meeting shall be electronically transmitted to each member, each advisory member, and any agency or individual upon request.

D. Board Materials

1) Review

DNR and DATCP shall coordinate the preparation of all meeting materials relevant to the soil and water resource management program and the nonpoint source pollution abatement program to ensure distribution in accordance with Section VI-D.2.

DATCP and DNR will obtain all necessary legal review and internal approvals of materials submitted to the board in accordance with the requirements established by each agency.

2) Distribution

All board materials, including DATCP and DNR materials, shall be forwarded to DATCP's Agricultural Resource Management (ARM) Division for electronic distribution to the board and its advisors. If board members and advisors do not have internet access and a working email address, they are responsible for making arrangements with a third party to receive board communications and materials electronically.

Materials prepared by DATCP and DNR related to board agenda items shall be sent electronically by DATCP to the board members and advisors at least 10 days prior to the board meeting, and sooner if possible. Staff may distribute materials at other times, including on meeting days, when appropriate.

All press releases pertaining to board issues shall be reviewed and approved by the board chair, and shall be published on board stationery with a board member listed as a media contact.

E. Conduct of Meetings

1) Conduct of Meetings

The chair or, in the absence of the chair the vice chair or, in the absence of both, the secretary, or in the absence of all three, any member chosen by the members present, shall call the meetings of the board to order and shall act as chair of the meetings. The board secretary shall act as secretary of all meetings of the board. In the absence of the secretary, the presiding officer may appoint any member present to act as secretary of

the meeting. The secretary shall direct the department to prepare a record of all board meetings. A record of each meeting must be prepared as required by s. 19.88, Stats. Minutes of each meeting are the usual method to meet this requirement, and shall be taken by DATCP staff and approved by the board, or applicable committee, at its next business meeting. With the approval of the chair or the secretary of the board or a board committee, a digital audio recording may be used as an alternative meeting record. The board is committed to conducting its meetings and business without using paper including record sharing and retention using electronic technologies, and to this end it recognizes and gives full legal effect to electronically-submitted documents, electronic signatures, electronic notarization and acknowledgement, and electronically-maintained files, consistent with subch. II of ch. 137, Stats. Whatever its form, any record of a meeting must be retained by DATCP in accordance with established guidelines in Records Disposition Authorizations (RDAs). Any subject matter regarding procedure not covered by these bylaws will be covered by *The Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Wisconsin's open meeting law.

2) Manner of Acting

Except as otherwise expressly provided in these bylaws, action shall be taken by the board upon a vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting and the same shall be the action of the board. The voting on all matters at a meeting for which a roll call vote is requested shall be by yeas and nays and the yeas and nays shall be reflected in the record of the meeting. All resolutions shall be presented in writing or reduced to writing during or after the meeting, and shall be reflected in the record of the meeting.

3) Quorum

Six board members shall constitute a quorum and no formal business may be transacted unless a quorum is present. When fewer than six members are present, the meeting will be a conference of the board and its deliberations considered as expressions of opinion of the individual board members and consideration of information presented by DATCP and others present.

On committees formed in accordance with Section VIII of these ~~Land and Water Conservation Board~~ bylaws, a quorum shall be constituted by a majority of ~~B~~board members serving on the committee. In accordance with s. 15.07(4), Stats., advisors serving on committees may not count towards a quorum.

VII. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

Board members who are not employees of state agencies are eligible to receive \$25.00 per diem plus expenses "incurred in the performance of their duties." [s. 15.07(5), Stats.]. The following policy defines the duties of members of the board, the performance of which establishes eligibility for per diem and expenses.

A. No Prior Approval Required

Board members will receive per diem and expenses for attending:

- 1) Official meetings of the Land and Water Conservation Board;

- 2) A meeting of a governmental body of which the Land and Water Conservation Board is a member, if the member is representing the Land and Water Conservation Board;
- 3) Area meetings of the Wisconsin Land ~~and +~~ Water ~~Conservation Association~~—if the board member has been invited to participate in the meeting in his or her capacity as a member of the Land and Water Conservation Board.

B. Prior Approval Required

Board members will receive per diem and expenses for attending any other meetings, other than those listed in Section VII,~~5~~A, or activities, only if prior approval has been obtained from the board chair, with the concurrence of the ARM Division administrator.

VIII. COMMITTEES

The board shall set forth the composition of any committees it establishes, the areas or matters concerning which such committees shall advise the board, the specific duties and responsibilities the board expects them to perform and discharge, and such other matters as the board deems relevant to individual committees. Board advisors serving on a committee shall not vote on committee actions.

An executive committee of the LWCB Officers may meet as necessary to fulfill responsibilities of the LWCB.

A. LWCB Advisory Committee on Research

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

The Advisory Committee on Research shall consist of no more than 5 voting members of the LWCB, whose terms shall be concurrent with their regular LWCB appointment. The committee shall include at least one board member elected under s. 15.135(4)(b)2., Stats., as a representative of county land conservation committees. New members may be appointed by the board chair in the event of a vacancy.

The ~~Advisory~~ Committee shall include at least 2 advisors, including the designee from the ~~dean~~ of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the ~~University of Wisconsin--Madison~~, and the designee from the ~~director~~ of the ~~University of Wisconsin--Extension~~, and such other person(s) as the Advisory Committee ~~chair~~ may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

Members of the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research shall have terms concurrent with their regular LWCB appointment. New members may be appointed by the Board Chair in the event of a vacancy. No more than 5 voting members of the Land and Water Conservation Board and 2 advisors, being the:

- ~~• The dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or their designee,~~
 - ~~• and the director of the University of Wisconsin Extension, or their designee~~
- ~~may serve on the committee at any one time.~~

IX. REVIEW OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Bylaws shall be reviewed at the December meeting of even numbered years. -These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by an affirmative vote of six members present at any regular meeting provided that notice of each proposed change hereof or addition hereto has been delivered personally, or electronically transmitted to each member at such address as the member shall have designated to the board, not less than 10 days prior to the time of meeting at which the proposed change or addition is to be considered.

X. STAFF ASSISTANCE

DATCP and DNR shall provide staff to assist the board in performing its statutory duties.
[ss. 92.05(3)(i) and ~~s.~~ 281.65(4)(s), Stats.]

Bylaws originally adopted by the LWCB in 12/88 and thereafter amended on 4/91, 2/94, 4/95, 4/97, 12/98, 2/01, 4/04, 2/09, 12/10, 6/11, 12/14, 12/16, 12/18,- 12/20 ~~and~~ ,12/22 and 12/24.

