

Land and Water Conservation Board

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

Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

December 2, 2025

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on December 2, 2025 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 609 254 022# or click the following Teams <u>hyperlink</u>. The agenda for the meeting is shown below.

AGENDA ITEMS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 1 Call the Meeting to Order - Mark Cupp, LWCB Chair
 - a. Roll Call
 - Pledge of allegiance b.
 - c. Open meeting notice
 - Introductions, Acknowledgements d.
 - e. Approval of agenda
 - f. Approval of October 7, 2025 meeting minutes
- 2 Public appearances*

*Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes or less. Each speaker must complete a Public Appearance Request Card and submit it to a DATCP representative before the start of the meeting

3 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan Revision for Iowa County

Katie Abbott, County Conservationist; Dave Gollon, LCC Chair

- 4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan Revision for Adams County Colton Wolosek, County Conservationist; John West, LCC Chair; Fred Heidler, **North Central WI RPC**
- 5 Introduction to Producer-led Groups

Dani Heisler, Producer-Led Program Manager, DATCP

Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan Revision for Sheboygan County Tyler Betry, County Conservationist; Rebecca Clarke, LCC Chair

Break for Lunch

Approval of Proposed 2026 LWCB Annual Agenda

Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP

LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates

8

Agency reports

9

- a. FSA
- b. NRCS
- c. UW-CALS
- d. UW Madison Extension
- e. WI Land + Water
- f. DOA
- g. DATCP
- h. DNR
- i. Member Updates
- 10 Planning for February 2026 LWCB Meeting Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 11 Adjourn

MINUTES LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

October 7, 2025

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 5, 2025, 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 7, 2025.** The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

Members: Mark Cupp, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Andy Buttles, Ron Grasshoff, Rebecca Clarke, Chris Clayton, Andrew Potts, D.J. Nichols, and Jason Knutson. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Dr. Franciso Arriaga (UW-CALS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to approve the August 5, 2025, meeting minutes as amended, 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 LWRM Plan Revision for Manitowoc County

David Wetenkamp, Department Director formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan revision.

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, Knutson motioned to recommend approval of Manitowoc County's LWRM plan revision, seconded by Clayton, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mandy Bonneville, Deputy Director/County Conservationist; Heather Marquardt, Senior Urban Conservation Specialist; Katie Porubcan, Conservation Technician; Brian Holt, LCC 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, Osterman motioned to recommend approval of Walworth County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Knutson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Climate Change & LWRM Plans

Jenny Pethan, WI Land+Water; Helena Tiedmann, DNR presented their efforts on climate resilience and working with data and research to implement into LWRM plans.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Pepin County

Jessica McMahon, Land Conservation & Planning Director/County Conservationist; Angie Bocksell, LCC Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM 5-Year 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 Pepin County's LWRM 5-Year plan review, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 Presentation on the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report

Alex Elias, DATCP delivered an update on the SWRM and nonpoint source water pollution programs, other project cooperator grants, and highlighted 8 counties in the report. A survey will be sent out in January.

Item #8 Presentation of 2026 Joint Final Allocation Plan

Susan Mockert, DATCP; Joanna Griffin, DNR delivered a presentation of the 2026 Joint Final Allocation Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Motion to receive the Joint Final Allocation Plan and Environmental Assessment by Osterman, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 DNR presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)

Joanna Griffin, DNR presented the applications and ranked list for the projects that applied for and received TRM grant support for 2026.

Motion to receive the Final Scores and Rankings of TRM by Grasshoff, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #10 DNR presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source (NPS) and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2026

Joanna Griffin, DNR presented the projects receiving NPS and Storm Water Management support for CY 2026.

Motion to receive the Final Scores and Rankings of NPS by Grasshoff, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #11 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates

Ron Grasshoff summarized the September 2nd meeting. A summary sheet of presentations will be included in the survey.

Item #12 Agency Reports

- a. FSA-No report provided.
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 7, 2025 meeting packet.
- c. UW-Extension- Radatz reported registration is open for the Water and Soil Health Conference December 16-17 at the Kalahari Resort.
- d. WI Land + Water- Osterman reported the board meeting is October 15th in Stevens Point.
- e. DOA- Potts submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 7, 2025 <u>meeting packet</u>.

- f. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 7, 2025 meeting packet.
- g. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 7, 2025 meeting packet. On October 15th there is a board meeting to share the planning effort to analyze progress of NR 151.
- h. Member Updates- No member updates.

Item #13 Planning for the December 2025 LWCB Meeting

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

- LWRM Plan Revision for Adams County, Iowa County, and Sheboygan County
- Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2026 CREP Spending Authority
- Farmland Preservation Program Biennial Report
- Approval of Proposed 2026 LWCB Annual Agenda
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Board Education Item: Introduction to Producer-Led Watershed Program with Dani Heisler

Item #14 Adjourn

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Knutson, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP

Resource Management Section,

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approval of the *Iowa County Land and Water Resource*

Management Plan

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Iowa 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, 2035, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2030.

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

Iowa County held a public hearing on October 1, 2025, as part of its public input and review process. The Iowa 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
- 2024 workplan with accomplishments and current 2025 workplan

Presenters: Katie Abbott, Iowa County Conservationist

Dave Gollon, Land Conservation 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: a Date Plan Submitted for Review: 8/10/2025

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
 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) 			1, 48- 49
II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL		Date	e(s)
Provide the dates that the local advisory committee met to discuss the develop LWRM plan and the county plan of work	oment of t	the Mar 202	rch 3, 5
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹		Oct	. 1, 2025
3. Provide the date of county board approval of the plan, or the date the county expected to approve the plan after the LWCB makes its recommendation. ²	board is	reco	er LWCB ommend n (12/2)
III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
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			8-11
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	\boxtimes		14
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources			15-16, 19-29

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

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

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

i	ii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.	\boxtimes		23-24, 27- 28
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	\boxtimes		14, 19- 24
b.	pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	\boxtimes		23-24
	Other comments:			
IV. DN	R 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			
	comments: yes - worked with and/or reviewed by Helena Tiedmann, Lauren n, Andrew Craig, Jake Dickmann, Kimberly Kuber, Camille Bruhn			
V. PLAI	N IMPLEMENTATION	Yes	No	Page
1.	Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: :			
1.	Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: : a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices	\boxtimes		53-54
1.	a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm			53-54 55-56
1.	A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices			
1.	 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 			55-56
1.	 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 			55-56 55-56
2.	 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 			55-56 55-56 53,66

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.			work plan
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			50-52
Other	comments:			
VI. Ou	TREACH 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			55-56, 60
2.	Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?			57-59
Other	comments:			
VII. W	ORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:	Yes	No	Page
		Yes	No	Page NA
	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:		No	
	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities		No	NA
2.	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and		No	NA NA
1. 2. Other	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities 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		No	NA NA

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.

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 Signature: Jennifer Chakravorty Date: 10/6/2025



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

County:

Iowa

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.

From 2021-2025, the Iowa Co Land Conservation Department has continued to prioritize its core programs of Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), structural cost-sharing, cropland cost-sharing, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrollment. This includes over \$600,000 in cost-share to local farmers, \$213,000 in CREP incentive payments, and over \$1 million annually in tax credits to FPP participants.

Since Iowa County has agricultural zoning throughout the county, FPP enrollment is high at about 670 landowners totaling over 145,000 acres (3rd highest in the state). FPP is our main tool to achieve NR151 compliance and is also a significant workload with annual site visits, compliance follow-up, sending reminders when new NMP soil tests are due, and implementing an annual self-certification process.

One significant planning adjustment has occurred over this time period with cost-sharing for cropland practices (SEG funds). Cover crop cost-sharing became easier with changes to the DATCP SWRM grant rules, which coincided with an increased demand for cover crops and a decreased demand for new Nutrient Management Plans. Our annual work plans and reports reflect this shift. Since 2021 our cover crops cost-sharing acres have increased (287 acres in 2021 vs. 1,135 acres in 2025) and NMP acres have decreased (2,213 in 2021 vs 397 in 2025).

We have also had to adjust structural cost-share priorities to focus less on waterway projects, such as stream crossings or bank stabilization, after it became too difficult for landowners in some floodplains to obtain the necessary permits.

When we had staff vacancies in both of our technical positions in 2022 and 2023 (which are half of the positions in the department) totaling 12 months of lost capacity, we had to triage our work at some times. This meant temporarily dropping some of our lower-priority programs, such as the youth poster contest. However, we never had to transfer cost-share funds to another county, and we caught up on all FPP visits.

