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

## Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

## **February 4, 2025**

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **February 4, 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 184246519# or click the following Teams hyperlink. 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
  - b. Pledge of allegiance
  - c. Open meeting notice
  - d. Introductions, Acknowledgements
  - e. Approval of agenda
  - f. Approval of December 3, 2024 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 Election of 2025 Officers

**LWCB Chair** 

4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Columbia County Kurt Calkins, Director Columbia County Land & Water/Planning & Zoning Department; Andrew Fischer, Ag., Extension, Land & Water Conservation Committee Chair

5 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Washington County

Paul Backhus, Washington County Conservationist; Denis Kelling, Land Use & Planning Committee Chair; Tina Pridemore, Committee Representative

6 Farm Sustainability Rewards Project

Ben Becker, Wisconsin's Green Fire

- Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Ozaukee County Katie Vogeler, Director/County Conservationist Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Dept; Rob Holyoke, Natural Resources Committee Chair
- 8 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates
- 10 Agency reports
  - a. FSA
  - b. NRCS
  - c. UW-CALS
  - d. UW Madison Extension
  - e. WI Land + Water
  - f. DOA
  - g. DATCP
  - h. DNR
  - i. Member Updates
- 11 Planning for April 2025 LWCB Meeting Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 12 Adjourn

## MINUTES LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

## **December 3, 2024**

2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room & Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of October 1, 2024, LWCB meeting minutes.

## Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI 53718 and over Microsoft Teams on **December 3, 2024**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

## **Members and Advisors Present**

**Members**: Mark Cupp, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Tim Anderson, Andrew Potts, Ron Grasshoff, Rebecca Clarke, and Jason Knutson. A quorum was present.

**Advisors**: Ryan Gerlich (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water)

## Approval of Agenda

## Motion

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

## Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the October 1, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

## Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

## Item #3 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Vilas County

Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist, and Holly Tomlanovich, Land Conservation Committee Chair, and Fred Heider, AICP North Central WI Regional Planning Commission, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the County's LWRM plan. A copy of their presentation is available on the LWCB's website <a href="https://www.lwcb.wi.gov">lwcb.wi.gov</a>.

DATCP's review of the plan, using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist, found that the plan complies

with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The County provided written answers to the Board's standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB's website: <a href="https://lwcb.wi.gov">lwcb.wi.gov</a>).

## Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Vilas County's LWRM plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Wood County

Shane Wucherfennig, County Conservationist, and Bill Leichtnam, Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the County's LWRM plan. A copy of their presentation is available on the LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov.

DATCP's review of the plan, using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist, found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

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

## Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Wood County's LWRM plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #7 Review of the LWCB Bylaws

The Board elected to take up agenda Item 7 early to accommodate a schedule change.

Katy Smith, DATCP, presented a review of the LWCB's Bylaws. The proposed bylaw revisions are available within the <u>December 3, 2024 meeting packet</u>.

## Motion

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, Osterman motioned to recommend approval the Bylaw revisions as presented, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #5 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report

Alex Elias, DATCP, presented the 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report.

## Item #8 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Langlade County

The Board elected to take up agenda Item 8 early to accommodate a schedule change.

Chris Arrowood, Assistant Director Langlade County Land Records and Regulations Department, Katie Bahr-Bender, County Conservationist made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the County's LWRM plan. A copy of their presentation is available on the LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov.

DATCP's review of the plan, using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist, found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

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

## Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Langlade County's LWRM plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Clarke, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #9 Break

The board took a 15 minute break.

## Item #6 Approval of Proposed 2025 LWCB Annual Agenda

Smith reviewed the draft 2025 annual agenda.

Potts motioned to recommend approval of the 2025 annual agenda, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #10 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 3, 2024 meeting packet.
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 3, 2024 meeting packet.
- c. DOA- Potts reported the Governor's budget is anticipated to be released between late January and early February.
- d. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 3, 2024 <u>meeting packet</u>.
- e. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 3, 2024 meeting packet.
- f. Member Updates- Grasshoff reported that in January the LWCB Advisory Committee on research is going to evaluate comments from first presentation.

## Item #11 Planning for the December 3, 2024 LWCB meeting

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

- Plan Reviews for Columbia, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties
- Possible Report and Recommendation on 2025 CREP Spending Authority

- Election of 2025 Officers- Chairman Cupp requested that members interested in serving as Officers reach out to DATCP or himself before January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Farm Sustainability Rewards Project presentation- Wisconsin's Green Fire

## Item #12 Adjourn

## Motion

Anderson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Knutson, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

**State of Wisconsin** 

**DATE:** January 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Lisa K. Trumble, DATCP Lisa K. Trumble

Resource Management Section, Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the Columbia County Land and Water Resource Management

Plan

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

**Summary:** The Columbia County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2030, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2025. In advance of the five-year review, Columbia County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

## **Materials Provided:**

• Completed Five Year Review Form

- 2024 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2025 Annual Workplan

**Presenter:** Kurt Calkins, Director/County Conservationist, Columbia County LWCD/P&Z

Andrew Fischer, Ag, Extension, Land & Water Conservation Committee Chair



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

County:

Columbia

## Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

Accomplishment #1: Full adoption of Agricultural Performance Standards and Agricultural Waste Management Ordinance. County Board adopted these changes in 2021. This effort had begun several years before. The planning effort and citizen input we received as we were updating our current plan provided a solid framework to move ahead with full adoption of these standards. During the planning effort, we were able to show the documented work the department had done in previous years following the adoption of these standards and prohibitions. From 2011 to 2019 the department used 18 different NOD grants and TRM grants to bring properties into compliance with those standards. The planning effort allowed us to show citizens that compliance with these standards had become an acceptable reality for the agricultural landscape. It was important to codify these standards at the local level, so we had the direct ability to implement them, not only with existing operations, but to be able to deal with new operations and new ag developments. This would allow us to provide a clear message regarding what was expected.

Accomplishment #2: NMP 590 coverage to 70% of agricultural lands/Value of Farmland Preservation Program as conservation tool. In 2011, we had documented that only 7.7% of agricultural lands had 590 NMP coverage. Currently we are at 80% (193,520 acres). This is a direct result of specific benchmark action set forth in this plan. Using the Farmland Preservation Program as a NR 151 implementation tool was an important part of this following the adoption of the working land initiative. The annual workplans have consistently referenced a goal of 5000 to 8000 acres of 590 NMP development and updates. This has been a driving force behind the prioritization of this task. The use of grants from DATCP for Nutrient Management Farmer Education has been a consistent annual goal and a long-term goal within the plan. We have run successful programs since 2011. We have been assisting around 20 landowners per year through this program. During the last reporting cycle, we reported 7330 acres of NMP planning were completed. The annual work plans recognized the need for the department to continue to invest in updates to our Ascent Conservation Portal. This data management system is tied to the Columbia County Land Records System. We have completed upgrades to our system that allow us to track NMP by tax parcel. In 2024, we were able to complete some additional upgrades to our system that allow for BMP tracking by parcel. We also added

in nutrient reduction coefficients for BMP, so reductions can be tracked effectively. Annually we use our SEG allocation to continue to provide cost share assistant to bring landowners into compliance with the NMP requirements and provide incentive payments for adoption of cropping practices such as cover crops. In 2023 we utilized a SEG Innovation Grant from DATCP to provide incentives to landowners who have 590 NMP Plan to sit down in office to review plan 1:1 with a staff specialist. This allowed us to show landowners how cover crops, used on certain fields could reduce soil erosion and their PI on that field. We had 23 landowners participate in this program, with many of them choosing to immediately adopt the use of cover crops, or at least consider them in future years. We are making important steps as we try to continue to focus on field scale impacts. The plan identifies the important first step of having a 590 NMP plan done. Adoption of more field specific conservation practices, like cover crops is the next step in this progression.