APPENDIX A - Program Authorities and Responsibilities

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM—under Chapter 91, 2007 Wisconsin Statutes, and 2009 Wisconsin Act 374

The roles and responsibilities of the LWCB related to relinquishments for pre-2009 Farmland Preservation Agreements no longer apply because they were superseded by s. 91.60(3)(a), Wisconsin Statutes. Farmland Preservation Agreements entered into under the authority of 2009 Wisconsin Act 374 have all expired in accordance with 2009 Wisconsin Act 374 (1)(c). Authorities that no longer apply are marked with an asterisk (*).

<u>Cite</u>	<u>Language</u>
91.19(3)	*If the request for release of land or relinquishment of the FPA is approved by the local governing body...the board shall, within 60 days...approve or reject the application for release or relinquishment. (This pertains to an agreement entered into before July 1, 2009 or under 2009 Wisconsin Act 374 and not modified under the new Farmland Preservation law.)
91.19(5)	*If the application for release of land or relinquishment of the FPA is rejected by the local governing body having jurisdiction...the applicant may appeal to the board. The board shall, within 60 days...approve or reject the request for release or relinquishment. (This pertains to an agreement entered into before July 1, 2009 or under 2009 Wisconsin Act 374 and not modified under the new Farmland Preservation law.)

2009 WI ACT 374

Section 1.

(1) (a)	*Notwithstanding the repeal and recreation of chapter 91 of the statutes by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 and subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall process an application for a farmland preservation agreement in accordance with chapter 91, 2007 stats., if the application was submitted to the county clerk under section 91.13 (1), 2007 stats., no earlier than January 1, 2008, and no later than June 30, 2009, and if processing of the application was not completed before July 1, 2009. Section 91.60 (3) of the statutes, as affected by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28, applies to a farmland preservation agreement entered into under this subsection as though the farmland preservation agreement had been entered into before July 1, 2009.
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SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Several of the roles and responsibilities relating to Department programs no longer apply because the programs are not active. The items that no longer apply are marked with an asterisk (*).

<u>Cite</u>	<u>Language</u>
92.04(1)(a)	The board may hold public hearings in the performance of its functions.
92.04(1)(b)	The board may delegate to its chairperson or to one or more of its members any of its powers or duties.
92.04(1)(c)	The board may make studies and recommendations on matters relating to soil and water conservation.

- 92.04 (2)(a) The board shall advise DATCP and the DATCP secretary on matters relating to exercise of DATCP's authority under this chapter.
- 92.04(2)(b) The board shall review land and water resource management plans prepared under s. 92.10, and make recommendations to DATCP on approval or disapproval of those plans.
- 92.04(2)(c) *The board shall review soil and water conservation standards prepared under s. 92.105. The board shall establish guidelines for the approval of these standards.
- 92.04(2)(d) The board shall review annual grant allocation plans developed under s. 92.14 (6)(b) and make recommendations to DATCP on approval, modification or disapproval of the plans.
- 92.04(2)(e) The board shall review the evaluation plan prepared under s. 92.14(13). After its review, the board shall make recommendations on the plan to DATCP and the DNR.
- 92.04(2)(f) The board shall review the annual reports under ss. 92.14(12) and 281.65(4)(o).
- 92.04(2)(g) The board shall advise the University of Wisconsin system annually on needed research and educational programs relating to soil and water conservation.
- 92.04(2)(h) The board shall review compliance with state soil erosion control goals established under s. 92.025. The board shall notify DATCP and the legislature if these goals are not achieved or if it is unlikely that these goals will be achieved.
- 92.04(2)(i) *The board shall establish a tolerable erosion level based on an erosion rate which is acceptable and maintains long-term soil productivity.
- 92.04(2)(j) The board shall keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings before it and all actions taken by it.
- 92.04(2)(k) *The board shall review and affirm or reverse pollution abatement determinations made by county land conservation committees under s. 281.20(3)(b) when requested to do so under the provisions of s.281.20(5).
- 92.04(2)(L) *The board shall review and affirm or reverse critical site determinations made by county land conservation committees under s. 281.65(7)(a)2. when requested to do so under the provisions of s.281.65(7)(b).
- 92.04(3)(a) The board shall review all rules of DATCP relating to implementation of Chapter 92 prior to promulgation. (Note: The board has no rule-making authority on matters relating to soil and water conservation.)
- 92.10(1) DATCP, the board and land conservation committees jointly shall develop and administer the land and water resource management planning program.
- 92.10(5)(a) The board shall review land and water resource management plans submitted by the land conservation committees and make recommendations to DATCP.
- 92.10(5)(b) The board shall solicit comments on land conservation committee plans [land and water resource management plans] from the agencies identified as advisers to the board.

- 92.105(2)&(3) *The board shall develop guidelines...for the administration of soil and water conservation standards. [This includes standards used in the farmland preservation program.] The board shall review and approve or disapprove standards....
- 92.14(6)(d) The board shall review the annual allocation plan submitted...and make recommendations to DATCP and DNR on approval, modification, or disapproval of the plan.
- 92.14(12) The board shall review annual reports [on the SWRM program] provided by DATCP and DNR.
- 92.14(13) The board shall make recommendations to DATCP and the DNR on the joint [program evaluation] plan, which includes water quality monitoring, and analysis, for the program administered under ss. 92.14 and 281.65, Stats.
- 92.17(2)(c) *The board shall review drafts of shoreland management ordinances and make recommendations to DATCP for approval or disapproval.

NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Several of the roles and responsibilities relating to the Priority Watershed Program no longer apply because this program is being phased out. The items that no longer apply are marked with an asterisk (*).

<u>Cite</u>	<u>Language</u>
281.65(3)(a)	*The board shall review the list, prepared by the DNR, of watersheds and lakes that have impaired waters caused by nonpoint source pollution.
281.65(3)(am)	*The board shall designate priority watersheds and priority lakes.
281.65(3)(ap)	*The board shall review and approve priority land and priority watershed plans.
281.65(3)(at)	The board shall review rules drafted under [s. 281.65, Stats.] and make recommendations regarding the rules before final approval of the rules by the natural resources board.
281.65(3)(b)	Before September 1, of each even-numbered year, the board shall submit to the Governor and the DNR a report that includes recommendations for the amount to be appropriated for the NPS program for the next biennium and any changes that would improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the NPS program.
281.65 (3)(bm)	The board shall submit, as it deems necessary, to the governor and the DNR a report that includes: (1) recommendations for the amount to be appropriated for the program, and (2) any changes that the board determines would improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the program.
281.65(3)(c)	The board shall assist counties and the DNR to resolve concerns about the program.
281.65(3)(d)	The board shall establish priorities for the allocation of funds in the event that program needs exceed available funding in any fiscal biennium.