Totals for this 5-year time period include:

- 78 structural cost-share projects installed (including the most popular practices of 41 well decommissions, 9 stream crossings, 6 grassed waterways, and 7 manure storage closures)
- 3,525 acres of cover crops, 645 acres of no-till, and 4,553 acres of NMP costsharing
- Technical assistance on 11 new manure storage pits
- 45 CREP agreements
- 830 FPP compliance site visits
- 23 outreach events and webinars
- 700 Facebook posts
- 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 biggest struggle has been in trying to start new programs with grant funding. After we completed a 9 Key Element watershed plan in 2019, we successfully applied for a large-scale Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant for 2021-2023 to begin implementing the plan. In this period, we had a staff vacancy for six months, and partner groups that planned to assist us with the grant deliverables also had staff turnover or lost positions (UW-Extension and Michael Field Agricultural Institute). While we completed some of the deliverables, we ended up cancelling the grant because we just did not have the capacity to focus on that project.

Similarly, a SEG Innovation Grant for 2022-2023 aimed at providing incentives to farmers to complete a field profitability assessment with Pheasants Forever's Precision Agriculture & Conservation Specialist had to be cancelled when key staff in both organizations left in that time period.

It has also been a challenge to spend our Multi-discharger Variance (MDV) cost-share funding. The eligibility for this funding is fairly narrow, so many projects are not a good fit. We don't have the staff capacity to spend a lot of time "knocking on doors" to seek out eligible projects, especially when most of our staff time is needed to complete our SWRM cost-share projects. We've also unfortunately had some landowners back out of their projects and have not yet found new ones to take their funding.

Outreach is another area where we don't have as much capacity as we would like. We fit in what we can in the form of newsletters, social media, and events, but outreach is not a primary duty of any of the staff, so it is often delayed or pushed aside when other priorities need our focus. Acknowledging our limits, we incorporate partnerships into our outreach planning and try to be strategic with our topics and target audiences.

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?

In our previous LWRM plan, the priority farm strategy focused on impaired waters or outstanding/exceptional water, farms with manure issues or excessive nutrient use, and farms with high erosion. Today, our strategy is similar, but we look at more factors when ranking cost-share projects. This includes compliance need (with FPP, NR151, and ordinances being a priority), geographic location (with impaired or OR/ER waters still a priority), level of resource concern, and the priority of the practice type (such as barnyard practices). With this new LWRM plan, we can incorporate the watershed prioritization maps to both give more points to cost-share projects in those areas, and to help focus our outreach efforts. This will help us put our limited time and funding into projects that will hopefully have the most positive impact on our resources.

For NR151 compliance, FPP has been and continues to be our best tool. The challenge is engaging new landowners to participate in the program. We currently are using a SEG Innovation Grant to hire an intern to map all fields in the county covered by an NMP, so we can contact those who do not have one to point out the benefits and offer assistance. This will hopefully lead to more compliance and FPP participation. We are also using this grant to offer free manure testing and spreader calibration.

Despite some grant projects not working out, others have been successful. The 9 Key Element Plan is a priority area for cost-sharing and we have had a few projects implemented in the project area. We noticed that, when conducting a driving survey of the Knight Hollow watershed, which includes an impaired stream, we felt the landscape and farming practices were in pretty good shape. That made us question if the source of P for this stream was current or historical.

To investigate this, we partnered with Extension and UW-Platteville to successfully apply for a DNR Surface Water Grant. We examined the state of streambanks, calculated erosion rates, and took soil samples to measure phosphorus in the streambanks. We used existing NMPs and offered free soil tests to farmers in the watershed and used that data in SnapPlus. Though this wasn't a full phosphorus loading study, our tools showed more P was coming from streambank erosion than farmland. This will help us prioritize in the future to try to promote and fund streambank stabilization in P-impaired streams (in areas that are feasible based on the NRCS standards and permitting requirements).

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.

Groundwater has become a larger focus, particularly after the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study was completed in 2022. Iowa County designated \$100,000 of one-time funding for groundwater projects, from an ATC transmission line Environmental Impact Fee payment. Some of this funding was given to the Iowa County Health Department to purchase equipment and complete the certifications needed to start a well-water testing lab for bacteria. We continue to partner with the Health Department on education efforts, including creating short videos about well testing and safety, creating joint social media posts, and collaborating on events around groundwater awareness week each year.

We used the remainder of the groundwater funding to provide cost-share and incentives to landowners. We included funding for NMPs and nitrogen trials but did not have any interest. We also used funding to increase well decommission cost-share (adding 20% on

top of SWRM's 70%) and provide up to \$5,000 to replace pre-1980 septic systems. Those two practices were popular, and we funded 16 septic system replacements and 21 well decommissions over two years.

We also continue to work with Lafayette and Grant Counties on groundwater programming, such as planning a joint nitrogen efficiency workshop in collaboration with Extension staff.

We've adjusted our outreach programming as new issues arise, such as co-organizing poison hemlock training (a more recent invasive species that can be dangerous) and a PFAS presentation. To try to stay more current with outreach trends, we started using social media in 2022, and have created short videos to convey information.

We've also had more requests from municipalities to help with phosphorus trading programs. While we don't have the capacity to create phosphorus trade contracts and calculate trade ratios for them, we have helped with project identification, planning, and running SnapPlus P-trade reports. This may be a growing need moving forward

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 \boxtimes or No \square). 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

We included a section on climate change that summarizes the projected changes to temperature and precipitation. We included a discussion on potential impacts specific to soil and water quality and infrastructure such as dams and roads. Climate change was also a priority issue identified by LCD staff, particularly related to extreme rain events and its impacts on soil erosion, water infiltration, designing conservation practices, and dam maintenance.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

a. The most current annual work plan, prepared in the current format from DATCP, and addresses all required items such as needed funding and staff hours.

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

Presentation Regarding County Resource Concerns

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

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

Guidance on Board Review Process

The LWCB's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

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

Signature of Authorized Representative: Darll & Sur Date: 10-1-25

(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
(goal and objective from LWRM plan can	If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12	(examples in italics)
be added in each category)	watershed code	
	(examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	
 Cropland 		
Priority #1: Soil Erosion &		
Priority #4: Nutrient Management		
Control erosion to "T"	Assist farmers with laying contours and contour strips	40 acres of contours or contour strips 54 acres Also 11.2 acres of filter strips
	Increase acres of cover crops using SEG funds	500 acres of cover crops 702 acres
Make cost-share available for grassed waterway construction	Provide cost-share for grassed waterways	1 acre of grassed waterways 0 acres
Promote Nutrient Management Planning and increase acres under an NMP	Organize farmer NMP training	Train 20 farmers to write and/or update their own plans 22
	Send reminders to landowners with soil tests due; offer cost-share and/or training	Contact 200 landowners 262 letters sent
	Provide nutrient management cost-sharing	Cost share plans on 700 acres 670 acres
FPP farm visits and self-certification	Conduct farm visits and carry out self-	Increase new NMP acres by 200 acres Total NMP assistance: 5,508 acres directly assisted, reviewed 157 plans
	certification process	Mail self-certification to all FPP participants (~675) completed
 Livestock 		
Priority #3: Animal Waste		
Management		
Encourage barnyard runoff control systems where feasible	Provide technical and financial assistance for barnyard runoff control practices	400 ft of water diversions and 2 roof gutters 0
5,500mb milete readione		Install 2000 ft of fence to restrict livestock access to streams 0

	T	T
Priority #9: Agricultural Sustainability		
Provide cost-sharing to improve grazing systems	Provide cost-sharing for watering systems or fencing	2 livestock watering systems 0
 Water quality 		
Priority #2: Groundwater		
Encourage proper decommissioning of unused wells	Provide cost-sharing for well decommissioning	10 well decommissions 10 completed
Prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater	Implement manure ordinance	3 manure storage closures 1 closure
Promote a well sampling program	Work with Health Department to advertise the well testing lab and encourage testing	Create 2 videos 2; 10 Facebook posts 10; 1 map of well sample locations 0
Prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater	Implement County groundwater funding project	10 old septic system replacements cost-shared 10; 2 cisterns closed 1, 2 cross-contaminating wells replaced 0
Priority #6: Riparian corridors		
Establish stream crossings and bank stabilization	Cost-share stream crossings and bank stabilization projects	500 ft of stream crossings, 100 ft of bank stabilization 229 ft of stream crossing, 150 ft of bank stabilization
Promote installation of grass filters and riparian buffers		10 acres of field borders or stream stream buffers (non-CREP) 11.2 ac
Promote CREP and administer state payments	Process CREP agreements	10 agreements 8 agreements
 Invasive 		
Invasive species		
Reduce the impacts of dangerous or nuisance invasives species, especially	Provide information upon request	Participate in South Central Invasives Partnership; assist with Poison Hemlock training, scouting, and education
new ones	Assist USRWA with AIS efforts	completed
• Wildlife	,	,
Priority #7: Agricultural productivity		