Accomplishment #3: Producer Led Council Development Goal. During the development of this plan, citizen input identified the important role that a grassroots Producer Led Council would have in helping to promote adoption and understanding of soil health practices in Columbia County. In 2021, the Lake Wisconsin Farmers Watershed Council was created. They received their first DATCP Grant in 2021 and have successfully been awarded grants each year. They have 20 very active participants representing 12,665 acres. They annually host multiple workshops and training events. They have formed a unique connection with the Lake Wisconsin Alliance, bridging a line of communication between watershed farmers and lake front property owners. This group has been successful in promoting the adoption of cover crops. Most recently this group was responsible for the adoption of > 600 acres of new crops installed at a match rate of 1:1. They have prioritized soil health education/training, as well as moving into multi species cover crops, and the adoption of low disturbance manure practices.

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

Our current LWRMP includes long-term action items, as well as annual benchmarked planned activities. Overall, we are very happy with our implementation of the plan, while recognizing that we will not meet all our goals. The reality of how much we can do comes down to prioritization and resources. We have a long-term goal in our plan that specifically looks for us to work with DNR to enhance utilization of TMDL reduction goals for TSS and TP and evaluate of use of this targeted information could be woven into existing implementation strategies. This could include a more focused small-scale watershed improvement plan, such as a 9 key element plan for priority watershed areas. The department has focused resources on the priorities outlined in question #1. We have not moved ahead with any 9 key element plan development. Columbia County is divided into 3 watershed basins. The Fox River, Rock River and Wisconsin River all have TMDL developed for them. All the conservation work done, is done in TMDL watersheds. We currently are partners with the City of Columbus in a nutrient trading agreement. We have continued to update our annual workplans to focus on NR 151 implementation in the SWOMA areas throughout Columbia County. We have prioritized FPP participation as a priority. We continue to use NOD's and TRM grants as needed for additional

production site needs but have been slowly progressing towards more field specific BMP's that hinge on 590 NMP plans. If additional resources were made available to help prioritize this work moving forward, that may shift annual priorities. We feel that working on compliance with our local ordinance and NR 151 provides for the important first steps in any TMDL implementation plan and that will be a positive.

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

Our priority farm strategy is one that focuses primarily on implementation of the Ag Performance Standards and Prohibitions found in NR 151. These standards have been incorporated into Chapter 11 of the Columbia County Code of Ordinances. Primary geographical priority is placed on compliance issues within the Water Quality Management Area (WQMA). In 2001, following adoption of the NR 151 standards, we conducted many targeted watershed-based inventories designed to locate non-compliant situations within those watersheds. Those inventories provided us the information necessary to apply for many of our Notice of Discharge Grants and Targeted Runoff Management Grants. These inventories were often connected to larger surface water quality work going on, such as Lake Management Planning efforts. We have applied for and been awarded several DNR Surface Water Planning Grants that have helped offset the cost of inventory work to compile the necessary watershed data needed to assemble the complete picture for the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Currently we have an inventory that we are conducting in the Lodi/Spring Creek basin. The data collected will be used to prioritize work in that area moving forward. We still have priority farm issues that need to be dealt with but many of the low hanging fruit in need of large-scale engineer projects have been addressed. A shift toward the field scale work we are doing is the logical next step. We continue to provide information and education on NR 151 standards through many different formats. We continue to use our Ag Reporter Newsletter as a way to directly connect with landowners. We distribute news articles and work closely with several local agricultural interest groups to provide messaging on these topics. We use our general SWRM allocation of cost sharing from DATCP to implement both Bond & SEG eligible projects. These funds are distributed to eligible landowners based on local priorities at the time. We maintain a spreadsheet of interested landowners and determine priority based on their specific issue and how it related to our workplan deliverables. We regulary direct landowners to seek funding assistance from NRCS programs such as EQIP. The additional financial resources help implement many of the more expensive priority farm projects.

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

Overall, our 2025 work plan will continue with many of the same ongoing activities and benchmarks. We will be adding several action items. There is a growing need to provide education, site reviews and technical assistance regarding marginal and formerly retired sites that are being pressed into agricultural use again. We will also put increased effort on connecting with the remaining 30% of landowners who are not yet in compliance with

having a 590 NMP. We want to grow and enhance the producer led groups connection to TMDL reduction targets. Increase staff time and resources spend on conducting 1:1 field scale reviews of 590 NMP. Take inventory data from Lodi Spring Creek and determine next course of action to address issues. This may include application for a large scale TRM grant. Evaluate next priority watershed inventory area.

## **Annual Work Plans**

Attach both of the following:

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

## **Board Review Process**

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

## **Land Conservation Committee Notification**

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on: December 2, 2024.

Signature of Authorized Representative:

(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:

Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

<ul> <li>▶ Focus Areas May Include: SWQMA, high loading TSS And Tp TMDL Watersheds, City Of Columbus Nutrient Trading Portion Of Rock River &amp; WI River TMDL And General Areas Throughout Columbia County.</li> <li>▶ Re-Enroll 3 Landowners In Crep</li> <li>▶ Sign Up 3 New Landowners In Crep</li> <li>▶ Sign Up 3 New Landowners In Crep</li> <li>▶ Implement Year 5 Of "Lake Wisconsin Producer Led Council", Goals And Objectives In Town Of West Point Lower Wi River Watershed</li> <li>▶ Engage Soil Health Dialog By Working To Promote Cover Crops.</li> <li>▶ Work With DNR Staff To Expand Dialog And Use Of Existing Thrdl Loading Data To Focus Future Project Work.</li> <li>▶ Implement Goals Associated With Recently Awarded Seg Innovation Grant</li> <li>▶ Use Tier 2 NMFE grant to target underserved rural communities, to engage on NMP Planning and conduct soil health and management field day</li> </ul>	Livestock	V Conduct 150 FPP Spot Checks Focused On 1. Livestock Farms (2011 New Performance 2.	Standards)	Keview Data From Manure Storage Structure   3. Inventory 10.   Inventory Completed In 2021 And Address   Compliance	Needed Corrections.	δ.		Operations That Don't Have	Necessary Storage & Evaluate Solid Manure NOD Grants, Stacking Areas If Applicable Needed	0
		Complete 150 Fpp Spot Checks Install 5 To 10 Bmp's That Achieve Nr 151	1 :	Inventory 10 New Livestock Farms For NR131 Compliance	Issue 5 New Animal Waste Storage Structure	Permits Abandon 2 Existing Manure Storage Structures	Complete Bmp Installation On 4 Existing TRM Grant Funded I andowner Projects	Evaluate 5 New Livestock Farms For TRM And	NOD Grants, And Complete Applications As Needed	Goal Of 500 I b. Of P Reduction Estimated Based
		1.303 FPP spotchecks	2.Yes 98% of all cost-sharing	went to INK151 compliance	3.30 inventoried	4.3 new permits	5.2 ahandoned		6.1 in progress, 1 retired, 1 extended. 1 completed	continue, a compresse