- 281.65(3)(e) The board shall request the building commission to authorize public debt to be contracted in the amount that the board determines to be necessary for the purposes of the program.
- 281.65(3)(f) The board shall require DNR and DATCP to conduct or contract for another person to conduct any evaluation of the program under this section and of individual priority watershed or priority lake projects that the board determines is necessary.
- 281.65(3m) *The board shall identify priority lakes and watersheds by July 1, 1998, based on the list submitted by the DNR and recommendations from the DNR and DATCP. The board shall identify priority lakes and watersheds using the provisions of s.281.65 (3m).
- 281.65(4)(L) Before September 1 of each year, the board shall review a budget report, submitted by DNR [in consultation with DATCP], that includes anticipated expenditures for [*priority lake, watershed, and] targeted runoff management projects for the next year and criteria for ending these projects. If the anticipated expenditures exceed available funding, the report must also include a plan for reducing expenditures.
- 281.65(4c)(c) After receiving [*priority watershed, priority lake, or] any NPS pollution abatement project scores, and DNR recommendations on funding those projects no later than September 1 of each year, the board shall recommend projects for funding under s.281.65 in the following year.
- 281.65(5s) *The board shall review, and affirm, modify or reverse any modifications made by the DNR to priority lake or watershed plans, including designating additional sites as critical sites.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: November 20, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Langlade 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, 2034, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2029.

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

Langlade County held a public hearing on August 27, 2024, as part of its public input and review process. The Langlade County Land Conservation Solid Waste Committee presented the LWRM plan for County Board approval on September 30, 2024. The plan was approved.

Materials Provided:

- LWRM Plan Review Checklist
- Completed LWRM Plan Review form
- 2023 workplan with accomplishments and current 2024 workplan

Presenters: Katie Bahr-Bender, Langlade County Conservationist
Rick Bina, Land Conservation Solid Waste Committee Chair
Chris Arrowood, Assistant Director Langlade Co. Land Records & Regulations Department



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: LANGLADE

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 6/14/2024

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

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	5/30/24
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	8/27/24
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	11/24

III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the plan include the following information as part of a county-wide resource assessment:			
a. Soil erosion conditions in the county ³ , including:			
i. identification of areas within county that have high erosion rates or other soil erosion problems that merit action within the next 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28-33
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	88
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48-50

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

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

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

iii.	identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39-41 49-50
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2. Does the LWRM plan address objectives by including the following:

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| a. | specific water quality objectives identified for each watershed based upon the resource assessment, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 33-51 |
| b. | pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 98-99 |

Other comments: _____

IV. DNR CONSULTATION		Yes	No	Page
1.	Did the county consult with DNR ⁴ to obtain water quality assessments, if available; to identify key water quality problem areas; to determine water quality objectives; and to identify pollutant load reduction targets, if any; and to review NR 151 implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39-41 46,47 63

Other comments: Also identified High Quality Watersheds for protection

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION		Yes	No	Page
1.	Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: :			
a.	A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68
b.	State and local regulations used to implement the plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	57-59
c.	Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60
d.	Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attch C
e.	A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	63,67
2.	Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate:			
a.	expected costs of implementing the plan including cost-sharing for conservation practices needed to achieve plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-62
b.	the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-62

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.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| 3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 68 |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|

Other comments: _____

VI. OUTREACH AND PARTNERING**Yes****No****Page**

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy to provide information and education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66 |
| 2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 70 |

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING**Yes****No****Page**

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: | | | |
| a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | NA |
| b. Identify priorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | NA |
| 2. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and measure progress in meeting performance benchmarks and plan objectives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 67,72-74 |

Other comments: _____

VIII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Staff Signature: Lisa K. TrumbleDate: July 18, 2024

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: Langlade

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

GOAL 1: Protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.

Used the Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant funds to host and incentivize a free, annual nutrient management training for farmers and landowners to develop their own nutrient management plans. (Annually)

Improved administration of our county Manure Storage Ordinance by incorporating all facilities into our Farmland Preservation Spotcheck cycle. (2023)

Improved use of SEG NMP Cost-share funds by using Farmland Preservation

Participation to identify landowners interested in using funds. (2023)

PLANNING PROCESS: The LWRM plan helped us to identify nutrient management planning as our highest-priority to protect our water quality. Studying our LWRM was also critical to our realization that we could use the Farmland Preservation program as a basis to monitor, incentivize, and even target Nutrient Management Planning, Manure Storage Inspections, and Cost-share project involvement.

GOAL 2: Mitigate invasive species impacts.

Continued involvement in Timberland Invasives Partnership. (Every Year)

Established FLOW AIS Program (2021-2024)

PLANNING PROCESS: The above activities were achieved using grant funds. The LWRM plan gave us justification for our applications for grants to fund these activities. It also enhanced partnerships that led to actions.

GOAL 3: Promote Working Forests and Farms

Increased participation in the Farmland Preservation Program.

Spot checked active participants in the Farmland Preservation Program. (~64(2018) to 74(2024) Annually)

PLANNING PROCESS: The LWRM provided the justification for staff to prioritize increasing participation in Farmland Preservation. In review of the other plan goals it was apparent that implementing this program as widely as possible assists achieving multiple community goals.

GOAL 4: Promote stewardship of the land and water through public education.

Improved the Land Conservation Department website with ability to update to reflect current information. (2022)

Created a new education & outreach staff position (2023)

PLANNING PROCESS: The process identified education and outreach as a goal that could be used to improve our webpage. It also helped County Board to realize the need for staff to implement this goal.

GOAL 5: Protect public health from unwanted chemical waste

Hosted Clean Sweep Hazardous Household Waste Collection event. (2020, 2022, 2024)

Partnered with the Health Department to hold prescription drug collection event. (2020, 2022, 2024)

Facilitated and Electronic Waste Disposal/Recycling Event (2023, 2024?).

PLANNING PROCESS: The LWRM planning process set the goals of hosting the events and was used to justify applications for funding the projects as well as the use of county funds to cover a portion of the expenses. It also provided a basis to justify our involvement in providing our community with an event to dispose of their electronic waste responsibly.

GOAL 6: Improve forest silviculture for multiple uses.

Worked with DNR to make county owned tree planter available to landowners.

(Annually)

PLANNING PROCESS: Review of the plan after change of staff helped us to identify this as partnership to maintain. The planters see regular use. This goal was also used as a justification for the Electronic Waste Disposal event as county forestland is often targeted for illegal dumping of electronic waste.

GOAL 7: Manage wildlife conflicts.

Participated in County Deer Advisory Committee to provide input on deer harvest objectives. (Annually)

Participated in the APHIS Wildlife Damage Abatement Program (Annually)

Participated in the Venison Donation Program. (Annually).