Administer the Wildlife Abatement funds	Process APHIS invoices and approve annual budget, claims, and rates.	Quarterly invoices; approvals at two LCC meeting completed
Increase habitat and recreation at county-owned Bloomfield prairie	Work with County staff, ICRPR, DALC	Quarterly meetings; complete burn and weed control completed
• Watershed		
Watershed strategies Participate in the Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group (HUC 12#s: 070700051204, 070700051203, 070700050704, 070700050703, 070700050702)	Attend meetings, provide NMP and other technical assistance, assist with field days	6 meetings or conference calls completed
Continue participating in local agriculture-related partnerships and networks	Attend Lowery Creek Partnership (HUC12#: 070700051203) meetings; attend Southwest Grasslands Network meetings	15 meetings or conference calls completed
Target outreach, cost-sharing, and technical assistance to priority watersheds	Spend MDV funding	Spend \$15,000 of MDV funding \$0 spent
• Other		
Other		
Continue inspection and maintenance of County-owned PL-566 dams	Inspect County-owned PL-566 dams; work with Highway Dept. on annual mowing; repairs as needed	11 dams inspected & mowed; TP7 repairs; tree/brush/weed removal on 5 dams; 5 internal pipe inspections 11 inspections/mowings, 1 pipe inspection, 2 significant repairs
Promote conservation through outreach & youth education	Hand out awards for good farm and land stewards; implement youth poster contest	5 awards; 1-2 schools participate in poster contest 4 awards, 1 school participated
Increase outdoor recreation	Administer 2023 recreation funding	7-10 grant projects funded 7; continue Bloomfield master planning process public hearings/board proposal completed; pond dredge/improvement feasibility study completed

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	3 6	n/a
Manure storage closure	3 0	n/a
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		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	210 206
For FPP	205 203
For NR 151	5 3
Animal waste ordinance	6 1
Livestock facility siting	n/a
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	n/a
Nonmetallic mining	n/a
Other: CREP permanent easement monitoring	5 5

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	
Field days	4 3
Trainings/workshops	5 5
School-age programs (camps, field	3 3
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	2 2
Social media posts	150 200
News release/story	3 3
Videos	3 2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2096	\$127,300
Conservation Technician	2096	\$75,000
Conservation Specialist	2096	\$66,640
Department Assistant	2096	\$73,100
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$45,000
SEG	N/A	\$45,000
MDV	N/A	\$15,000
ATC env. impact fee designated for groundwater projects	N/A	\$78,000

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
	(examples in italics)
watershed code	
(examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	
Assist farmers with laying contours and contour strips	60 acres of contours or contour strips
Increase acres of cover crops and no-till	900 acres of cover crops cost-shared
	227 acres of no-till cost-shared
Provide cost-share for grassed waterways	1 acre of grassed waterways
Organize farmer NMP training	Train 30 farmers to write and/or update their own plans
Send reminders to landowners with soil tests	Contact 200 landowners
	Cost share plans on 620 acres
1 Tovide nutrient management cost-snaring	Increase new NMP acres by 200 acres
	Review ~200 NMPs
Review all submitted NMPs for compliance	
Conduct farm visits and carry out self- certification process	Mail self-certification to all FPP participants (~670)
Provide technical and financial assistance for	400 ft of water diversions
	If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics) Assist farmers with laying contours and contour strips Increase acres of cover crops and no-till Provide cost-share for grassed waterways Organize farmer NMP training Send reminders to landowners with soil tests due; offer cost-share and/or training Provide nutrient management cost-sharing Review all submitted NMPs for compliance Conduct farm visits and carry out self-certification process

systems where feasible	barnyard runoff control practices	Install 2000 ft of fence to restrict livestock access to streams
systems where reastore	barnyard runori condor practices	instant 2000 it of felice to restrict investock access to streams
		1 milkhouse waste system
Priority #4 Nutrient Management	Increase acreage managed under an NMP	100 free manure tests to farmers
Priority #9: Agricultural Sustainability		
Provide cost-sharing to improve grazing systems	Provide cost-sharing for watering systems or fencing	1 livestock watering system
Water quality		
Priority #2: Groundwater		
Encourage proper decommissioning of unused wells	Provide cost-sharing for well decommissioning	10 well decommissions
Prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater	Implement manure ordinance	3 manure storage closures
	Implement County groundwater funding project	5 old septic system replacements cost-shared; 1 cistern closed
Priority #6: Riparian corridors		
Establish stream crossings and bank stabilization	Cost-share stream crossings and bank stabilization projects	200 ft of stream crossings
Promote installation of grass filters and riparian buffers		5 acres of field borders or stream buffers (non-CREP)
Promote CREP and administer state payments	Process CREP agreements	0-10 agreements (depends on federal agency)
• Invasive		
Invasive species Reduce the impacts of dangerous or nuisance invasives species, especially	Provide information upon request	Provide information on Facebook and upon request; 1 staff ID training
new ones	Assist USRWA with AIS efforts	Assist USRWA with AIS efforts

• Wildlife

· Willie		
Priority #7: Agricultural productivity		
Administer the Wildlife Abatement funds	Process APHIS invoices and approve annual budget, claims, and rates.	Quarterly invoices; approvals at two LCC meeting
 Watershed 		
Watershed strategies		
Participate in the Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group (HUC 12#s: 070700051204, 070700051203, 070700050704, 070700050703, 070700050702)	Attend meetings, provide NMP and other technical assistance, assist with field days	3 meetings or conference calls
Continue participating in local agriculture-related partnerships and networks	Attend Lowery Creek Partnership (HUC12#: 070700051203) meetings; attend Southwest Grasslands Network meetings	15 meetings or conference calls
Target outreach, cost-sharing, and technical assistance to priority watersheds	Spend MDV funding	Spend \$10,000 of MDV funding
Assist with municipal phosphorus trading as feasible		1-2 baseline NMPs created; assistance with project ID
• Other		
Other		
Continue inspection and maintenance of County-owned PL-566 dams	Inspect County-owned PL-566 dams; work with Highway Dept. on annual mowing; repairs as needed	11 dams inspected & mowed; TP7 repairs; tree/brush/weed removal on 3 dams
Promote conservation through outreach & youth education	Hand out awards for good farm and land stewards; implement youth poster contest	4 awards; 1-2 schools participate in poster contest
Increase outdoor recreation	Administer 2023 recreation funding	3 remaining grant projects funded
Complete LWRM plan		Plan presented at December LWCB meeting

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	5	n/a
Manure storage closure	3	n/a
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		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	140
For FPP	135
For NR 151	5
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	n/a
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	n/a
Nonmetallic mining	n/a
Other: CREP permanent easement monitoring	8

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	
Field days	3
Trainings/workshops	3
School-age programs (camps, field	5
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	150
News release/story	2
Video	2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs (salary + fringe)
County Conservationist	2088	\$137,378
Conservation Technician	2088	\$80,080
Conservation Specialist	2088	\$70,315
Department Assistant	2088	\$79,560
_		
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$45,000
SEG	N/A	\$45,000
SEG Innovation	N/A	\$8,000
MDV	N/A	\$10,000
ATC env. impact fee designated for groundwater	N/A	\$28,000
projects		

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP

Resource Management Section,

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approval of the Adams County Land and Water Resource

Management Plan

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the Adams *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, 2035, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2030.

