STATE AGENCIES

Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Administers soil and water conservation programs that are authorized by statute and implemented in partnership with counties and other partners.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Administers water quality programs that are authorized by statute and implemented in partnership with counties and other partners.
LOCAL AGENCIES

**Land Conservation Department (LCD)**

County department that implements soil and water conservation programs at the local level.

**Land Conservation Committee (LCC)**

Committee of county officials that oversee the LCD departments.
Other Project Cooperators (OPC): Non-county entities such as the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Land + Water that receive grants in order to advance the SWRM programs via training and infrastructure services. (s. 92.14 (10), Stats.)

Cost-Share: A grant that reimburses a landowner for all or part of the cost to install or maintain a conservation practice. (s. 92.14 (3), Stats.)

Incentives: One-time payments to encourage farmers to participate in conservation programs. (s. 92.14 (10), Stats.)
JOINT ALLOCATION PLAN

• Mechanism used to distribute conservation funding to LCDs and OPCs.

• Application released in January and due in April, preliminary plan released in August and final plan adopted in October (but no later than 12/31).

• Funding criteria & formulas contained in the RFP

• The LWCB recommends approval; plan must be signed by the Secretaries of DATCP & DNR.

• Plan can be amended and supplemented with additional approvals by the LWCB.
DATCP PROGRAMS

Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM)

Each county must have an approved LWRM plan in order to receive staffing and cost-share grants. DATCP coordinates the LWRM planning program with technical assistance provided by DNR. The LWCB approves the LWRM plans for 10 years, with a progress check after 5 years. (authorized by s. 92.10, Wis. Stats)

Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRM)

DATCP’s signature grant program that provides staffing and cost-share grants to county LCDs. SWRM funding is distributed through the annual joint allocation plan process. (authorized by s. 92.14, Wis. Stats)
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE (GPR)

- Comprised of the state’s income and sales tax revenues.
- Very flexible -- can be used for most purposes.
- DATCP has a GPR appropriation that partially funds the staffing grants. (GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c), Stats.)
Funded by GPR

A portion of the LCD Staff!
SEGREGATED (SEG) FUNDS

- Collected from fees and held in designated funds for specific purposes outlined in statute. The Environmental Fund is the source for the allocation plan SEG funds.

- The joint allocation plan has two SEG fund appropriations:
  - Local assistance staffing (SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe)).
  - “Aids” that explicitly excludes county conservation staffing and is used for soft practice cost-sharing, training and other purposes. (SEG from s.20.115(7) (qf), Stats.)

- These are annual appropriations.

- Unused SEG funds lapse back to the Environmental Fund and are not available to use.
A portion of the LCD Staff!

(SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe))
Soft Practices: Conservation practices that are implemented on an annual or short-term basis. Soft practices include nutrient management planning, cover crops, residue management, contour farming, and strip-cropping, among others. Soft practices can only be cost-shared with SEG funding. (SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf), Stats.)
Other Project Cooperators (OPC)

OPC recipients and grants change over time as needs change.
Producer Led Watershed Grant Program (PLWGP)

Funds farmer-led projects intended to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality. The PLWGP is capped at $750,000 annually. (SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf), Stats.)

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE)

Provides grants to counties & technical colleges to provide training for farmers to write their own NM plans. (SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf), Stats.)
BOND FUNDS

• Appropriated via the state’s biennial budget process.
• Can only fund projects with a minimum of a 10-year life span.
• LCDs use bond funds to cost-share hard practices.
• Bond funds are a continuing appropriation.
• If bonds are not used, they stay with the program and can be reallocated for future use. (Bond authority from s. 20.866(2)(we), Stats.)
Hard Practices: Conservation practices that have a lifespan of at least 10 years, such as streambank stabilization, manure storage, riparian buffers, roof runoff systems, and others. Bond funding can only be used to cost-share hard practices.
Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)

The TRM program is a DNR competitive grant program for targeted nonpoint source pollution projects. (s. 281.65, Stats.).

Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management (UNPS & SW)

The UNPS & SW program is a DNR competitive grant program for urban nonpoint source pollution projects. (s. 281.66, Stats.).
KEY STATUTES AND RULES

Chapter 92: WI statute that authorizes numerous soil and water conservation and animal waste management programs. DATCP implements Chapter 92 through ATCP 50.

Chapter 281: WI statute that authorizes the agricultural performance standards and prohibitions. DNR implements Chapter 281 through NR151-NR154; DATCP implements it through ATCP 50.

ATCP 50: DATCP’s administrative code containing the SWRM program cost-share rules and conservation technical standards.

NR 151: DNR’s administrative code that contains the agricultural performance standards and prohibitions.
OTHER IMPORTANT TERMS

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
Authorized under Chapter 91, Wis. Stats., and implemented by ATCP 49. Farmers in the FPP program are eligible for tax credits as long as they maintain compliance with soil and water conservation standards.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)
Formed through a petition by community members to officially designate agricultural areas that are important to Wisconsin’s agricultural future. Farmers in AEAs can sign FPP agreements to receive a tax credit.