PLANNING PROCESS: The LWRM identifies providing input to the DNR on wildlife harvest objectives. Because of the Objective in the plan we were able to see how participation fit into our work when the opportunity arose. The Wildlife Damage Abatement program also works towards the goal of promoting working forests & farms.

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.

Langlade County has consistently struggled to implement cost-share projects. In order to address this, we have increased our Technician position from 50% to 100% in 2023. This should provide the community with a more readily available planning resource.

STRUCTURAL projects are currently suffering from an inability of landowners to afford their share of projects. To combat this we have been placing more emphasis on lower cost projects. SEG projects have been suffering from a shortage of funds so we have been working with other counties to transfer funds in.

3. Describe the county's approach to implementation of its priority farm strategy including outreach, farm inventories and making use of multiple funding sources. How has the

county evaluated the effectiveness of its priority farm strategy and used this information to improve implementation of the agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms?

Our highest priority farms are those with valid citizen complaints against them. When we have a complaint we contact the farmer and identify actions that can be taken to resolve the issue. When a farm has been identified as a priority we are more likely to be able to use multiple funding sources. We always try to identify what grants are available in addition to our department grants (i.e. SWRM). This often means TRM or NOD funds. We also partner with EQIP funds whenever possible. Another farm that is high on the list of priorities is a farm in the FP program that is not in compliance. It is easy to identify these farms as they are spot checked every four years. Because practices are often required to keep them in compliance with FP it is important that we fund them and therefore important that we have them high on the priority farms list. We can see the effectiveness of this strategy because as we improve our spot checks system and meet with more farmers more implementation of practices is getting done.

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.

The greatest changes in our LWRM plan development of broad strategies, broadening of goals, prioritization of our goals, and expansion of resource assessments.

STRATEGIES: Our 2025-2034 LWRM plan now includes 5 strategies (Education & Outreach; Evaluation & Monitoring; Coordination; Implementation; and Enforcement) the county used to develop objectives related to each goal and will used to justify planned actions.

BROADENING OF GOALS: The 2025-2034 LWRM plan now has 10 goals vs 7 previously categories added are: Implementing a watershed strategy locally; Increasing nutrient management plan use (previously an objective); Ensuring agricultural performance standards are implemented (previously and objective); Reduce pollution from urban stormwater runoff (previously and objective).

PRIORTIZATION OF GOALS:

With the establishment of 4 new goals the county has seen a shift in prioritization. The biggest changes are an increased community focus on waste disposal concerns #5 in 2019 to #2 in 2024 and desire for the development of a local watershed management strategy, an new addition to the LWRM plan prioritized at #4.

EXPANSION OF RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS:

To better relate to other county plans this plan has included more comprehensive assessments and explanations of our natural resources. The largest area that demanded expansion from both the public and professional staff was our water resources, particularly an increased focus on wetlands and watersheds.

Overall, we believe that the work put into this revision makes the plan more relevant, specific to county issues, and transparent in its wording. We hope to continue to move in this direction.

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

Climate Resiliency has been added to our LWRM plan on Page 12. It is addressed on a conceptual basis. No specific actions are called for, but it was included so it may be referenced/considered in future decision making.

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, FFP 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:

Signature of Authorized Representative: Kathryn Baker-Banater **Date:** 11/18/2024
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed form and attachments to:

Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

LANGLADE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 	<p>Practice Installations: NMP’s developed (200 ac) 858 ac Cover Crops (40 ac) 294 ac Grade Stabilizations (1) 0 NM Planning and Training: Trainings Hosted (1) 1 Landscape-scale Surveys and/or Inventories: Establish Framework for NMP acreage monitoring. (1) 1</p>	<p>Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method) # acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 	<p>Practice Installations: Trails & Walkways (100 ft) 0 ft Livestock Watering Facilities (1) 0 Livestock Fencing (4,000 ft) 2,165 ft Landscape-scale Surveys and/or Inventories: Integration of Manure Storage Facility Inventory w/Farmland Preservation (1) 1</p>	<p>Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method) # of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 	<p>Practice Installations: No Activity Planned 90ft Grade Stab. Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories: No Activity Planned CREP: No Activity Planned Groundwater Testing: Provide Test Kits (5) Unknown Provide Information (As needed) Aid in ARPA Well-Testing Promotion 1 Citizen Monitoring: Utilize FLOW AIS to host training in County (1 Training) 1 Planning (e.g. lake, source water): No Activity Planned</p>	<p>Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</p>

LANGLADE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Forestry*

Forestry	Practice Installations: Rain Gardens (2) 0 Native Plantings (2) 0	Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)
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• *Invasive*

Invasive species	Surveys: FLOW AIS Coordinator Surveys (5) 5 TIP Snowmobile Trail Surveys (1) 1 Management Plans: Langlade County Invasive Species Management Plan (1) 0 Control: Treatment of terrestrial invasives (10 sites) 10	Number of surveys completed Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wetland Restoration: No Activity Planned Wildlife Damage Program: Participate in Venison Donation Program (1) 1 Refer damage claims (3) 2 Tree and Plant Sales: Identify potential partners & requirements (1) 1	Acres of wetland restored Number of trees sold
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	Stormwater Control: Jack Lake Campground Project (2) 0 Construction Site Erosion Control: No Activity Planned Floodplain Protection: No Activity Planned	Number of site visits Number of plans reviews Number of permits issued Number of compliance issues resolved
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	P-Compliance: No Activity Planned TMDL Coordination: Assist DNR TMDL Monitoring Data Collection (6) 6 Producer-Led: No Activity Planned	Number of meetings attended/presentations given Modeling completed Number of partner contacts made Information system/tracking developed Number of partnership development activities accomplished
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LANGLADE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Other*

Other	PL 566: No Activity Planned Non-Metallic and Frac Sand Mining: No Activity Planned Initiatives and Projects: SEG Innovation Implementation (10 Farmland Preservation Agreements Signed) 0 2024 Farmland Preservation Plan Update (1 Grant acquired) 0	Number of plans reviewed Number of inspections
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LANGLADE COUNTY 2023 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	N/A
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2 1	2 1
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	N/A	N/A
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	N/A	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A	N/A
Shoreland zoning	N/A	N/A
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	65
For FPP	65 79, 193 Office
For NR 151	9 5
Animal waste ordinance	1 8
Livestock facility siting	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A
Nonmetallic mining	N/A

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	0
Trainings/workshops	4 4
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	3 2
Newsletters	1 1
Social media posts	0 1
News release/story	30 4