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

Adams County held a public hearing on November 4, 2025, as part of its public input and review process. The Adams 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
- 2024 workplan with accomplishments and current 2025 workplan

Presenters: Colton Wolosek, Adams County Conservationist

John West, Land Conservation Committee Chair

Fred Heidler, North Central WI Regional Planning Commission



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: Adams Date Plan Submitted for Review: 11/19/2025

I. Advis	SORY 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)			1, 8-9
II. PUBI	LIC PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL		Date	e(s)
1.	Provide the dates that the local advisory committee met to discuss the develop LWRM plan and the county plan of work	oment of	the 4/3,	/2025
2.	Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹		11/4	4/2025
3.	Provide the date of county board approval of the plan, or the date the county be expected to approve the plan after the LWCB makes its recommendation. ²	ooard is	Afte	er LWCB
III. RES	OURCE 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			24-27, 30, 32, 71 (Map 7)
b.	Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			

b. Water quality conditions of watersneds in the county, including:

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

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

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

	i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries			34, 67 (Map 3)
i	i. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources			31, 34- 61
ii	i. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.			37, 42- 57, 59, 63
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			Attach ments C and D
b.	pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	\boxtimes		59, 61
	Other comments: Detailed information on Mason Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Sherwood, Friendship Lake			
IV DNI	R CONSULTATION			
14. 5.4.		Yes	No	Page
	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	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		No	Page
Other oresults	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 comments: healthy watersheds, high quality waters; modeling and assessment from DNR; final plan reviewed by DNR staff			
Other oresults	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 comments: healthy watersheds, high quality waters; modeling and assessment from DNR; final plan reviewed by DNR staff		No	Page
Other oresults	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 comments: healthy watersheds, high quality waters; modeling and assessment from DNR; final plan reviewed by DNR staff			
Other oresults	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 comments: healthy watersheds, high quality waters; modeling and assessment from DNR; final plan reviewed by DNR staff			
Other oresults	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 comments: healthy watersheds, high quality waters; modeling and assessment from DNR; final plan reviewed by DNR staff IMPLEMENTATION Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: : a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm	Yes		Page

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.

	d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	\boxtimes		26, 72- 73, 83
	e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program			83-84
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	\boxtimes		91
	b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.			work plan
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	\boxtimes		74, 84
Other	comments:			
VI. Ou	TREACH AND PARTNERING	Yes	No	Page
	Doos the LMDM plan describe a strategy to provide information and			
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			5, 77, 83
2.	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices			
2.	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and			5, 77,
2.	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?			5, 77,
2.	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?		No	5, 77,
2.	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? comments:		No	5, 77, 86, 90
2. Other	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? comments: DRK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING		No	5, 77, 86, 90
2. Other	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? COMMENTS: DOES THE COUNTY'S MONITORING Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:	Yes	No No	5, 77, 86, 90 Page
2. Other	education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? comments: DRK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks	Yes	No	83 5, 77, 86, 90 Page

 $^{^{5}}$ 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.

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.

Date: 11/19/25

Jennifer Chakravorty

Staff Signature:



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

County:

Adams

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.

Information and Education: Throughout the past 5 years, the Land & Water Department has been involved in several educational events that reach a variety of age groups and community members. We take part in statewide youth education programs each year, contributing to the Youth Education Poster Contest, as well as hosting a Conservation Field Day where youth are able to learn about the pillars of conservation, and to show the efforts that take place on a day-to-day basis to better our ecosystems. Attending the annual Fair each year, we provide an informative and interactive booth to showcase what is occurring on the landscape and what available resources there are for all landowners to help. The planning process has helped the county achieve its outcome, as we adjust our curriculum based on relevant topics, such as sustainable practices, and ensure that all materials are accessible and engaging. Another strategy that we are gearing towards is working with UW-Extension and providing articles and promoting conservation practices to inform the community of resources the LWCD can provide.

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.

Nutrient Management Planning has been a tough pillar to navigate for Adams County. In our past several annual work plans, we have set goals to add additional acres of Nutrient Management Plans (NMP), in which we have come up short each year. The department has lacked performing periodic plan reviews to monitor compliance with soil tests levels, but have been working with other counties and DATCP on how to proceed with a protocol to ensure we are making the best effort that unnecessary nutrients are not reaching our ground and surface waters We started by assessing the current practices, and setting smaller scale objectives to start. Do we want to focus on small or large scale producers? What area will better our efforts? Are we seeing trends in any specific areas? How do we measure success? Education and outreach has played a big role in getting the word out on the importance of nutrient management plans. We are fortunate to have some very involved lake districts, who are assisting us in spreading the message, and making

the relationships to work towards nutrient reduction as a whole. We also began reaching out to several large-scale producers to cost-share non-cash crops to improve soil health, prevent erosion, and reduce nutrient loss during the non-crop period. Through the large-scale producers, word has spread, which led us to apply for the NMFE (Nutrient Management Farmer Education) Grant to also give monetary incentives to producers who complete a standardized NMP. Although this grant does not start until 2026, we have been actively advocating this training, and have seen great response.

Along with Nutrient Management Plans, comes the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). Again, this has been another tough pillar for the department to navigate, as we did not have the correct knowledge on how the program works. Partnering with DATCP, we have received the correct information needed to advocate this program, and add additional acres. We have "sat in" on other counties FPP compliance checks, which gave us a great understanding of what we are looking for when we complete these in-house. We made a checklist to fill out prior and during inspections that includes but is not limited to; unique features and challenges of location, current land use, GPS/mapping section to identify areas of interest, and previous issues. By focusing on these aspects, we are able to enhance the effectiveness of our site visits, and contribute to more sustainable land management practices.

On another pillar within our department, we monitor and examine compliance of 10 non-metallic mines. Previous work plan goals were to inspect each mine twice a year, but due to staffing and other workloads, only one inspection was being completed each year. In 2023 we created an "Operator Report" which gives the operator a chance to perform their own inspection in the fall, return the report to our office, and we go out in the spring to determine compliance with the information they had provided us. This has been very successful, and we have created great working relationships with all our non-metallic mine operators.

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?

Adams County's approach to implementation of its priority farm strategy to address resource concerns will include but not limited to policy development, resource allocation, and collaboration with various stakeholders. We assess concerns brought forth to us by landowners, stakeholders, or through our own discovery, and gather more information through field assessments, surveys, outside resources, data analyzation, as well as utilizing technology such as G.I.S. softwares. Compiling information has allowed us to develop comprehensive plans from county-wide level, down to specific fields while reinforcing positive economic, cultural, and environmental impacts for members of the community. Utilizing a variety of funding sources such as our state allocated SEG funds allows us to use hard and soft practices to not only solve resource concerns, but also incentivise conservation-minded producers to perform conservation practices on their property. We have received funds to offer training for producers to become certified to create a Nutrient Management Plan on their property, and be more self-sustaining when it pertains to their careers and livelihoods. Offering reimbursement stipends for soil tests and manure analysis, and for completing the training. These approaches to our priority

farm strategy have allowed us to better the people of Adams County, while getting conservation implemented throughout the county. In the last 2 fiscal years we have been able to enroll hundreds of acres into new Nutrient Management Plans, assist in planting hundreds of acres of cover crops, assist in miles of wind breaks, and decrease sediment loading into our water systems via rock chutes, shoreline, and streambank protection annually.

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.

Changes in direction within Adams County's LWRM Plan and Annual Work Plans shift depending on the communities engagement and feedback on certain initiatives. Nutrient Management Planning is a prime example of how Adams County has adjusted to meet the needs of both the farmers, and the county's overall goals. Where Nutrient Management was briefly written in past LWRM Plans and Annual Work Plans before 2021, it now stands as one of the top priority, specifically adding more acres of NMPs by integrating scientific principles, practical applications, and advancing our community involvement to achieve environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity. The shift towards nutrient management planning leads to a more holistic approach in agricultural work plans, where we now focus on soil health, conservation practices (soft practices; cover crops), and review compliance with regulations. By adjusting our objectives and integrating these elements, we're now able to assist farmers in enhancing productivity while contributing to environmental sustainability.

We have amplified our focus in addressing wind erosion concerns throughout the county. This was brought to us through our own discovery, members of the community, and stakeholders throughout the county. Wind erosion in Adams County peaks during the early spring "dust season". This is between winter snow melt and when vegetation is well established during the growing season. To address this issue, we have put an emphasis on conservation practices such as cover crops and windbreaks to help solve this issue. We implement these projects as they come and ensure we get these practices installed as soon as it is brought to our attention. We have been able to annually increase our linear footage for windbreaks and total annual acreage for cover crops in consecutive years from 2023-2025. Showing that the applied focus has been bringing results on the ground.