tices 7.Yes, example- inventory work  Lodi Spring Creek Lodi Spring Creek  8.165 lbs reduction – several planned projects in process, on target to reach 535 lbs  9.Did not meet due to variability in TRM implementation  10. 500 lbs. achieved from 11.2 plans completed, plus 1 assist = goal met several landowners in 2024 on compliance issues.  13.Yes, RC&D coordinated 1 pasture walk and network program.	Year 2.1 done 3.Installed 2, extended 2 to 2025
On Average Reduction Of Livestock Practices Modeled Using BARNY (Note, Reduction Are Highly Variable)  9. Additional Goal Of 1000 Lb. of P Reduction from TRM And NOD Projects.  10. Reduction Of 270 Lb. Of P Delivered to Rock River Basin As Part Of TMDL  11. Utilize Golden Sands RC&D Certified Grazing Planner To Assist 3 Landowners With The Development Of Grazing Plans For Their Livestock Operations.  12. Follow up on Notification Letters To AW Storage Permit Holders With Inventoried Issues From previous inventory  13. Work with RC & D and Ag Outreach Specialist to develop Columbia County Grazing Network and evaluate pasture walk programming.	<ol> <li>Complete 2 Shoreline Stabilization Projects</li> <li>Complete 1 to 5 Well Abandonments Per Year</li> <li>Install 5 Healthy Lake Grant funded Best</li> <li>Management Practices</li> </ol>
Manure Storage Issues. Work With These Landowners To Evaluate Necessary Steps To Help Them Address Challenges Lack Of Liquid Storage Causes Them Complete Installation Of Practices Associated With Existing 2 DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant Locate & Abandon 2 Existing Manure Storage Structures Issue 5 Animal Waste Storage Structures (New) Complete NR 151 Compliance Reviews For 5 Additional Livestock Farms Develop Necessary Trm And/Or NOD Grant Applications To Assist Landowners In Getting Access To Funds To Implement Compliance Driven Bmp's Encourage Landowners To Apply For EQIP Cost Sharing As Needed. Evaluate Challenges That Feedlot And Process Wastewater Discharges Bring To Livestock Operations. Work To Better Understand Technical Options And Education Landowners/Operators. Focus Nr 151 Compliance Inventories On High Priority Farms In Swqma. Identify And Pursue Opportunities To Development TRM And NOD Grant Applications To Bring 5 New Livestock Facilities Into Compliance	<ul> <li>▶ Utilize summer intern to promote CREP</li> <li>▶ Conduct 2 to 5 Reviews Using G-Flow Groundwater Model To Evaluate Groundwater Protection Areas For Wells</li> <li>▶ Complete 2 Shoreline Stabilization Projects That also Encourage Shore land Buffer Plantings as Part of Restoration Work Close</li> <li>▶ 1 To 5 Unused Groundwater Wells Per Year</li> <li>▶ Implement new Dnr Healthy Lakes Grant</li> <li>▶ Utilize Existing Data That Shows Areas With Highest Nitrate Well Water Issues To Focus Reduction Efforts In Those Areas</li> </ul>
	• 3, Water Quality Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)

$\sim$
7,
st
67
2
0
LT.
Į
•

Forestry Program Work With WDNR To Promote Sustainable Program Management Programs Promote purchase and use of tree tubes for vulnerable tree species Promote purchase and use of tree tubes for vulnerable tree species  Work With WDNR To Promote Sustainable Prorestry And Utilize EQIP Driven Forest Management Programs  Management Programs  Management Programs  Management Plans To Control Invasive Species Work with WDNR and NRCS to promote terrestrial invasive species management programs  Wildlife—Wetlands  Wildlife Wildlife Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Wildlife  Work with WDNR Healthy Lakes Grant Forestry or invasive Species)  Expand use of DNR Healthy Lakes Grant Promote value of woody habitat in lake ecology Formote value of woody habitat in lake ecology Formote value of woody habitat in lake ecology Forban  Urban  Urban  Watershed  Watershed  Timble Implementation Continue To Work With DNR To Evaluate Nets Steps Towards Information, as resources are available.  Evaluate Role 9 Key Element Planning May Have In LWCD Programming, Evaluation  County Ascent Data Base Management System.		1. Sell 50,000 Trees And Shrubs	1.53,650
ies		<ol><li>Increase Sale And Use Of Trees Tubes</li></ol>	
ies r than asive rrategies rules rategies rules	sustainable n Forest	3. Sell 10 000 free fulles	2. Yes
ies r than asive rrategies r rategies r r rategies r r rategies r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r			3.13,240
ies v v r than asive v v rategies v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v	tubes for		
ies Paralands- Parategies Parateg			
lands- r than asive  d trategies	ss With	1. Implement AIS deliverables found in	1. Yes completed, grant awarded,
lands- r than asive  d trategies	lant vasive Species promote	Cooperative Agreement with Golden Sands RC&D for implementation of Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN) Grant	contract fulfilled by RC&D
lands- r than asive  d trategies	ement programs	deliverables, with DNR Grant Funding.	
lands- r than asive  d  trategies			
asive daterategies but trategies but are give but are given but are give	es Grant	1. Install 5 Native Shoreline Buffers	1.Yes 2 cost-shared, consulted on 3
asive  d  trategies	II lane ecology		
d trategies	n Kemoval work labitat (Gov		
trategies 7			
trategies y			
A A A			
A A A			
A A	To Work With	1. Conduct A Presentation In TMDL Watershed	1.5 presentations
	wards	Focus Areas To Landowners And Citizens To	
	OL Targeted	Help Them Understand Relationship Role	2.Yes
	lable.	2. Provide 500 Hours Of Outreach & Education To	
	nning May Have	Landowners Regarding The Specific Role	3.Yes, Ag Reporter and website
	10n ation Of Rmn	Watershed Management Thru Conservation BMP Adontion Plays Towards The Success Of Any	social media
County Ascent Data Base Management Sy	Columbia	And All Watershed Strategies	4.Yes
	ement System.	3. Develop 2 Quality Articles For Newsletter And	
Virth City Of Columbus In Book River TMDI	ding Agreement River TMDI	Publish One News Story About Watershed Issues 4 Implementation Of Ascent Data Base	5.Yes- October 6th Fall Tour
➤ Push To Get 70% NMP 590 Coverage In High	rage In High	Management System For BMP's, And Have The	6.Yes
Loading TMDL Watersheds, So We Can Pursue	We Can Pursue	Ability To Monitor And Report BMP Installation	
Additional Use Of Snap Plus Field Scale Data To	d Scale Data To	And P Reduction By Watershed Location	7.Yes, 10 total conducted
Target More P Reductions To Meet Goals  ➤ Work To Develop Interest Expanding Use Of	et Goals ding Use Of	5. Conduct 1 Annual Conservation Tour Promoting The Context Of Any And All Watershed	
Producer Led Councils In Columbia County	bia County	Improvement Projects.	

		6. Install/maintain 10 Nutrient Reducing Upland Conservation Practices In Rock River TMDL 7. Coordinate up to 8 Lake Wisconsin Farmer Producer Led Council Meetings.	
• Other			
Other	➤ Conduct Group And Individual Meetings With Landowners And Government Entities To Further Increase Knowledge and Participation In Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) And/or AEA Designation ➤ Work directly with the Towns of Scott and Randolph to expand FPP opportunities. ➤ Update Certified Farmland Preservation Plan for zoning recertification	Conduct Outreach Meetings For Town of Randolph and Town Of Scott Regarding AEA Opportunities As Agreements Expire In These Uncertified Townships.  2. Complete New AEA Contracts With Landowners In Town of WestPoint AEA.  3. Host meetings with Towns of Randolph and Scott to discuss FPP zoning and AEA as requested.  4. DATCP approval of FPP Plan	1.No, individuals but not groups 2.4 new AEA contracts 3.Not groups but individuals 4.Extension to 2025, work in progress

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews	Permits anticipated to be issued	Reported Progress
	anticipated		
Feedlot permits			
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	10	5	3
Manure storage closure	5	2	2
Livestock facility siting			
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining			
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	5	5	\$<
Shoreland zoning	10	10	>10
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)			
Other			

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned	Reported Progress
Total Farm Inspections	190	348+
For FPP	150	303
For NR 151	30	45
Animal waste ordinance	5	5
Livestock facility siting		
Stormwater and construction site erosion control		
Nonmetallic mining		

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number	Reported Progress
Tours	1	1
Field days	5	9
Trainings/workshops	10-15	15
School-age programs (camps, field	3	10
days, classroom)		
Newsletters	4	52
Social media posts	125	100
News release/story	9	9

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

1 acres 3: Smit from S and Experied Costs (Smit on the Mistra interview of the Costs (Smit on the Costs)	smil vali oe comonica of mace	1 III of I deduity)	
Staff/Support	Hours	Costs	Reported Progress
Director, 4 Specialist, Adm and intern	12008	\$531,750	\$531,750
Cost Sharing (can be combined)			
Bond (LWRM)	N/A	\$122,490	\$122,490
SEG	N/A	\$222,755	\$164,340
Columbus Trading	N/A	\$3,500	\$2,500
TRM funding	N/A	\$230,330	08