LANGLADE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	1820 1,820	\$87,090 89,966.73
Conservation Technician	910 1,086	\$25,815 37,577.24
Land Records Director	273 273	\$15,971 16,207.72
Shoreland Specialist	910 698	\$35,110 17,318.72
Conservation Specialist	770	\$21,852.91
Support Costs	N/A	\$18,831 12,436.59
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
BOND	N/A	\$29,000 8,938
SEG	N/A	\$12,000 38,957

LANGLADE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland Soil Health and/or Nutrient Management	Practice Installations: NMP’s developed (2,000 ac) NM Planning and Training: Trainings Hosted (1) Landscape-scale Surveys and/or Inventories: NMP 590 Compliance (65,000 ac)	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	Practice Installations: Livestock Watering Facilities (1) Livestock Fencing (2,000 ft) Landscape-scale Surveys and/or Inventories: No Activities Planned.	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water Quality/ Water Quantity (if not listed in other categories)	Practice Installations: No Activity Planned Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories: No Activity Planned CREP: No Activity Planned Groundwater Testing: No Activity Planned Citizen Monitoring: Utilize FLOW AIS to host training in County (1 Training) Planning (e.g. lake, source water): No Activity Planned	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	Practice Installations: No Activity Planned.	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i> <i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i>

LANGLADE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Invasive*

Invasive Species	<p>Surveys: FLOW AIS Coordinator Surveys (5) TIP Terrestrial Invasive Surveys (1)</p> <p>Management Plans: Langlade County Invasive Species Management Plan (1)</p> <p>Control: Treatment of terrestrial invasives (10 sites)</p>	<i>Number of surveys completed</i> <i>Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated</i>
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife Wetlands Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<p>Wetland Restoration: No Activity Planned</p> <p>Wildlife Damage Program: Cooperate with USDA-APHIS for Wildlife Damage Program Implementation (1) Participate in Venison Donation Program (1) Refer damage claims (3)</p> <p>Tree and Plant Sales: No Activity Planned</p>	<i>Acres of wetland restored</i> <i>Number of trees sold</i>
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• *Urban*

Urban Issues	<p>Stormwater Control: No Activity Planned</p> <p>Construction Site Erosion Control: No Activity Planned</p> <p>Floodplain Protection: No Activity Planned</p>	<i>Number of site visits</i> <i>Number of plans reviews</i> <i>Number of permits issued</i> <i>Number of compliance issues resolved</i>
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• *Watershed*

Watershed Strategies	<p>P-Compliance: Review all submitted NMP's for P-Compliance. (55)</p> <p>TMDL Coordination: Assist DNR TMDL Monitoring Data Collection (6)</p> <p>Healthy Watersheds, High Quality Waters: Work with DNR staff to incorporate into LCD Activities. (2 Meetings)</p> <p>Producer-Led: Work with partners to identify and/or implement a project. (2 Meetings)</p>	<i>Number of meetings attended/presentations given</i> <i>Modeling completed</i> <i>Number of partner contacts made</i> <i>Information system/tracking developed</i> <i>Number of partnership development activities accomplished</i>
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LANGLADE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Other Locally Identified Priorities*

Other: General	PL 566: No Activity Planned Non-Metallic and Frac Sand Mining: No Activity Planned Initiatives and Projects: Land & Water Plan Update/Revision (1)	<i>Number of plans reviewed</i> <i>Number of inspections</i>
Other: Preservation of Undeveloped Lands	SEG Innovation Project Implementation: Farmland Preservation Agreements Signed (12) Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Plan Completed (1) Farmland Preservation Automatic Enrollment: New Program Participants (10)	
Other: Hazardous Waste Disposal	Host a Disposal Event: 2024 Clean Sweep Events Held (1)	

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

LANGLADE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	79
For FPP	79
For NR 151	25
Animal waste ordinance	2
Livestock facility siting	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A
Nonmetallic mining	N/A

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

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

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>County Conservationist</i>	1820	\$94,755
<i>Conservation Technician</i>	1820	\$67,399
<i>Conservation Specialist</i>	1820	\$49,399
<i>Land Records & Regulations Director</i>	273	\$17,176
<i>Support Costs</i>	N/A	\$18,585
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
STRUCTURAL	N/A	\$29,000
SEG	N/A	\$35,000

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 3, 2024

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Ian Krauss, Farm Service Agency

SUBJECT: FSA Program Updates for December LWCB Meeting

- Expiration of the extension to the 2018 Farm Bill
 - FSA does not have authority to take on new obligations until a new Farm Bill or second extension is passed.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
 - As a result of the continued drought this year, ELAP triggered for 5 counties for perennial forage producers with transportation costs through the end of the calendar year because they reached D2 drought for 8 consecutive weeks during the calendar year.
 - Eligible counties include Ashland, Iron, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas.
 - The FSA is working on a direct mailing to producers who reported grazing acreage in 2024 in those physical location counties.

NRCS Wisconsin

Programs Update —December 2024



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices. Applications are accepted on a continuous, year-round basis. Application batching dates are announced on [our website](#). All applications received by announced batching dates are being evaluated and considered for potential funding in FY25. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP assists landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years to further enhance their stewardship efforts. Applications are accepted on a continuous year-round basis. Application batching dates are announced on [our website](#). All applications received by announced batching dates are being evaluated and considered for potential funding in FY25. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through producer contracts or easement agreements. Projects cover unique geographic areas and have specific practices available to meet the project's goals. Reach out to your local field office staff to find out whether your location and resource concerns are a good fit for current RCPP projects. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP focuses on restoring and protecting wetlands, conserving productive agricultural lands, and conserving grasslands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements. Applications for the ACEP are taken on a continuous basis. There are two application deadlines for FY25: October 4, 2024, and December 20, 2024. Over 40 applications are being evaluated for potential funding under sign up 1. The second sign up is contingent upon funding availability. Funding is available under General, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and Inflation Reduction Act fund pools. Contact Dave Gundlach, ASTC-Easements, david.gundlach@usda.gov for more information.

NRCS Programs Quarterly Fiscal Update

Program		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial Assistance	\$0	\$0 ^{ac}	\$0 ^{ac}	\$0 ^a
	Contracts	0	0 ^{ac}	0 ^{ac}	0 ^a
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial Assistance	\$0M	\$0 ^{ac}	\$0M	\$0 ^c
	New Contracts	0	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
	Renewal Contracts	0	0	0	0
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Financial Assistance	0	\$0 ^c	\$0	\$0 ^c
	Contracts	0	0	0 ^c	0 ^c
	Easement Parcels	0	0	0 ^c	0 ^c
	Easement Financial	0	\$0	\$0 ^c	\$0 ^c
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP—ALE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^c	0 ^c	\$0 ^c	\$0 ^c
	Parcels	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
	Acres	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP—WRE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^c	0 ^c	\$0 ^c	\$0 ^c
	Easements	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
	Acres	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
Emergency Watershed Protection Program—Floodplain Easements (EWPP—FPE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^d
	Proposed Easements	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^d
	Proposed Acres	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^d

^aIncludes initiatives and special funding.