In recent years, Adams County has expanded its focus on controlling and eradicating terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. This has been through increased detection and mapping, outreach and education, and boots-on-the-ground removal efforts. Previous actions have mostly revolved around collecting information on invasive species and education of citizens, with some emphasis on controlling known populations. While this is still a large focus of the operation, there is an increased effort towards the physical removal and control of invasive species on the landscape This has included the detection and removal of several pioneer populations of prohibited species (removal of phragmites on Leola, planned removal of Dwarf Knotweed on Peppermill Lake and detection of Bohemian Knotweed, etc) and requesting access to private properties to work on restoring the landscape. Passive prevention such as education and detection are facets that are growing, with expanded aquatic invasive species outreach campaigns to bait dealers

and resort owners, distribution of revised educational materials to lakeshore owners - catered to their lake, and increasing the amount invasive species education events to a larger variety of stakeholders with more specialized topics. More comprehensive mapping and cataloging is occurring, with early detection and monitoring occurring on a routine basis to high-traffic areas, as well as scheduled monitoring events to areas that have had little monitoring data. This has led to an increased catalog of knotweed throughout the County, for example, with a County-wide knotweed removal plan being designed. With everything considered, a more "action" forward approach to invasive species management is occurring, and the County desires to better this program by expanding services to private landowners for invasive species removal, increasing volunteer monitoring and removal to empower stakeholders to assist with invasive species control, and continuing to optimize and increase detection efforts with new tools and technology.

With these three examples in mind, our department is transitioning from a more data and research based approach to an action-based outlook. There has been a lot of data, education, and relationships built with stakeholders and local groups and we are now pivoting towards the execution phase for many projects/programs.

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 \square or No \square). 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 Change Resiliency and relevant data is included in Adams County's LWRM Plan, and although it was not noted as a priority, we do recognize the significance of climate change as a global issue that impacts various sectors including agriculture, water resources and biodiversity. Historical data trends are located on pages 20-22, while projected future trends are located on 23-24. With one of our current priorities centered along erosion control, we acknowledge climate change as a relevant factor while discussing our management for soil carbon and soil organic matter (pg 27). Along with the addition of County Forest Lands within Adams County we also took into account that climate change is one of the most critical factors affecting Wisconsin's forests and adapting our forests to climate change will be critical in the future (pg 32-33).

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

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

Presentation Regarding County Resource Concerns

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

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

Guidance on Board Review Process

The LWCB's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of this form (including attachments) on: 11/4/2025

Signature of Authorized Representative: Date: 11/4/2025

(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

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 2024 Accomplishments	
Cropland			
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	Outreach for SEG funding opportunities - 1 Press Release - Direct mailing to 100 property owners - 1 Group Presentation	 Reached out to producers that have NMPs 530 acres cover crops cost-shared 	
	Add 600 Acres of Nutrient Management Plans/ 1 News Release	- 90 Acres Approved	
	Install 3,600 feet of windbreak	- 3075 Linear Feet Installed	
	Install 365 linear feet of streambank protection	- 180 Linear Feet Installed	
	Install 5 acres of Shoreland Buffers/Filter Strips	- >5 Acres Installed	
	Monitor NR 151 compliance of all non-FPP, 25 % inspection	- 10 % Inspected	
	Develop 3 new Cost Share agreements	- 4 New Cost-Share Agreements	
	Install 1100 feet of diversion	- 110 feet (Rock lined Waterway/diversion)	
	Enroll 5 new Farmland Preservation Participants	- N/A	
	Create a GIS mapping layer of all land with NMPs.	- N/A (GIS Based)	
	Enroll 1 new CREP Contract	- N/A	
	Create and maintain a comprehensive nutrient management plan tracking database/system.	- Spreadsheet Established	
• Livestock			
Livestock	Review 25% of CAFO nutrient management plan acres for continued compliance.	- Reviewed all reports received	

• Water quality

• Water quality		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other	Continue with County Groundwater Monitoring Program (200 samples)	- 200 Wells
categories)	1 Citizen Lake Monitoring Training Event	- 2 Events
	1 Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Event	- 2 Events
	Collect water quality data on lakes	- 5 Monitoring Events in House plus CLMN Volunteers
	Monthly Stream Monitoring	- 5 Monitoring Events
	Host 1 Snapshot Day for AIS	- 1 Project Hosted
	Implement 1 Beach Club restoration project	- 1 Project Complete (2 transferred into 2025)
	Assist in installing 10 Healthy Lakes/River grant practices	- 10 Healthy Lakes Projects Installed
	Apply for Healthy Lakes/River grants for 2025	- 2-3 Healthy Lakes Grant Applications
	Score and assess 10 shorelines for erosion or other issues at owner's request	- 10 Assessments
	Sample public beaches for E. Coli weekly	- 6 Weeks Sampled (Bi-Weekly)
	Assist with updating lake management plans	- 2 Plans Updated
	Conduct Shoreline Assessment Surveys	- 7 Lakes Surveyed
	Conduct social surveys for lake districts	- 1 Lake Surveyed (Mason)
	Conduct native mussel surveys	- 1 Survey (Petenwell)
• Forestry	I	
Forestry		
	Complete first harvest on existing County Forest	- Scheduled for 2026
	Develop a plan for recreational trail implementation	- Plan Completed and Flagged

Invasive

Invasive species	Conduct 3 outreach events with Lake Groups	- 5 Events
	3 Point Intercept AIS Plant Surveys	- 3 PI Surveys
	Assist Wolf Lake with DASH events	- 3 DASH Events Attended
	Conduct early detection surveys in lakes	- 3 ED Surveys
	Conduct project RED surveys	- 3 Miles Surveyed
	Distribute informational packets to riparian owners	- 75 Packets Distributed
	Treat invasive Phragmites stand in Town of Leola	- Completed in 4 Treatments
	Index Purple Loosestrife for management in 2025	- Completed/Mapped
	Boater behavior study	- 13 Boaters Contacted
	Bait shop outreach	- 3 Stores Contacted
	Pet shop outreach	- 1 Store Contacted
	Collaborate with McGinnis Lake District to provide an outreach program for Amur Cork Tree	- N/A (Presented at Lake Meetings)
	Apply to install boat wash or outreach stations at launches	- N/A
	Invasive species removal	- 1 Project (1200 sq ft)
• Wildlife	T	
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other	Wildlife damage program Contract with USDA APHIS	- \$33,565.72 in Claims
than forestry or invasive species)	Arms	
	Tree and plant sales (25,000 trees and shrubs)	- 24,000 Trees Sold and Planted in Adams Co.
• Urban		
Urban issues	Review 3 new Stormwater Management applications	- 3 Reviewed (2 Exempt for being internally drained)
	Review and monitor implementation of 4 existing Stormwater Management permits.	- 3 Monitored

Watershed

Watershed strategies		
	Implement 14 Mile watershed 9 Key Plan	
	 Host 2 9KE Meetings/Workshops Attend 8 Local Community events for outreach Host 1 Farm Tour Complete 4 field visits with producers 	 3 Meetings/Workshops 10 Events Attended 1 Farm Tour 6 Field Visits
	Review and moderate non-stormwater ordinance and drainage issue for 7 landowners	- 2 Owners Assisted
• Other		
Other	10 NR135 Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance Compliance Inspections	- 10 Inspections
	2 Review/Approval of a modified reclamation plan	- 1 Plan Review
	Host 1 Conservation Day with 5 th graders	- N/A (took part in youth poster contest and art show)

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits issued in 2024
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	0	0
Manure storage closure	0	0
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4	4
Shoreland zoning	0	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections 2024
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	6
For NR 151	6
Animal waste ordinance	1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4
Nonmetallic mining	10

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Total in 2024
Tours	1
Field days	1
Trainings/workshops	7
School-age programs (camps, field	2
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	100
News release/story	3

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs	
Water Resource Specialist	2080	\$78,716	
Resource Conservationist	2080	\$76,960	
County Conservationist	2080	\$89,760	
Watershed Coordinator	2080	\$65,000	
Cost Sharing (can be combined)			
Bonding	N/A	\$43,500	
SEG	N/A	\$35,000	