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

TARC CHE TO		4	
(goal and objective from LWRM plan can	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12	PH	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
be added in each category)	watershed code (examples of twos of "manned activities" in italice)		•
• Cropland	(communication of the condition of the c		
Cropland, soil health and/or	Conduct Required FPP Spot Checks of	• 5000 T	5000 To 8000 Acres Of NMP 590 Plans (New/Updated).
nutrient management	Eligible Participants	<ul><li>NMFE</li></ul>	NMFE Tier #1 Grant Funding Training Class Conducted
D	<ul> <li>Provide DATCP LWRM Cost Share</li> </ul>	With 2:	With 25 Participants
	Funding For NMP 590 Adoption and	<ul> <li>Achiev</li> </ul>	Achieve Submission Rate Of>90% Of Required NMP
	Perpetual Compliance	Checklists	lists
	<ul> <li>Focus On Maintaining 70% NMP Coverage</li> </ul>	I %06< ●	>90% Receipt Of Annual Self Certification FPP Post
	Across All Watersheds	Cards	
	<ul> <li>Use Existing Conservation Portal GIS NMP</li> </ul>	Comple	Completion Of >150 FPP Spot Checks
	Coverage Data To Target Landowners	• Design	Design/Install 3-7 Grassed Waterways/Grade
	Without NMP Plan To Target Remaining	Stabiliz	Stabilization/WASCOB/Critical Area Stabilization
	30% of Lands Without Plans	Projects	S
	<ul> <li>Achieve Compliance On Submission Of</li> </ul>	• Host 5	Host 5 Workshops And Develop 10 Newsletter Articles
	NMP Checklist Annually	That Fo	That Focus To Educate Landowners About Cropland
	<ul> <li>Require Annual FPP Self-Certification</li> </ul>	Conser	Conservation Issues, Nutrient Management And Soil
	<ul> <li>Conduct NMFE Tier #1 Grant Funded</li> </ul>	Health	
	Training Class For New And Recertifying	• Full Ut	Full Utilization Of DATCP Sourced NMP SEG Cost
	Landowners.	Sharing	Sharing & Structural Cost Sharing, utilize 50% of SEG
	<ul> <li>Use NMFE Tier #2 Grant To Target</li> </ul>	for Cro	for Cropping Practices.
	Underserved Rural Communities, To	• Install	Install And Cost Share 500 Acres of Cover Crops Using
	Engage On NMP Planning And Conduct	LWRM	LWRM Cost Share Funding
	Soil Health And Management Field Day	• Cost Sh	Cost Share 1000 Acres of NMP 590 Plans Utilizing
	<ul> <li>Address Needs Identified As Part of</li> </ul>	DATCI	DATCP LWRM SEG Cost Share
	Detailed Assessment Of Active Gully	• 3 New	3 New CREP Contracts
	Erosion As Found Via FPP Spot Checks	• 3 CREI	3 CREP Re-Enrollments
	<ul> <li>Provide Technical Assistance/Cost Share</li> </ul>	• Goal O	Goal Of 500 Lb. Of P Reduction Modeled Thru Snap
	To Install Or Repair Grassed Waterways	Plus Fr	Plus From NMP 590 Plan Implementation
	<ul> <li>Encourage Landowners To Seek Out EQIP</li> </ul>	Comple	Complete Annual Spot Check And Review Of Recently
	Funds To Assist With BMP's	Installe	Installed 10 Upland Conservation Practices In Rock
	<ul> <li>Increase Landowner/Operator</li> </ul>	River T	River TMDL As Part Of City Of Columbus Trading
	Understanding of NMP 590 Plan	Agreement	nent
	<ul> <li>Utilize Ongoing Phases Of Ascent BMP</li> </ul>	• Contrac	Contract And Install 740 Acres Cover Crops Acres Thru
	Parcel Mapping Database To Help Track	Lake M	Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council Producer Led
	Compliance & Applicability All BMP's	Grant	Grant DATCP Grant
	• Using Conservation Portal Database,	• Comple	Complete 1 On 1 Review Of Snap Plus NMP Review &
	Fromote FPF Frogram 10 Eligible	Install	Install Conservation PI Reducing Practices, with 10

	Landowners Not Currently Enrolled.	landowners. (No SEG INV Grant Funding For 2025)
	<ul> <li>Use Workshop and Newsletter Tools To</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use Tier 2 NMFE Grant To Get 10 New Underserved</li> </ul>
	Continue NMP "Manure Management"	Plans Completed Via Workshop And A Goal Of 25
	Discussion During Growing Season &	Attendees For The Soil Health And Management Field
	Frozen Ground Conditions.	Day
	<ul> <li>Focus Areas For All Benchmarks May</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase Overall 590 NMP Plan Coverage Above 70%.</li> </ul>
	Include: SWQMA, High Loading TSS And	Focus On Identification Of Remaining 30% and
	TP TMDL Watersheds, City Of Columbus	Complete Targeted Outreach To Remaining
	Nutrient Trading Portion Of Rock River,	Landowners/Operators
	WI River TMDL, Lodi Spring Creek And	<ul> <li>Develop Large Scale TRM Grant Application-Based on</li> </ul>
	General Areas Throughout Columbia	Lodi Spring Creek Inventory
	County.	Work With Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council
	Promote CREP Program	To Incorporate TMDL Nutrient Reductions As Part of
	Provide Technical & Fiduciary Support For	Conservation Cropping Practice BMP Adoption Strategy
	"Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed	• Conduct Targeting Mailing To 30% Of Landowners Who
	Council", Goals And Objectives In Town	Do Not Have NMP 590 Plan
	Of West Point Lower Wi River Watershed	Develop Large Scale TRM Grant Application-Based on
	Engage Soil Health Dialog By Working To	Lodi Spring Creek Inventory
	Promote Cover Crops and Other Beneficial	
	Cropping Practices	
	Cost Share Cover Crops and Other	
	Cropping Practices Via DATCP LWRM	
	Cost Share Allocation	
	<ul> <li>Work With DNR Staff To Exnand Dialog</li> </ul>	
	And Use Of Existing TMDL Loading Data	
	To Focus Future Project Work.	
	Conduct 1:1 NMP Plan Reviews/Consults	
	With Goal Of Identifying Cropping Practice	
	Adoption Options That Will Provide P	
	Reduction Benefits	
	Complete Lodi Spring Creek Watershed NR	
	151 Inventory, To Include Both Livestock	
	Standards and Cropland Standards	
	<ul> <li>Maintain A List of Landowners Interested</li> </ul>	
	In Technical Or Financial Assistance	
<ul> <li>Livestock</li> </ul>		
Livestock	Conduct Required FPP Spot Checks With	Complete >150 FPP Spot Checks
	Focus On Livestock Farms (Special	• Install 5 To 10 Bmp's That Achieve NR 151 Compliance
	Attention to 2011 NR 151 Standards)	<ul> <li>Inventory 10 Livestock Farms For NR 151 Compliance</li> </ul>
	Review Manure Storage Structure Inventory	<ul> <li>Issue 5 Animal Waste Storage Structure Permits</li> </ul>
	Completed In 2021 And Address Needed	<ul> <li>Abandon 2 Existing Manure Storage Structures</li> </ul>
	Corrections.	<ul> <li>Complete BMP Installation On Existing TRM Grant</li> </ul>

- Use DATCP LWRM Cost Share Allocation
  To Address NR 151 Compliance Issues
  - Evaluate Operations That Don't Have Necessary Storage & Evaluate Solid Manure Stacking Areas If Applicable
- Evaluate Livestock Farms That Have Liquid Manure Storage Issues. Work With These Landowners To Evaluate Necessary Steps To Help Them Address Challenges Lack Of Liquid Storage Causes Them
  - Complete Installation Of Practices
     Associated With Existing DNR Targeted
     Runoff Management Grant
    - Locate & Abandon Existing Manure Storage Structures
- Provide Information/Education Related To Chapter 11 Agricultural Performance Standards and Agricultural Waste Management Ordinance
- Complete NR 151/Chapter 11 Ordinance Compliance Reviews For Livestock Farms
- Develop Necessary TRM/NOD Grant
   Applications To Assist Landowners In
   Getting Access To Funds To Implement
   Compliance Driven BMP's
- Encourage Landowners To Apply For EQIP Cost Sharing As Needed.
  - Evaluate Challenges That Feedlot And Process Wastewater Discharges Bring To Livestock Operations. Work To Better Understand Technical Options And Education Landowners/Operators.
- Focus NR 151 Compliance Inventories On High Priority Farms In SWQMA. Identify And Pursue Opportunities To Development TRM And NOD Grant Applications To Bring Livestock Facilities Into Compliance
   Promote Managed Grazing To Landowners
- In Columbia County