^bInitiatives and special funding allocations have not been determined yet.

^cFunding decisions not yet complete for the fiscal year; not all apps have been fully obligated yet

^dNot available in FY25



Biden-Harris Administration Makes up to \$7.7 Billion Available for Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced up to \$7.7 billion in assistance for fiscal year 2025 to help agricultural and forestry producers adopt conservation practices on working lands. This includes up to \$5.7 billion for climate-smart practices made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act and \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding. This is more than double the amount available last year and the most conservation assistance made available in a single year in U.S. history for popular USDA conservation programs.

Through changing temperatures, precipitation patterns, drought, flooding, and increasingly more severe extreme events, such as hurricanes and wildfires, climate change is affecting the livelihood of USDA's stakeholders. Innovations in adapting to such changes will be central to the future success of working lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received more than 156,485 applications for its conservation programs in fiscal year 2024. While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers can now apply for fiscal year 2025 funding through NRCS at their local USDA Service Center.

[Click here to read more.](#)

New Findings for Pollinator Habitat Decisions

In celebration of World Habitat Day last week, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service unveils findings from recent Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) studies can help landowners get the most "buzz" from their pollinator habitat conservation choices.

[Virginia Tech collaborated on a first-of-its-kind study](#) to evaluate the impacts of NRCS's voluntary conservation practices on pollinator habitat nationwide, identifying 51 NRCS conservation practices that benefit pollinators and provides insight on the best areas to target pollinator habitat to maximize those benefits. [A regional study in the southeastern U.S. by Auburn University](#) assessed the attractiveness of native wildflower species to bees and found there are three clear favorites. [New research on western rangelands](#) explores how grazing impacts critical pollinators, including the supportive role grazing animals like cattle have on maintaining reproductive habitat for ground-nesting bees. Pollination is critical to the world's food supply, that's why this research is important to continue supporting vital pollinators and to increase their populations so that they can play a larger role in crop pollination.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

USDA Invests \$1.5 Billion in 92 Partnership Projects to Advance Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture

USDA announced a historic \$1.5 billion for 92 partner-driven conservation projects through the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#), including two projects in Wisconsin. Selected RCPP projects will help farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and forest landowners adopt and expand conservation strategies to enhance natural resources while tackling the climate crisis. These projects in turn can save farmers money, create new revenue streams, and increase productivity.

[Click here to read more.](#)

USDA Seeks Public Input on Climate-Smart Conservation Practice Standards

USDA is seeking public input by December 23, 2024, on how to improve conservation practice standards to maximize climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits, as supported by peer-reviewed scientific literature. Conservation practices providing climate benefits are delivered through existing USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs popular with producers, like the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#), and [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) as well as NRCS technical assistance. The Inflation Reduction Act, part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, and the Farm Bill provide funding for these programs.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

NRCS Wisconsin Encourages Producers with High-Priority Projects to ACT NOW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has announced they will be utilizing the [Act Now](#) policy, which offers additional flexibilities for eligible [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) applicants enrolled in the following funds pools: [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative \(MRBI\)](#), [National Water Quality Initiative \(NWQI\)](#), and [Socially Disadvantaged \(SD\)](#).

Through Act Now, NRCS Wisconsin can accelerate pre-approval of EQIP applications eligible through identified fund pools. Program applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, to be considered during the Fiscal Year 25 Act Now funding cycle applications must be submitted by May 16, 2025. NRCS Wisconsin will begin funding eligible applications after January 1, 2025, and will continue making funding decisions monthly as funds are available.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



December 2024

Cover Crop Insurance Rebate Program – Apply Now!

- [The 2024-2025 application](#) opened at noon on December 2, 2024, and will remain open until noon on January 31, 2025, or until program funding is exhausted.
- The program has \$800,000, or 160,000 acres of coverage, to award on a *first-come, first-served* basis.
- To qualify, cover crops must be planted in the fall of 2024 on fields to be insured with a cash crop in the spring of 2025. The acres cannot receive state or federal cover crop funding support during this same time. FSA maps are needed for the application process. Additionally, **the FSA-578 will need to be submitted with the application.** Contact your local FSA office to obtain these forms if needed.
- Program information and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the [department website](#).

Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)

- Cycle 3 of the NOPP grants is now open through January 17, 2025. Please visit <https://nop.wi.gov> for application materials or more information. The NOPP team will host [office hours](#) to discuss the application each Monday from 9:30-10:00 a.m. through January 13, 2025. All research plans must be pre-approved by Monica Schauer, the UW research director for NOPP. Email your ideas to her at mschauer2@wisc.edu for approval by December 20. The full application being due January 17, 2025.

Soil and Water Resources Management (SWRM) Grants

- Requests to transfer cost share funds between counties were due to DATCP on December 1, 2024.
- 2024 SWRM cost-share contracts may be extended for one year. The contract must be signed by December 31, 2024 and there must be funds available to extend. Please contact Kim or Hailey with questions. [Extension requests](#) are also due by December 31, 2024.
- SWRM hint: For projects over \$14,000, consider waiting to record the contract until after the project is completed. This will allow you to avoid having to record any change orders that may occur.
- Many of the SWRM forms have been updated with new content and new numbers. Please refer to [Section 3 of the SWRM Grant Resources](#) webpage to access these forms. **We will be switching to using only these forms in 2025.**

ATCP 50 Update

- ATCP 50 updates went into effect on June 1, 2024. Final rule language can be reviewed on the Wisconsin Legislature's [website](#). The Bureau has information on its [website](#) about the updates. If you have any questions, email datcpandwater@wisconsin.gov.
- **NEW PRACTICE INTRODUCTION:** Conservation Cover (ATCP 50.663). This SEG-funded conservation practice allows for the establishment and maintenance of permanent vegetative cover in an agricultural setting to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and better soil health. Available for lands covered with a nutrient management plan. It requires the county to commit to 10-year minimum planning and monitoring period for this practice. SWRM cost-share will cover the initial installation and the creation of the monitoring plan.
- **This fall, DATCP hosted ATCP 50 Office Hours** related to non-structural practice updates. Each Office Hour included a technical primer of the practice, a short discussion of the soil health benefits, and applicable SWRM cost-share requirements. All [Office Hours](#) were recorded and are available for viewing [here](#).