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
be added in each category)	watershed code	
• Cropland	(examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	Outreach for SEG funding opportunities - 1 Press Release	Completion of events
	Direct mailing to 100 property owners1 Group Presentation	
	Add 800 Acres of Nutrient Management Plans/ 1 News Release	Acres approved/ # News Releases
	Install 3,250 feet of windbreak	Linear feet installed
	Install 400 linear feet of streambank/shoreline protection	Linear feet installed
	Install 5 acres of Shoreland Buffers/Filter Strips	# Acres Installed
	Monitor NR 151 compliance of all non-FPP, 25 % inspection	% of non-FPP farms inspected
	Develop 5 new Cost Share agreements	Number of signed cost share agreements
	Install 900 feet of diversion	Linear feet installed
	Enroll 4 new Farmland Preservation Participants	Number of new Certificates of Compliance issued
	Enroll 2 new CREP Contract	# of Contracts signed
	Create and maintain a comprehensive nutrient management plan tracking database/system.	Completion of new system
• Livestock		,
Livestock	Review 25% of Manure Storage Facilities for Compliance	# of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard

• Water quality

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other	Continue with County Groundwater Monitoring Program (200 samples)	# of well samples
categories)	1 Citizen Lake Monitoring Training Event	# of events
	1 Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Event	# of events
	Collect water quality data on lakes	# of monitoring events
	Monthly Stream Monitoring	# of monitoring events
	Assist in installing 10 Healthy Lakes/River grant practices	# of projects installed or feet of shoreline converted
	Apply for Healthy Lakes/River grants for 2025	# of grants applied for
	Score and assess 10 shorelines for erosion or other issues at owner's request	# of assessments
	Sample public beaches for E. Coli weekly	# of weeks sampled
	Conduct Shoreline Assessment Surveys	# of lakes surveyed
	Conduct social surveys for lake districts	# of lakes surveyed/ # of respondents
	Conduct native mussel surveys	# of surveys/ # of species cataloged
	Restore 200ft of streambank/shoreline	# of ft of shoreline restored
	Implement 1 Fish Habitat Project	# of fish habitat projects
	Assist Lake Organizations with the creation or	# of management plans advised
	revision of management plans	# of meetings attended
	Attend Lake Organization planning meetings	

Forestry

Forestry	Complete first harvest on existing County Forest	Completion of harvest

	Develop a plan for recreational trail implementation	Completion of Plan
	Develop plan/prospect for 2nd Timber harvest/Bids	Signed Contract
Invasive		
Invasive species	Conduct 3 outreach events with Lake Groups	# of events
	3 Point Intercept AIS Plant Surveys	# of surveys
	Assist Wolf Lake with DASH events	# of DASH events attended
	Conduct early detection surveys in lakes	# of surveys
	Conduct early detection surveys within county forest and privately owned lands	# of surveys and mapped locations within WisFIRS(county forest)
	Conduct project RED surveys	# of surveys/ miles of stream surveyed
	Distribute informational packets to riparian owners	# of packets distributed
	Treat invasive Phragmites stand in Town of Leola	# of control efforts implemented/sites treated
	Index Purple Loosestrife for management in 2025	Completion of index
	Boater behavior study	# of boaters contacted
	Bait shop outreach	# of stores contacted
	Pet shop outreach	# of stores contacted
	Invasive species removal	# of projects/ acres removed
	Educational Event on invasives prevalent in Adams County with landowners and producers	# of events
	Check boat launches for signage and accuracy	# of launches inspected
Wildlife	•	
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wildlife damage program Contract with USDA APHIS	\$ value of claims

	Tree and plant sales (25,000 trees and shrubs)	# of trees sold
• Urban		
Urban issues	Review 6 new Stormwater Management applications	# of applications reviewed
	Review and monitor implementation of 4 existing	# of permits monitored
	Stormwater Management permits.	# of permits monitored

Watershed

Watershed strategies	Implement 14 Mile watershed 9 Key Plan	
	 Host 2 9KE Meetings/Workshops Attend 8 Local Community events for outreach Host 1 Farm Tour Complete 4 field visits with producers 	# of meetings hosted/presentations given # of events attended # of farm tours completed # of visits
	Review and moderate non-stormwater ordinance and drainage issue for 7 landowners	# of owners assisted

• Other

Other	10 NR135 Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance Compliance Inspections	# of inspections
	2 Review/Approval of a modified reclamation plan	# of plans reviewed
	Host 1 Conservation Day with 5th graders	# of events

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	0	0
Manure storage closure	1	0
Livestock facility siting	0	0

Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4	4
Shoreland zoning	2	2
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	1	1
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	6
For NR 151	6
Animal waste ordinance	1
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	4
Nonmetallic mining	10

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	7
School-age programs (camps, field	2
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	100
News release/story	3

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$106,151.00
Water Resource Specialist	2080	\$80,937.00
Resource Conservationist	2080	\$75,433.00
Watershed Agronomist	2080	\$80,937.00

Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bond/Structural Funds	N/A	\$40,700
SEG Funds	N/A	\$45,000

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP

Resource Management Section,

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approval of the Sheboygan County Land and Water Resource

State of Wisconsin

Management Plan

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Sheboygan 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, 2035, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2030.

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

Sheboygan County held a public hearing on October 14, 2025, as part of its public input and review process. The Sheboygan 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
- 2024 workplan with accomplishments and current 2025 workplan

Presenters: Tyler Betry, Sheboygan County Conservationist

Rebecca Clarke, Land Conservation 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: Sheboygan Date Plan Submitted for Review: 9/23/2025

I. Advis	SORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1.	Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)			2, 8, 54-56
II. Publ	IC PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL		Date	e(s)
1.	Provide the dates that the local advisory committee met to discuss the develop LWRM plan and the county plan of work	ment of	the 1/22	2/25
2.	Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹		10/	14/25
3.	Provide the date of county board approval of the plan, or the date the county be expected to approve the plan after the LWCB makes its recommendation. ²	ooard is	mee	er LWCB eting 2/25
III. RES	OURCE 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			20-21
b.	Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
	i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	\boxtimes		25-27, 30-48

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.

	ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources			27-48
ii	ii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.			51-53, 82-84
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	\boxtimes		25-48
b.	pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available			82-84
	Other comments: 9 key element plan for Pigeon River in 2023, MKE River Basin TMDL, NE Lakeshore TMDL; Appendix 2 is a table of Local water bodies with pollutant type and TMDL status			
IV. DN	R 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			
	comments: Collaborated with DNR staff Andrew Craig, Helena Teidmann, Haydon, and others			
Lauren		Yes	No	Page
Lauren	Haydon, and others	Yes	No	Page
V. PLAN	Haydon, and others NIMPLEMENTATION	Yes	No	Page 63, 73
V. PLAN	N IMPLEMENTATION Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: : a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm		No	
V. PLAN	MIMPLEMENTATION Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components: : a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices		No	63, 73
V. PLAN	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		No	63, 73

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.	 expected costs of implementing the plan including cost-sharing for conservation practices needed to achieve plan objectives 	\boxtimes		work plan
	 the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan. 			work plan
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			61-69
Other	comments:			
VI. Ou	TREACH 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			73-77
2.	Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?			78, 85 (Appe ndix 3)
Other	comments:			
Other	comments:			
	COMMENTS: ORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
	ORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
VII. W	ORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page NA
VII. W	ORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following:		No	
VII. W	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities		No	NA
VII. We	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy and framework for monitoring county progress implementing its plan including methodology to track and		No	NA NA
VII. We	Does the county's most recent annual work plan ⁵ do both of the following: a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks b. Identify priorities 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 comments: GIS tracking system for BMP implementation - is this something		No	NA NA

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: Jennifer Chakravorty

Date: 9/30/2025



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

County: Sheboygan

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. One accomplishment I am proud to highlight is the increased number of cover crops planted over the years. Five years ago, we helped plant 46 acres. Last year, that number increased to 134 acres, and this year we are already up to 330 acres planted. We have also seen growth in the number of farms using no-till practices. In 2017, 229 farms utilized no-till, and by 2022 that number had risen to 240. I attribute these improvements to the efforts of our Department, NRCS, and other local conservation groups in educating farmers on the benefits of these practices. We also saw a direct increase in interest when DATCP raised its cost-share funding to up to \$75 per acre for multi-species cover crop plantings. I would also like to draw attention to the "Planned Outreach and Education Activities" section of our annual work plans. This section sets goals for the number of field days, trainings, and other outreach efforts. During these events, and through our media posts, we consistently highlight our programming, especially promoting cover crops and no-till. This approach ensures we stay aligned with our work plan while helping producers understand the services and support we can offer.