   Develop Strategy To Provide Information & Education On Challenges With Using Marginal or Formerly Retired Locations for

Animal Agriculture

- Evaluate 5 New Livestock Farms For TRM And NOD Grants, And Complete Individual Applications As
- Goal Of 500 Lb. Of P Reduction Estimated Based On Average Reduction Of Livestock Practices Modeled Using BARNY (Note, Reduction Are Highly Variable)
- Additional Goal Of 1000 Lb. Of P Reduction From TRM And NOD Projects.
- Reduction Of 270 Lb. Of P Delivered To Rock River Basin As Part Of TMDL
- Utilize Golden Sands RC&D Certified Grazing Planner To Assist 5 Landowners With The Development Of Grazing Plans For Their Livestock Operations.
- Full Utilization Of DATCP Sourced LWRM Structural Cost Sharing
- Host 5 Workshops And Develop 10 Newsletter Articles
   That Focus To Educate Landowners About Livestock
   Conservation Issues, Nutrient Management And Soil
   Health
- Conduct 5 Technical Reviews Of New Proposed Structures (Via Zoning Permit) That Are Intended To House Farm Animals, Livestock Or Store Feed-To Assure Compliance With Columbia County Code Or Ordinances Chapter 11 Agriculture Performance Standards and Agricultural Waste Management
- Provide Conservation Planning And Technical Assistance To NRCS Per Cooperative Agreement-Goal of 5 EQIP Projects Per year
- Develop Large Scale TRM Grant Application-Based on Lodi Spring Creek Inventory

	• In In It I	Maintain A List of Landowners Interested In Technical Or Financial Assistance Complete Lodi Spring Creek Watershed NR 151 Inventory, To Include Both Livestock Standards and Cropland Standards	
Water quality			
water quanty/quantity (outer than activities already listed in other categories)		Provide Information/Education About The Availability Of Columbia County Groundwater Model Provide Technical Assistance Related To Shoreline Stabilization Projects Encourage Shoreland Buffer Plantings Promote Proper Abandonment Of Unused Groundwater Wells Implement DNR Healthy Lakes Grant Utilize Existing Data That Shows Areas With Highest Nitrate Well Water Issues To Focus Reduction Efforts In Those Areas Provide Technical Review Of Shoreland	<ul> <li>Complete 2 Shorethe Stabilization Frojects</li> <li>Complete 1 to 5 Well Abandonments Per Year Using LWRM Structural Cost Share Funds</li> <li>Install 5 Healthy Lake Grant funded Best Management Practices</li> <li>Conduct 2 to 5 Reviews Using G-Flow Groundwater Model To Evaluate Groundwater Protection Areas For Wells</li> <li>Provide Technical Review of 10 Shoreland Mitigation Plans</li> <li>Provide Technical Review of 10 Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plans</li> </ul>
	•	Mitigation Plans Provide Technical Review Of Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plans	
• Forestry			
Forestry	• Sa • You • You • You • You • You • You W	Promote Tree Planting Thru County Tree Sale Program Work With WDNR To Promote Sustainable Forestry And Utilize EQIP Driven Forest Management Programs	<ul> <li>Sell 50,000 Trees And Shrubs</li> <li>Increase Sale And Use Of Trees Tubes</li> <li>Sell 10,000 Tree Tubes</li> </ul>
	• Pr	Promote Purchase And Use Of Tree Tubes For Vulnerable Tree Species	
• Invasive			
Invasive species	• As Im	Assist Local Surface Water Bodies With Implementing Existing Aquatic Plant Management Plans To Control Invasive Species Assist In The Development Of Plant	Implement AIS deliverables found in Cooperative     Agreement with Golden Sands RC&D for     implementation of Lake Monitoring & Protection     Network (LMPN) Grant deliverables, with DNR Grant     Funding. This Includes AIS Prevention and Citizen Lake

	Inventories and Aquatic Plan Management Plans for All Surface Waters In County	Monitoring Network Services. Allocate DNR LMPN Grant Funds Awarded To RC& D To Complete.
	Work With WDNR And NRCS To Promote Terrestrial Invasive Species Management Programs	•
	Utilize Membership in Golden Sands     RC&D To Implement AIS and CLMN     Programs	
• Wildlife		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<ul> <li>Expand Use Of DNR Healthy Lakes Grant</li> <li>Promote Value Of Woody Habitat In Lake Ecology</li> </ul>	Install 5 Native Shoreline Buffers/Restorations
• Urban		
Urban issues		
<ul> <li>Watershed</li> </ul>		
Watershed Strategies	TMDL Implementation Continue To Work	Conduct A Presentation In TMDL Watershed Focus
	With DNR To Evaluate Next Steps	Areas To Landowners And Citizens To Help Them
	Towards Implementation And Use Of	Understand Relationship Role
	TMDL Targeted Information, as resources	Provide 500 Hours Of Outreach & Education To
	are available.	
	• Evaluate Role 9 Key Element Planning May	Plays Towards The Success Of Any And All Watershed
	Have In LWCD Programming, Evaluation	Strategies
	<ul> <li>Continue Design And Implementation Of</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop 2 Quality Articles For Newsletter And Publish</li> </ul>
	BMP Tracking System Component Of	One News Story About Watershed Issues
	Columbia County Ascent Data Base	• Implementation Of Ascent Data Base Management
	Management System.	System For BMP s, And Have the Ability to Monitor
	Complete 1 ear 0 OI Nutrient 1 rading     Agreement With City Of Columbus In Rock	And Report BiMF installation And F Reduction By Watershed Location
	River TMDL	Conduct 1 Annual Conservation Tour Promoting The
	<ul> <li>Push To Achieve And Maintain 70% NMP</li> </ul>	Context Of Any And All Watershed Improvement
	590 Coverage In High Loading TMDL	Projects.
	Watersheds, So We Can Pursue Additional	<ul> <li>Install/maintain 10 Nutrient Reducing Upland</li> </ul>
	Use Of Snap Plus Field Scale Data To	Conservation Practices In Rock River TMDL
	Target More F Reductions 10 Meet Goals	• Coordinate up to 8 Lake Wisconsin Farmer Producer Led
	Work 10 Develop Interest Expanding Use Of Producer Led Councils In Columbia	Council Meetings.
	County	
	• Implement Goals of Lake Wisconsin	
	Farmer Watershed Council	

Other

Conduct Group And Individual Meetings	•	Conduct Outreach Meetings For To
With Landowners And Government Entities		Town Of Scott Regarding AEA Op
To Further Increase Knowledge and		Agreements Expire In These Uncer
Participation In Farmland Preservation	•	Complete New AEA Contracts Wit
Program (FPP) And/or AEA Designation		Town of WestPoint AEA.
Work Directly With The Towns Of Scott	•	Host Meetings Within Towns Of R
And Randolph To Expand FPP		Discuss FPP Zoning And AEA As
Opportunities.	•	DATCP Approval Of FPP Plan
Update Certified Farmland Preservation		
Plan For Zoning Recertification		
Work Direc And Randol Opportuniti     Update Cerl Plan For Zo	tly With The Towns Of Scott lph To Expand FPP es. tiffed Farmland Preservation ning Recertification	es.  try With The Towns Of Scott Iph To Expand FPP es.  tified Farmland Preservation ning Recertification

Town of Randolph and Opportunities As neertified Townships. With Landowners In

Randolph And Scott To As Requested.