Nutrient Management News

- We have restocked **Runoff Risk Advisory keychains and magnets!** Please reach out to datcpsoilandwatershedmanagement@wisconsin.gov to request magnets and or keychains. When reaching out, please include how many of each you would like, as well as an address to mail them to.
- **Second annual Nutrient Management Regional Meetings: Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We truly appreciate the participation and feedback!** During the webinar session, we recorded Cody Calkins' DATCP Nutrient Management Update presentation and the SnapPlus V3 Demo. Both are now available for viewing here:
 - SnapPlus V3: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/on-demand-training/nm-snapplusv3-demo-2024>
 - DATCP NM Update: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/on-demand-training/nm-swrn-and-nutrient-management-updates-2024>
- Nutrient Management Farmer Education classes are beginning to be scheduled. Please email datcpsoilandwatershedmanagement@wisconsin.gov to request a DATCP NM staff to assist with your training. Please let us know the dates, timeline, and what you would like us to present on.
- **[2025 Virtual Nutrient Management Training for Farmers](#)** - This training provides both the basics of nutrient management and an introduction to SnapPlus. The same training will be offered on two dates. Participants only need to attend one training date to be certified as an eligible farmer plan writer.
 - Dates: January 10 and March 14. Times: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - [Register here](#)
- We have a **new NMFE brochure** that can be found here: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/NMFEBrochure.pdf> and a **new Nutrient Management Brochure** that can be found here: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/2024NMBrochureWeb.pdf>.
- Previous SnapPlus trainings can be found here: [Nutrient Management Trainings](#).
- Counties that would like some assistance on Nutrient Management Quality Assurance Reviews should email Cody Calkins at cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov. We are looking at providing assistance this year to at least three counties.

Conservation Engineering

- The first of a series of hydrology and hydrologic restoration trainings through DATCP's grant with EPA will be held on December 11 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. It will be a webinar, and details and registration can be found [here](#).
- The posting for the DATCP SE Area Engineer should be out sometime in the month of December. It will be a dual posting in an effort to hire two positions with the second engineer to fulfill the DATCP/NRCS project position of a Hydrologic & Hydraulic Engineer or Ag Engineer–Senior.
- The revised WI NRCS CPS 635 Vegetated Treatment Area (VTA) has been released. The revised VTA standard simplifies and limits the application of VTAs. USDA software will be used to evaluate soil infiltration/percolation based on runoff from the one-year, 24-hour storm event and established parameters for acceptable soil types. The revised standard can be found on the NRCS FOTG website and is also linked [here](#). For more info on the progress and process of the Standards Oversight Council (SOC) VTA work team, see this [project-specific webpage](#).
- One final reminder that the current three-year Professional Development Hour (PDH) cycle ends this December 31, 2024. The 30 PDHs are needed during the three-year cycle to maintain both DATCP Conservation Engineering Practitioner Certification and/or NRCS Engineering Job Approval Authority. Reach out to your DATCP or NRCS area engineering contact with questions.

DATCP Drainage Program

- The DATCP Drainage Program will be re-establishing a quarterly newsletter in the coming months. The intent of the newsletter will be to highlight successes and challenges facing drainage districts and county drainage boards throughout the state. The newsletter is part of the department's overall effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies for all stakeholders involved with Wisconsin drainage law. The department is seeking input for the quarterly newsletter. Please send your ideas to Barton T. Chapman, P.E., Drainage Program Manager, at Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov.
- The Wisconsin Association of Drainage Boards (WADB) held their annual meeting on November 19, 2024. Program highlights included presentations from Bart Chapman, DATCP State Drainage Engineer; Tom Nedland, DNR Policy and Professional Services Section Manager; and Adam Dowling, State Watershed Planning Specialist with NRCS. WADB, in cooperation with DATCP, will be holding regional educational outreach meetings throughout the state in 2025. Meeting logistics will be shared as they become available.
- All activities within drainage districts are managed and administered by a county drainage board. Contact information can be found on the [Drainage Program website](#) or by contacting Barton T. Chapman, Drainage Program Manager, at Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov.

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

- At the December 3, 2024 LWCB meeting, Langlade, Vilas, and Wood counties presented LWRM plan revisions to the board.
- The next meeting of the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research will be January 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Farmland Preservation (FP) Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)

- FP Program staff from DATCP and DOR will be hosting a webinar for county staff to discuss the farmland preservation tax credit. The presentation will cover updates to the tax credits, different forms used by claimants, what to do if a landowner receives a notice from DOR, and what happens to the DOR Participant Spreadsheet after it is submitted. Pre-registration is required. To register click the following link: [Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Updates with DOR](#). This meeting will be recorded.

- For information about the AEA petition process, including application materials, visit the [Petitioning for AEA Designation webpage](#). Please contact Wednesday Coye at wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov with any questions you have about the AEA program.
- The [DATCP Home Farmland Preservation Tax Credits](#) webpage has been updated with additional information to help landowners and tax preparers choose the correct tax schedule when filing for an FP tax credit. If you receive any questions from landowners or tax preparers regarding questions related to tax credit claims or tax credit denials, please contact Wednesday Coye at wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov. Landowners who have received a denial letter have a limited amount of time to file an appeal with Department of Revenue; timely action is critical.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- County CREP Annual In-Kind Cost Reporting: Counties are asked to report their CREP administrative costs to DATCP by no later than December 6, 2024. The county contributions to administer CREP count toward Wisconsin's overall match requirements for federal CREP funds and are important for meeting statewide CREP program requirements reported to FSA by the end of the year. The reporting form ([LWR-282](#)) is on the CREP website. Completed reports should be sent as a pdf via email to Brian Loeffelholz at Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov.
- Submit Outstanding Items to DATCP for Completion: If you submitted a request to DATCP for processing but were contacted by State CREP staff requesting additional items for processing, please submit those items as soon as possible. DATCP is waiting for items from counties on several agreements, buyouts, and transfers, which can still be processed in 2024.
- Thanks to all the county staff that worked on CREP easement monitoring and landowner follow up over the summer/fall with the CREP Intern, Mackenzie Shanahan. Mackenzie had great things to say about her experiences with you all in the field and assistance with landowners. Mackenzie has moved on to graduate school at Indiana University, but be on the lookout for the announcement this spring for the 2025 CREP Intern!

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG) Program

- 2025 was the most competitive year yet for the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant. We received applications from **49 producer-led groups**, for a total funding request of over **\$1.6 million**. With a program budget of \$1 million, the grants review committee had to make extremely difficult decisions. Priorities were to fund new viable groups while also providing the highest level of funding merited to as many existing groups as possible.