Another accomplishment I am pleased to share is the continued success of our annual tree sale. This is a program our Department is extremely proud of. Over the past five years, we have sold an average of 70,000 trees annually, making it the largest county-operated tree sale in the state. In our annual work plan, we set a goal for the number of species we intend to sell; however, we often exceed those targets. Setting these minimum expectations helps guide staff planning and inventory decisions. I am very glad to see the ongoing success of this program and how it has grown over the 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.

We are fortunate that our County has its own buffer program, which offers incentives to farmers who want to protect areas near waterways and wetlands. However, after nearly two decades of operation, we are beginning to reach a saturation point in implementing

traditional buffers. To address this, we revamped the program to make it more inclusive and now allow pollinator plantings and shoreland buffers. These are newer practices that our County had not previously implemented, and we have had great success working with landowners to establish them.

Another area I would like to highlight is the Milwaukee River Conservation Partnership Program. This was a five-year project focused on directing funding and conservation efforts within the Milwaukee River Watershed through the end of 2025. The program was so successful that we decided to apply for another RCPP to continue the work. Unfortunately, due to national budget cuts, we were not awarded the new grant. Even so, we were able to extend our current grant into 2026. We will continue to support conservation practices within the watershed through other funding sources, such as MDV funds, for years to come. Collectively, we plan to apply again once the application period opens.

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?

Sheboygan County has adopted the following approach for its Priority Farm Strategy. Below is an outline of each priority level and the methods our Department uses to effectively work with all landowners in the County.

First Priority – Land with a valid NR 151 violation

When it comes to active NR 151 violations, we take these situations very seriously once we become aware of them. With our limited staff, we must be reactive in these instances, but we work with landowners as best as possible to bring them back into compliance. These cases take immediate priority. We inventory these lands and follow up to ensure they remain in compliance. For outreach, we use our social media platforms, newsletters, and field events to highlight best practices and share information on how to proactively prevent violations. We evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy by tracking the number of violations or complaints we receive each year—which, fortunately, has remained low in recent years.

Second Priority – Land within a 9KE area, watersheds with impaired waters, or watersheds with Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters. Land Conservation staff have recently hosted soil health field days within the 9KE watershed, with support from UW–Extension and NRCS, to engage landowners directly. We have also conducted multiple mailings and in-person farm visits within the watershed to determine how our Department can assist.

Third Priority – Land enrolled in Farmland Preservation (FP) Working with landowners in the Farmland Preservation Program is one of our most effective avenues for getting conservation practices on the ground. We currently have 330 landowners enrolled, and we conduct approximately 80 site visits each year so that all participants are visited within a four-year cycle. These landowners are often more willing to adopt conservation practices.

Fourth Priority – All other lands, as time and resources allow. For all other lands not included in the first three priorities, we will work with landowners as time permits, provided they have a resource concern that needs addressing and are seeking cost-share funding.

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.

A significant update in the County's LWRM Plan is the inclusion of the Northeast Lakeshore TMDL and the Pigeon River 9KE Plan. Moving forward, our Department will place greater emphasis on meeting the goals outlined in these newer planning efforts. While the previous plan focused primarily on the Milwaukee River Basin TMDL, this updated plan reflects a shift in priorities.

The Northeast Lakeshore TMDL establishes an 85% phosphorus-reduction goal for the Fisher Creek subbasin, and the Pigeon River 9KE Plan serves as a key implementation tool to support progress toward that target. This is an ambitious objective, but one that our Department is fully committed to.

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 \boxtimes or No \square). 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

The climate section of our plan begins on page 22. This section provides a brief snapshot of the current climate conditions in our county and outlines future projections. It also includes a statement noting that the Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department is developing practices and programs aimed at increasing the county's resilience to future climate impacts.

Additionally, on page 74 in Chapter 8 — Information and Education Strategy, Goal #1 focuses on reducing soil erosion and associated phosphorus losses. One of the key messages our Department hopes to convey to target audiences is the approach we are taking to establish

climate-resiliency measures. While drafting the new plan, I consulted with a Climate Resilience Specialist and a Watershed Protection Coordinator who assisted in compiling the data used throughout the document.

A major focus of our Department's work in addressing climate-change impacts is reducing the effects of increasingly frequent and intense rainfall events. Research shows that approximately 70% of all sediment entering a water system can occur during just approximately three major rain events each year. Ensuring our ground is covered and protected is the most effective way to prevent nutrients from entering local waterways. Through education, technical assistance, and cost-sharing opportunities, we aim to promote greater adoption of cover crops, increased residue on the landscape, and overall improvement in soil health.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

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

Presentation Regarding County Resource Concerns

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

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

Guidance on Board Review Process

The LWCB's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of this form (including attachments) on: 11.19.2025

Signature of Authorized Representative: Date: 11/21/25

(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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)
Cropland		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	 Cover Crops (40 aeres) 135 acres Grassed Waterway (1) Pollinator Habitat (10 aeres) 2.3 acres NW Plan Development (120 aeres) 397 acres Implement 1st transect survey 	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
• Livestock		
Livestock	 Update Ag Waste Ordinance Still planned Abandon 1 Manure Pit Waste Storage Transfer System (1) 	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
Water quality		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	 One underground outlet Riparian Grassed Buffers (3-lacres) 2 CREP signups Implement whole town groundwater testing initiative Town of Plymouth was tested Well Decommission (1) 	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)
• Forestry	` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` `	
Forestry	Implement annual tree sale and plant leftover trees at Ablber/Schneiter mitigation site.	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)
 Invasive 		
Invasive species	Continue outreach and education efforts for CBCW and related programs.	Number of surveys completed Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated
• Wildlife		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species) • Urban	 Wetland restorations (21) Annual Tree Sale – Sell a Combined 67,000 	Acres of wetland restored Number of trees sold
Urban issues	Finalize County's Stormwater Management Plan	Number of site visits Number of plans reviews

•	Review (513) Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Permit	Number of permits issued Number of compliance issues resolved
•	Applications Issue Shoreland Zoning Permits (10096)	

Watershed

Watershed strategies	 Continue to participate in the Milwaukee River Watershed RCPP program Apply for the another RCPP program from the Milwaukee River Watershed Continue to support the Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network Implement (20) BMPs in the Pigeon River Watershed Number of meetings attended/presentations given Modeling completed Number of partner contacts made Information system/tracking developed Number of partnership development activities accomplished Watershed	
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• Other

Other	• Complete (42) inspections on active mining Number of	of plans reviewed
	sites to review reclaimed portions. Number of	of inspections

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	<u>2-0</u>	<u>2-0</u>
Manure storage closure	<u> 10</u>	<u> 10</u>
Livestock facility siting	NA	NA
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	<u>5 13</u>	<u>5</u> 13
Shoreland zoning	100 96	<u>100 96</u>
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	0	0
Wetland Scrapes	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	90
For FPP	80
For NR 151	10
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	NA
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	10-24
Nonmetallic mining	5-2

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	62
Trainings/workshops	62
School-age programs (camps, field	6-8
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	4
Social media posts	25
News release/story	2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$108,000
Conservation Tech	2080	\$116,000
Conservation Tech	2080	\$98,700
Conservation Tech	2080	\$95,000
Administrative Assistant	2080	\$71,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$55,000
SEG	N/A	\$15,000
County	N/A	\$35,500

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category) • Cropland Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics) • Pollinator Habitat (5 acres) • Cover Crops (600 acres) • NMP Development (1,250 acres)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics) 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) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)
**		# acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard
LivestockLivestock	 Update Ag Waste Ordinance One manure storage construction One manure transfer system One manure pit closure One animal trail/walkway 	 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
 Water quality Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories) 	 Design & Install one WASCOB Install one shoreland buffer restoration Implement whole town groundwater testing initiative One underground outlet Field buffers (3 acres) 3 grass waterway projects 	 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)
• Forestry	e grass waterway projects	
Forestry	Implement annual tree sale and plant leftover trees at Ablber/Schneiter mitigation site.	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)
• Invasive	•	
Invasive species	 Participate in Random Lake Conservation Fair, Sheboygan Farmer's Market, and other outreach events. Host Snapshot Day. Conduct Early Detection Monitoring on at least 2 bodies of water. 	Number of surveys/monitoring events completed Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated Number of outreach events participated in Number of boaters reached through boat inspections