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	10	5
Manure storage closure	5	2
Livestock facility siting		
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining		
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	10	10
Shoreland zoning	10	10
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)		
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	061
For FPP	150
For NR 151	30
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	
Nonmetallic mining	

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	5
Trainings/workshops	10-15
School-age programs (camps, field	5
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	52
Social media posts	100
News release/story	9

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
Director, 4 Specialist, Adm and intern	12008	\$558,690
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bond (LWRM) Structural	N/A	\$92,138
SEG (LWRM)	N/A	\$77,410
Columbus Trading	N/A	\$2,210
TRM funding	N/A	\$225,000

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

**State of Wisconsin** 

**DATE:** January 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Lisa K. Trumble, DATCP Lisa K. Trumble

Resource Management Section, Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the Washington County Land and Water Resource Management

Plan

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

**Summary:** The Washington County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2030, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2025. In advance of the five-year review, Washington County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

## **Materials Provided:**

• Completed Five Year Review Form

• 2024 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments

• 2025 Annual Workplan

Presenter: Paul Backhaus, County Conservationist, Washington County LRD

Denis Kelling, Land Use and Planning Committee Chair



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

County: Washington

## **Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions**

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

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

Land and Water Conservation BMP Achievements (2020-2024)

Best Management Practices	Number of BMPs Installed through LWCD Program and Technical Assistance	Cost Share Funds Supplied (State & Local Funds) Does not include Federal Grants or Landowner share
Barnyard Runoff Control System	2	\$21,779
Riparian Buffer (11,598 Lin Ft)	7	\$35,186
Rock Lined Waterway (1,615 Lin Ft)	1	
Waste Storage	3	\$195,000
Waste Transfer	4	\$6,328
Nutrient Management (1,046 Ac)	7	\$63,160
Roof Structure	2	\$198,017
Streambank Restoration (6,020 Lin Ft)	3	\$339,984
Vegetated Waterway (11,952 Lin Ft)	16	\$51,737
Well Decommissioning	1	\$1,033
Grade Stabilization Structure	1	
Water & Sediment Control Basin	3	
Wetland Restoration	1	
Total	51	\$912,224

A key component of implementing a sound Land and Water Resource Management Plan involves a strong education and outreach program. As a county that sees steady population growth, it is important that our residents understand how their actions impact our land and water resources. Below are highlights of our newer educational accomplishments from the last five years:

In 2022, Washington County hosted its first annual Horse Management Workshop and has held this annually since. In 2022, nearly 50 people came out to hear about land and water conservation practices, manure management and opportunities, pasture management, and a total systems approach from one local horse owner. In 2023, topics included nutrient management and land spreading, horse nutrition, and different pasture grasses. Our 2024 topics included nutrition and feed, manure management and composting, pelleted corn cob bedding, and pasture management. This workshop aligns with the Menomonee River Watershed 9-key Element Plan, which recommended identifying horse or hobby farms and developing outreach and education to address pollution sources from these farms.

In 2023, Washington County hosted four Stormwater Practice Maintenance Informational Sessions for landowners to educate them on the importance of maintaining their stormwater ponds or infiltration basins. Nearly 1,500 invitational letters were mailed out in 2023 to landowners in 138 subdivisions or developments. A total of 154 people attended the workshops representing 64 subdivisions/developments. About 100 information requests were received and responded to after the letters were mailed and informational sessions were held since 2023. Homeowners Associations are now hiring contractors or individual landowners are volunteering their time to complete maintenance work on their stormwater ponds.

Land Conservation staff collaborate the Cedar Creek Farmers (CCF), a Producer-Led Watershed Protection Group. Over the past five years we've created by-laws, developed a CCF Board and written DATCP grants requesting funding for 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024. The CCF group:

- 1) Provides annual education & outreach workshops and field days to area producers about the concepts of soil health and conservation,
- 2) Encourages producers to install best management practices (i.e. no-till, cover crops) to better soil and water quality,
- 3) Improves the image of agriculture by showcasing local activities, displays farm and field signage, and implements healthy and profitable farming practices.

Their shared experiences over the last five years have opened new doors, educated hundreds of their peers, made connections with urban residents, created new friendships, strengthened producers' faith in no-till, and brought new players to the healthy soils table. CCF's biggest single accomplishment was being nationally nominated for and receiving the 2023 Innovator Award (Group) through No-Till Farmer.

Washington County's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program has consistently provided a high level of education and outreach on water health-related issues throughout Washington County. One of these programs that remains largely unique to Washington County are lake tour educational classes. Through these free, on-the-water classes, the AIS Coordinator provides general lake ecology lessons and answers questions that lake residents have about their waterfront properties, water recreation activities, and aquatic biology. These classes are largely popular among lake residents and are typically well-attended, greatly adding to the education of County residents on water health-related issues. Since 2022, five of these classes have been held across the County with 75 participants.

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

Implementation of the Rock River Watershed TMDL is our biggest shortcoming as an office. There is a long tradition going back to the 1980s DNR Priority Watershed Program that focused funding on the Milwaukee River Watershed which comprised the eastern half of the County that drains towards Lake Michigan. This funding inequity has continued to the present day. Currently our office applies for Multi-Discharger Funding (MDV) for both the Milwaukee and Rock River Watersheds. To date, our office has received \$34,929, an average of \$6,986 a year, for the Rock River Watershed. Comparatively, the Milwaukee River Watershed has received \$217,057 to date with an average of \$54,264 a year. To

further exacerbate this funding inequity, Washington County recently received notice of funding for our 3rd Milwaukee River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for nearly \$20 million that will provide steady funding for projects and staff over the next five years. Until the funding between the two different basins is more equitable, it is difficult to focus on TMDL implementation for the Rock River Watershed. That being said, outreach still continues on this side of the County; however, projects are more on a case-by-case basis compared to a focused watershed approach that's been applied to the Milwaukee River Watershed.

Implementation of the three nine-key element plans and working to achieve the listed acreage goals are also a challenge. Washington County provides engineering services for constructing grassed waterways, manure storage, barnyard runoff control systems, and other designs but the quantity needed to achieve the goals in the TMDL and nine-key element plans are not possible with only one engineering LCD staff. In order to meet the acreage goals for each conservation practice listed in these plans, additional staff is needed.

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

Our office continues to evaluate farms for NR 151-Agricultural Performance Standards compliance and works on issues as they present themselves. Over the last five years we have evaluated 25 farms and have brought seven farms into compliance with the Agricultural Performance Standards. A county-wide EVAAL model, institutional knowledge, and a comprehensive inventory of animal feedlots help focus our outreach efforts. The County's preference is that agricultural landowners and operators comply with the state and local performance standards and prohibitions voluntarily. The main tools of choice to accomplish voluntary compliance include: education; conservation practices; incentives; and targeting of resources, programs, and partnerships.

Over the last five years we have utilized DATCP Soil and Water Resources Management (SWRM) grants, DATCP Engineering Reserve Funds, DNR Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants, MDV funds, and USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds to bring farms into compliance. Progress on implementation of the Agricultural Performance Standards has slowed in the last five years as construction prices have skyrocketed. For example, in 2017 a roofed barnyard project cost \$20 per square foot and in 2024 a similar roofed barnyard project cost \$32 per square foot. This translates into over a \$50,000 cost increase

Nutrient Management continues to be a focus of the office with approximately 50% of the County's cropland covered by a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) in 2023. The number of new farms adopting NMPs has slowed in the last five years; however, a minimum of 250 acres of new ground is added through DATCP SEG funding annually. We also apply for and receive a Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) grant annually. The NMFE grant program has been utilized to offer trainings to help educate farmers regarding soil sampling, agronomic need, conservation practices, healthy soil, safe/smart manure spreading, writing their own plans and much more. Additionally, last year we offered a farmer/planner stipend through NMFE to review four existing NMPs with the producers (and agronomists) to help everyone better understand how they work for them and the environment.

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

To enhance our existing education and outreach program our department is developing the Water Health Education Project. The goal of this project is to develop a best-in-class water health education campaign and increased points of contact with direct service stakeholders – POWTS owners, new Washington County residents, residents residing in shoreland, wetland and floodplain zoning districts

and farmers. Over the next 5 years we are planning to substantially increase the number of sponsored outreach events, new homeowner contacts, and social media reach.

Washington County has seen a demographic change in the number of and type of farms/farmsteads. As of November 11, 2024, per DATCP, milk producer license holders have declined to 55 in the County and we continue to see an increase in the number of horse/hobby farms. These "hobby" farms have traditionally been too small to be a focus of our office, but the number of complaints regarding these farmsteads has steadily increased. To educate this group to better manage their manure and farmland, we created an annual Horse Management Workshop. To assist in installing BMPs on these farms, the County applied for and received a \$600,000 large scale TRM grant to work with a targeted watershed on manure management and storage/composting.