All grant proposals were subjected to a thorough review process by a team of internal and external reviewers. Projects were scored and selected based on the review criteria listed in the 2025 Request for Proposals. High scoring proposals from new groups included projects occurring in parts of the state currently lacking in farmer-led conservation leadership, as well as a strong workplan clearly linked to group goals with an emphasis on group development. Strong proposals from existing groups included demonstrated effort to strategically plan and develop sustainable farmer-led organizations, a comprehensive plan for gaining farmer and community participation in conservation efforts, and inclusion of diverse conservation practice offerings.

Soil Health Program

- Soil is the vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Soil health is about restoring that capacity to provide five crucial soil system functions: regulating water, sustaining plant and animal life, cycling nutrients, providing physical stability and support, and filtering and buffering potential

pollutants. Healthy soil systems are created by incorporating the five soil health principles: maximize soil cover (think cover crops and no-till), maximize living roots in the soil (think cover crops, diversifying crop rotation, perennial crops), maximize crop/plant diversity (think cover crops, diversifying crop rotation, perennial crops), integrate livestock (managed grazing, proper manure management), and minimize soil disturbance (no-till, reducing chemical fertilizer, reducing pesticides, i.e. nutrient management).

Soils can be broken down to their three primary properties – chemical, physical, and biological. Soil health recognizes that soil biology drives most of the soil functions in a soil system. Incorporating the five soil health principles creates the environment for soil biology to thrive. (in a gram [~1 teaspoon], there are about 7-11 billion organisms). Soil health has proven to be a great motivator for our producer-led groups, helping to reach new farmers. DATCP hopes to build a common understanding of what soil health is, to facilitate statewide coordination on soil health topics and initiatives, and to provide support to conservation partners and farmers in transitioning to a soil health system.

- The new online Soil Health curriculum is now live and available on our soilhealthtraining.wi.gov website. The purpose of this curriculum is to develop a common definition and understanding of Soil Health and develop some guideposts of how to implement soil health systems on Wisconsin farms. Modules 1-3 establish a common language of soil health in Wisconsin agriculture. Module 4 focuses on applying soil health in Wisconsin cropping systems. The curriculum incorporates both traditional and citizen science to demonstrate the mindset necessary to be successful as a soil health farmer. The primary audiences are LCD staff, other Agriculture Professionals in Wisconsin, and Wisconsin farmers. For questions regarding this training or the soil health program contact Randy Zogbaum at randall.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov.

- 2025 Soil Health Trainings and Initiatives

- In 2025, we will work on completing module 4 of the online Soil Health Training focusing on applying soil health principles in Wisconsin cropping systems. Stay tuned for opportunities to be involved in this training.
- Soil health is the systems thinking approach to agriculture implemented by incorporation of the five soil health principles as described on the [DATCP Soil Health](#) webpage. The revised version of ATCP 50 has incorporated several practices to give counties new tools to address the five soil health principles. If you didn't get to see the ATCP 50 New Practice Office Hours provide an overview of the soil health systems thinking approach to conservation planning, be sure to watch the recordings on our [website](#). It takes into consideration how much each practice meets the soil health principles.
- Showing that this work is improving soil health can be demonstrated using [NRCS Soil Health Assessment Techniques](#). Stay tuned in 2025 for more on this initiative.

DATE: Nov. 14, 2024

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jason Knutson, DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, October 2024 - November 2024, for December LWCB meeting

Surface Water Grants Program Update

The deadline for final grant applications was Nov. 15, 2024, and surface water grant program staff are processing the submitted applications. This year, the department received over 200 applications from eligible applicants competing for the available funding to support projects that protect and restore waterbodies and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Currently, the surface water grant program is recruiting and assembling ranking teams who will review and score grants within the multiple grant categories. Grants to be funded will be determined by the end of January 2025 and grant awards will be announced in early February 2025.

US EPA Awards Funds To DNR for Nonpoint Source Pollution Projects

In September 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$1,298,570 of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to DNR for two projects to reduce nonpoint pollution in the Lake Michigan Basin. Through the Veterans Lagoon Feasibility Study (\$300,000) the Milwaukee County Parks Department will identify best management practices to treat and/or capture untreated stormwater runoff to Veterans Lagoon. A second project provides \$998,570 for Phosphorus Reductions and Soil Health in watersheds within WI's Northeast Lakeshore Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) area. DNR will contract Erosion Vulnerability Assessment for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL) and Satellite Imagery (Normalized Difference Tillage Index) analyses in priority sub-basins. Using those analyses, seven County Land Conservation Departments will cost share agricultural best management practices on high priority fields to improve soil health and reduce phosphorus loading in Northeast Lakeshore TMDL watersheds.

Water Quality Planning And Climate Resilience Update

Lauren Haydon, DNR Watershed Protection Coordinator, and Helena Tiedmann, DNR Water Quality Planning and Climate Resilience Specialist, attended the County Conservationist Meeting held by WI Land & Water on October 17 in Steven's Point. Together with Lisa Trumble from DATCP, they hosted three roundtable sessions focused on incorporating climate resilience in County Land and Water Resource Management Plans. County conservationists shared their experiences incorporating climate resilience in planning efforts, discussed climate challenges facing their counties and provided feedback on the resources and assistance needed from agency partners. The sessions provided for a rich exchange of ideas which Lauren and Helena will use to inform their ongoing work supporting resilience and protection focused activities in county planning efforts. They will also use this feedback to continue developing resources and materials which they will share at the WI Land & Water Conference in March.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Interagency partners in Wisconsin are working together to update the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). The Wisconsin DNR Office of Agriculture & Water Quality is leading this collaborative process to rethink and redesign Wisconsin's NRS with the Interagency Water Quality Workgroup (IWQW), comprised of DNR, DATCP, UW-Madison Division of Extension, USDA NRCS and Wisconsin Land + Water, along with participation by the United States Geological Survey. The primary objectives of the IWQW are to renew the NRS (the current NRS was published in 2013) to serve as a shared vision to reduce nutrient loss from the landscape while building a broad coalition of institutions and stakeholders to support implementation and evaluation of the strategies identified through collaborative and consensus-building processes. The new NRS will also incorporate an assessment of agricultural best management practices and a social science assessment to identify barriers and incentives to adoption. During 2025, the IWQW will engage stakeholders in the NRS development process to reflect diverse perspectives and expertise.

Storm Water Program Update

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will issue a modification to WPDES Mineral (Nonmetallic) Mining and/or Processing General Permit No. WI-0046515-07-02. The modified permit will become effective Dec. 31, 2024 and is the result of an administrative order signed October 4, 2024. As a result of the order, sampling point 006 only applies to process wastewater discharges to groundwater (typically via unlined ponds) at industrial sand facilities commonly categorized under Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 1446, pursuant to federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations. This sampling point previously applied to any non-metallic mines that discharged process wastewater to groundwater.