	 Staff all county owned boat landings for CBCW at least 1 day. 	
• Wildlife		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	 Five wetland restoration projects Tree sale (sell 60,000 trees) Continue Wildlife damage program 	Acres of wetland restored Number of trees sold
• Urban		
Urban issues	 Start to implement the County's Stormwater Management Plan Review (8) Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Permit Applications Issue Shoreland Zoning Permits (115) 	Number of site visits Number of plans reviews Number of permits issued Number of compliance issues resolved
Watershed Watershed strategies	Continue to participate in the Milwaukee	Number of meetings attended/presentations given
9	 River Continue to support the Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network and add a new farmer to the group Implement (3) BMPs in the Pigeon River Watershed Utilize MDV funds to implement projects throughout the County. 	Modeling completed Number of partner contacts made Information system/tracking developed Number of partnership development activities accomplished
• Other		
Other	 Complete (5) inspections on active mining sites to review reclaimed portions. 	Number of plans reviewed Number of inspections

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2	2
Manure storage closure	2	2
Livestock facility siting	NA	NA
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	8	8
Shoreland zoning	115	115
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	7	7
Other	0	0

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	95
For FPP	80
For NR 151	10
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	NA
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	16
Nonmetallic mining	5

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	3
Trainings/workshops	4
School-age programs (camps, field	6
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	4
Social media posts	40
News release/story	2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$110,105.00
Conservation Tech	2080	\$105,090.00
Conservation Tech	2080	\$99,214.00
Conservation Tech	2080	\$77,373.00
Administrative Assistant	2080	\$65,579.00
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$55,000
SEG	N/A	\$15,000
MDV	N/A	\$80,955
County	N/A	\$119,844
DNR Pilot Program	N/A	\$45,170

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: DATCP

Land and Water Resource Bureau

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed 2026 LWCB Annual Agenda

Recommended Action: This is an action item. The LWCB may choose to approve the proposed 2026 annual agenda or choose to amend it before approval.

Summary: DATCP and DNR staff have prepared a proposed annual agenda for LWCB meetings in 2026. Subject to LWCB approval, the meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

February 3, 2026

April 7, 2026

June 2, 2026

August 4, 2026

October 6, 2026

December 1, 2026

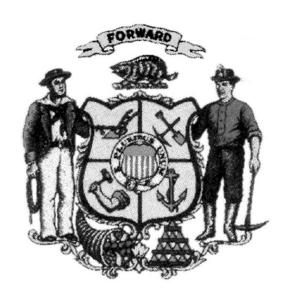
Meetings will be planned as hybrid in-person & virtual meetings. There will be no field meetings in 2026.

If you have any questions about the annual agenda, please contact Jenn Chakravorty, Jennifer. Chakravorty@wisconsin.gov, (608) 224-4617.

Materials Provided: LWCB 2026 Proposed Annual Agenda.

Presenters: Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP

Land and Water Conservation Board



2026 ANNUAL AGENDA

February 3, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

 Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approval (Crawford and Sawyer Counties)

Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty

◆ Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2026 CREP Spending Authority *Responsible Party: Brian Loeffelholz*

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

♦ Election of 2026 Officers

Responsible Party: LWCB Chair

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

APRIL 7, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five Year Reviews (Buffalo, Pierce, and Milwaukee Counties)

 Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty
- ◆ Extension of DATCP Projects from 2025 into 2026 Responsible Party: Susan Mockert
- ◆ Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2025 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*

JUNE 2, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five Year Reviews (Waushara and Waupaca Counties)
 Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty
- ◆ The 2025 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: Jumping Worms

 Presenter: Brad Herrick, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director, UW-Madison

AUGUST 4, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five Year Review (Waukesha County) and Approval (Dunn County)

 Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty
- ◆ Presentation of 2027 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 2027

 Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin
- DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2027 Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin

◆ Presentation on the 2025 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

OCTOBER 6, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Five Year Reviews (Florence and Green Counties) and Approval (Shawano County)
 Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty
- ◆ Recommendation for approval of the 2027 Joint Final Allocation Plan
 ❖ Response to comments regarding the 2027 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan
 Responsible Party: Susan Mockert and Joanna Griffin
- ◆ DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2027 Responsible Party: Joanna Griffin

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

DECEMBER 1, 2026 LWCB MEETING

DATCP AND DNR PROGRAMS

- Recommendations related to Land and Water Resource Management Plans: Approvals (Brown, Kenosha, and Trempealeau Counties)
 Responsible Party: Jenn Chakravorty
- ◆ Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2027 CREP Spending Authority *Responsible Party: Brian Loeffelholz*

LWCB ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ LWCB Advisory Committee on Research- Committee Updates *Responsible Party: Committee Representative*
- ◆ Approval of Proposed 2027 LWCB Annual Agenda *Responsible Party: LWCB Chair*
- ◆ Review of the LWCB Bylaws Responsible Party: LWCB Chair
- ♦ Board Education Item

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: Nov. 18, 2025

TO: LWCB members and advisers

FROM: Jason Knutson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: DNR Update, October – November 2025, For December LWCB Meeting

Staffing Updates

Joanna Griffin, the Runoff Management Grants Program coordinator, has accepted a new position as the DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater budget coordinator, beginning on Dec. 1. Matt Kaelin (<u>Matthew.Kaelin@wisconsin.gov</u>) will assist with grant coordination until the position is filled.

The DNR also has two newly vacant regional nonpoint source coordinator positions. Jesse Bennett, who covered Southeast Wisconsin, accepted a new position within the DNR. Cindy Koperski, who covered West Central Wisconsin, is retiring on Dec. 1. The DNR is developing a plan to cover these vacancies and will communicate this to the counties that previously worked with Jesse and Cindy. The DNR would like to thank Joanna, Jesse and Cindy for their contributions over the years.

The ag runoff section manager vacancy is expected to be filled in December.

Surface Water Grant Update

The deadline for final Surface Water Grant applications was Nov. 17, 2025. Program staff are processing the submitted applications. This year, the DNR received over 300 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 to review and score grants within the multiple grant categories. Grants to be funded will be determined by the end of January 2026, and grant awards will be announced in early February 2026.

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Initiative Celebrates 10 Years

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is celebrating a milestone year for the statewide Healthy Lakes & Rivers (HLR) initiative. Launched in 2015 in collaboration with the <u>Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership</u>, HLR aims to protect and restore the health of the state's lakes and rivers by increasing property owner participation in habitat restoration, runoff and erosion control projects. The initiative is based on five simple and inexpensive best practices: fish sticks, native shoreline plantings, water diversion practices, rock infiltration practices and rain gardens.

HLR provides shoreland property owners with fact sheets and step-by-step technical guidance documents for each practice. The website also features a <u>free shoreland evaluation tool</u>, "Score My Shore", that walks property owners through a series of questions about the physical aspects



of their lake or river property, as well as how they manage it. Survey users receive a unique shoreland health score and recommendations on how to protect water quality and habitat. Local partners, such as lake and river organizations, municipalities, counties and tribal governments, may apply for an HLR cost-share grant on behalf of shoreland property owners. Funding is available for up to \$1,000 per practice installed, with a grant cap of \$25,000. Grant applications are accepted year-round through the DNR Surface Water Grant Program.



County land and water departments have been a critical boots-on-the-ground partner since the program's inception. In addition to sponsoring and administering grants, county staff provide technical assistance, local perspectives on shoreland zoning regulations and foster relationships with shoreland landowners, contractors and lake/river associations. This unique combination of technical expertise and local knowledge vastly increases the reach and impact of HLR shoreland health messaging throughout the state. HLR is administered by a team of representatives from the DNR, Extension Lakes UWSP, nonprofit Wisconsin lakes and county land and water departments. Currently, the team is represented by staff from Burnett, Sheboygan, Portage and Barron counties. Founding team members included Dave Ferris (Burnett) and Tom Onofrey (Marquette), who were champions of shoreland protection and restoration throughout their careers.

Thanks to the efforts of local grant sponsors across Wisconsin, over 1,100 landowners across 205 lakes and rivers and 38 counties have received funding assistance from the DNR to install HLR best practices since 2015. The DNR looks forward to continued collaborations with county land and water departments to make Healthy Lakes & Rivers together!

DATCP Board and Natural Resources Board Joint Meeting (Nov. 13)

On Nov. 13, 2025, the DNR and DATCP's governing boards held a joint meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest, including surface water protection, groundwater and invasive pests. More information from the meeting is available on the <u>DATCP website</u>.