In January 2020, before the 2021-2030 revision of Land & Water Resource Management Plan was completed, we surveyed nearly 40 agricultural producers to find out the perceived concerns in the community. The top reported resource concern was loss of farmland to land development. In order to strike a balance between development and agriculture, the County created the Conservation and Heritage Grant Program. This program utilizes the conversion fees of land rezoned out of agriculture to fund a competitive grant for open space preservation by non-profits or local government. In 2024, the County launched a pilot of this program, and a local land trust received a grant of \$500,000 to purchase farmland in an area that is facing development pressure. The program prioritizes land that will protect surface and groundwater resources.

## **Annual Work Plans**

Attach both of the following:

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

## **Board Review Process**

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

## **Land Conservation Committee Notification**

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on:  $\frac{12}{14}$ 

Signature of Authorized Representative: Pau Bull Date: 12/20/24

(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:

Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

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  • Livestock	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)  2 new producer whole farm resource conservation and nutrient management plans.  3 grassed waterway practices installed to control gully erosion. HUC 12 Focus: 070900010102, 070900010302, 040400030301  1 Stream Crossing to prevent unlimited access by livestock. Krueger HUC 12 Focus: 070900010103	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS Actual Installed Quantities for 2024 (examples in italics)  # acres of cropland in compliance with performance standard I Grassed Waterway (1,380 Lin Ft) 14 Nutrient Mgt Plan Updates (2,733 Ac.)  # lbs of P reduced using SnapPlus 68.6 Tons of soil saved (using approved method)  # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)  # lbs of sediment of cost-share funds provide
Livestock	1 Roofed Barnyard installed HUC 12 Focus: 070900010105 1 Roofed Manure Storage installed HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301	1 Roofed Barnyard; 1 Waste Transfer for Milkhouse Waste 2 livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard 245 lbs of P reduced using APLE-Lots Model
2	<ul> <li>1 – Waste Storage Abandonment</li> <li>HUC 12 Focus: 070900010302</li> <li>1 – Waste Transfer Systems for Milkhouse Waste.</li> <li>HUC 12 Focus: 040400030207</li> </ul>	\$162,306 cost-share funds provide
• Water quality Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	9.9 acres Riparian Buffers Installed HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030302, 040400030208 950 Feet Stream Relocation-Bank Stabilization HUC 12 Focus: 040400030302	3 Riparian Buffer Installed for 4.5 Acres total 950 Feet Stream Relocation-Bank Stabilization 178 lbs of P reduced using appropriate method 85.6 tons of sediment reduced using appropriate method \$166,227 of cost-share funds provide

• Forestry  • Invasive  • Wildlife  • Wildlife  Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)  • Urban  • Urban  Watershed  Watershed strategies
--

	Assist the Cedar Creek Farmers Producer-led Group with outreach to meet program and grant goals HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030302, 040400030303  Implement the Limestone Creek & Kohlsville River MDV Watershed Plan in Rock River and Cedar Creek/Fredonia-Newburg/Menomonee MDV Watershed Plan for Milwaukee River.  HUC 12 Focus: 070900010105, 040400030301, 040400030302, 040400030303, 040400030209, 040400030107, 040400030401	5 sponsored Outreach Events Plan successfully developed and entered into MDV database (BITS); 3 projects completed
	Continue discussions and work with City of Cedarburg on Adaptive Management projects with	I Meeting Attended
	landowners. HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301. 040400030302.	44 Landowners Contacted thru Outreach Efforts
	040400030303	7 Practices Implemented on 1,820 Ac.
• Other		
Other	2 - Conduct Annual Transect Survey, one county-wide and second focuses on soil health	2 surveys completed
	implementation	

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

264 Participants Pounds and type of material collected

Offer Permanent Hazardous Waste Collection to

residents

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews	Permits anticipated to be issued
	anticipated	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2	2 New Permits 2 permits issued
Manure storage closure	1	1 0 permits issued
Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation	12 Active Permitted Sites	1 New Reclamation Plan Reviewed 1
		new permit reviewed
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	12	12 New Permits 11 new permits issued
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For NR 151	5 1 inspection
Animal waste ordinance	4 6 inspections
Livestock facility siting	n/a
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	40 41 inspections
Nonmetallic mining	12 I inspection

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Field days	1 4 field days
Trainings/workshops	4 3 trainings/workshops
School-age programs (camps, field	5 6 school age programs
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	16
Social media posts	36
News release/story	2 I news release/story

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

Costs	\$27,900	\$310,960	\$41,600	\$37,800		\$155,200	\$23,770	\$100,000	\$10,300	\$35,000	\$101,980	~\$500,000
Hours	450	6240	1040	1040		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Staff/Support	County Conservationist	Conservation Technician	AIS Coordinator	Support Staff	Cost Sharing (can be combined)	Bonding	SEG	TRM	Producer-Led Initiative	County / Local Funding	MDV	EQIP

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	2 new producer whole farm resource conservation and nutrient management plans.  15 Nutrient Management Plan Updates	# acres of cropland in compliance with performance standard # units of practice(s) installed
	4 grassed waterway practices installed to control	# Ibs of P reduced using SnapPlus
	gully erosion. HUC 12 Focus: 070900010102, 070900010302, 040400030301, 40400030209	# Tons of soil saved (using approved method) # Ibs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)
		\$ Amount of cost-share funds provide
• Livestock		
Livestock	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	# units of practice(s) installed
	I Koofed Manure Storage Installed HUC 12 Focus: 40400030303	# of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard
	1 – Waste Storage Abandonment HUC 12 Focus: 070900010302	# lbs of P reduced using Barny Model
	2 – Waste Storage HUC 12 Focus: 070900010302, 40400030209	\$ Amount of cost-share funds provide
• Water quality		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other	2.0 acres Riparian Buffers Installed HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030302,	# units of practice(s) installed
categories)	040400030208	# lbs of P reduced using appropriate method
		# tons of sediment reduced using appropriate method
		\$ Amount of cost-share funds provide
• Forestry		
Forestry	Practice installation	Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dottons spent # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)

## Invasive

INVASIVE		
Invasive species	10 Early Detection/Meander Surveys	# and Type of surveys completed
	2 Point Intercept Survey	
	400 Hours of Watercraft Inspections	# of Boats inspected and People reached
	Provide Outreach and Education about AIS	# of Educational Events and People Attended
	Purple Loosestrife Beetle rearing	# of Beetle Release Sites and Approx # of Beetles Raised
• Wildlife		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other	Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program	Number of Landowners Assisted
than forestry or invasive species)	Native Tree and Prairie Seed Sale	Number of trees and acres of seed sold
• Urban		
Urban issues	Implement the County Storm Water Management Program to maintain compliance with MS4 Permit.	Annual Report on MS4 permit activities
	15 Permits issued to development projects	# of permits issued per ECSM Ordinance
	20 Inspections of existing stormwater facilities	# of facilities inspected for long-term maintenance

## Watershed

Watershed strategies	Assist with the implementation of the Milwaukee River TMDL & three 9-Key Element Plans: Cedar-Ulao; Fredonia-Newburg; and Menomonee River HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 04040003022, 040400030107, 040400030209, 040400030401	# of Project identified and future implementation scheduled
	Partnering with MMSD & NRCS to implement program goals of the Milwaukee River RCPP HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030202, 040400030203, 040400030203, 040400030105, 040400030105, 040400030106,	# of landowner contacts # and type of practices installed
	Assist the Cedar Creek Farmers Producer-led Group with outreach to meet program and grant goals HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030302,	# of sponsored Outreach events # of Producers contracted

	er	Plan successfully developed and entered into MDV database	(BITS)		Completed Projects entered in MDV database (BITS)			# Meeting Attended		h   # Landowners Contacted thru Outreach Efforts		# of Practices Implemented or Under Contract		
040400030303	Implement the Limestone Creek & Kohlsville River	MDV Watershed Plan in Rock River and Cedar	Creek/Fredonia-Newburg/Menomonee MDV	Watershed Plan for Milwaukee River.	HUC 12 Focus: 070900010105, 040400030301,	040400030302, 040400030303, 040400030209,	040400030107, 040400030401		Continue discussions and work with City of	Cedarburg on Adaptive Management projects with	landowners.	HUC 12 Focus: 040400030301, 040400030302,	040400030303	
							2							

Permanent Hazardous Waste Collection to # Participants	ervation and Rural Heritage Grant Program # of acres preserved in open space
Offer Permanent Ha residents	Conservation and R
	manent Hazardous Waste Collection to

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews	Permits anticipated to be issued
	anticipated	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2	2 New Permits
Manure storage closure	1	1
Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation	12 Active Permitted Sites	1 New Reclamation Plan Reviewed
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	12	12 New Permits
Other		

## WASHINGTON COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For NR 151	4
Animal waste ordinance	12
Livestock facility siting	n/a
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	40
Nonmetallic mining	12

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Field days	4
Trainings/workshops	8
School-age programs (camps, field	9
days, classroom)	
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	50
News release/story	2

Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)	staff can be combined or listed	1 individually)
Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	\$128,300
Conservation Technician	4160	\$206,100
AIS Coordinator	1040	\$43,700
Support Staff	1040	\$37,800
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$25,700
SEG	N/A	\$10,000
TRM	N/A	\$560,000
Producer-Led Initiative	N/A	\$8,000
County / Local Funding	N/A	\$35,000
MDV	N/A	\$30,506.78
EQIP		~\$200,000

### CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

**DATE:** January 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Lisa K. Trumble, DATCP Lisa K. Trumble

Resource Management Section, Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the Ozaukee County Land and Water Resource Management

Plan

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

**Summary:** The Ozaukee County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2030, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2025. In advance of the five-year review, Ozaukee County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

### **Materials Provided:**

• Completed Five Year Review Form

• 2024 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments

• 2025 Annual Workplan

**Presenter:** Katie Vogeler, Director/County Conservationist, Ozaukee County LWMD

Rob Holyoke, Natural Resources Committee Chair



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

County: Ozaukee

### Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

Cumulative acres of Soil Health Practices have continuously met our annual work plan. These practices include: No-till, cover crop, pollinator or native habitat planting, low disturbance manure application, harvestable buffers. Expanding Further on the soil health practices, the County owned tractor, no-till drill/interseeder, crimper and airseeder have proven effective in getting more cover crops planted in southeast Wisconsin, as they have been rented in Ozaukee, Washington and Sheboygan Counties. Common hard practices include manure storage and abandonments, grassed waterways, streambank restorations and buffer strips.

Our methods of outreach include mail, email, calls, social media, texts and subscription based emails. To further our reach of practices, a target audience of historically underserved landowners in the County was identified and we began to use GIS to query address that fit our land search. This targeted smaller hobby farmers and horse owners that have been previously underserved in County programming and practices implemented. The past year alone we have co-hosted 3 meetings on manure education and appropriate land application, these meetings have awarded us with a closer working relationship with the 4-H youth horse and pony group educator, we hope this gives some traction on those smaller scale farms.

Each year - the County is budgeted a certain amount of dollars throught the MDV program, plus DATCP's SWRM Program. these funds are utilized on projects to reduce Phosphorus runoff as well as other natural resource concerns, and Ozaukee County either utilizes all of the project funds, or extends them into the next year with a signed project plan. The amount of planning that goes on in our office far exceeds the amount of dollars we are allocated and event the amount of good weather we have to implement the plans in the field.

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

areas are identified, explain how the county was able to make progress in all the areas planned.

In the past 3 years, our Land & Water Department faced 2 retirements and 6 new staff people in vacant or new positions. In this time of transition and training, many of our engineered practices, forward progress in office work flow, and outreach efforts were used as teaching points at a teaching pace. Engineered Projects that were ongoing during these retirements, also faced weather setbacks which pushed most projects into the next year, let alone having staff learn the grant and design process administratively and a new hire earning PE credits. To add to the Engineering setbacks, NRCS and DATCP have had their share of turnover of regional engineering assistance.

Office flow and permit application procedures were modernized, which had learning curves. Outreach efforts will pick up as staff get acclimated to their roles, and meet more landowners/farmers, and as they feel more confident to carry out their roles.

Since then, all carryover engineered projects have now been completed. The staff overseeing the administrative paperwork as well as the engineering have learned through experience, and we now have working order of projects. In the office, we are going digital. all paper files and permits are now being scanned into a searchable online database. Work has also begun to allow for online permitting and online payments for fees.

Lastly, new staff and old staff alike are tasked with meeting with landowners every year to complete farm compliance checks, with the direction being someone new and someone we have not visited in a while.

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

Ozaukee County's Strategic Plan includes: Developing a "working farmer group", implementing the Regional Conservation Partnsership Program, address potentially failing POWTS, provide long term assistance for healthy soils education for farmers, assist farmers in meeting NR 151 compliance and prioritizing projects within the Milwaukee River Watershed TMDL outlined goals.

Based on this work plan, our outreach has multiple paths and includes our partners in other County Conservation Departments and other Producer Led Groups, NRCS, UW-EXT and local conservation business's. Partnerships keep County staff in the field and on farm to maintain a credability so we are approachable when needed. Using local farmers who have successfully implemented soil health practices as another form of outreach has been effective at retaining participation in our Producer Led research and field days. They also add to the water cooler talk of the farming community, and their word carries a bit more than ours does!

Additional grant writing only builds our presence in the community. We apply for multiple grants upwards of \$100,000 annually. By having additional funds, it incentivizes landowners to discuss conservation implementation with us and has been an effective tool to installing BMPs. As part of the Farmland Preservation Program, Ozaukee County staff perform 15-20 annual farm visits. Having one Municipality that participates in FPP, it gives us a foot in the door to start the conservation conversation. FPP field visits allow us to identify opportunities where the County can assist in conservation efforts.

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

In 2024, the County revisited the Work Plan, noticing progress in the right direction. Ozaukee has established not one, but two, working farmer groups. Ozaukee has partnered with RCPP, and are conintuing the partnership for the next 5 year contract, including 19 million dollars of support to all partners. Ozaukee has not created a program to hasten POWTS replacements, however our new staff has invigorated the motivation to perform the back log and inspections. Ozaukee has sponsored 15 landowners to attend the National No-Tillage Conference over the past 5 years, and will looks to sponsor additional Conferences. Ozaukee continues to implement BMP's on ag acres, and will now do so with staff that have been given the tools, support, education and guidelines to do so. These BMP are installed County wide, some falling within our mentioned 9 Key-Element Plans.

My goal, as a new leader in the last few years of staff shuffling, involves work in-house, and on the land. In-house, I look to develop staff so they have the tools to perform their roles at the utmost ability, and confidently. By holding them accountable to their work, and supporting their growth will benefit the County and them in the long run. On the land, we will continue our efforts on those underserved landowners, where the County has not had a working relationship with. We will continue our partnerships that give us support and credibility on farm, as we will support others as we do the neighboring Counties and their Producer Led Groups.

Ozauke County's additions to the work plan include: Implementing underserved landowners with hobby or horse farms, to begin targeted water testing as a way to target those failing septic systems or point out bovine nutrient runoff, and to implement a software to begin tracking our zoning permits.

### **Annual Work Plans**

Attach both of the following:

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

### **Board Review Process**

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

### **Land Conservation Committee Notification**

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on: 1-9-2024

Signature of Authorized Representative: Value Date: 12-30-2024 (e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:

Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)	297.73 acres utilized the tractor/ drill/ Interseeder, 444.56 acres of the airseeder, and 32 acres of the crimper. 20 renters utilizing the County owned farm equipment.  13 of Clean Farm Families events hosted, 90 of CFF participants, 4 of Demo Farm Network events hosted, 8 farmers in the Adaptive Management Programs.  SWRM funds utilized to install 3 waterways and about 6 Acres of CAS were installed in 2024.  2,067.85 acres no-till utilizing all programs, CFF, EQIP and NRCS Programs, Use the Transect Survey to estimate tillage in the county.  969.5 acres of cover crop installed / NDTI was utilized and maps were created for years 2014 (prior to producer-led group establishment), 2019, and 2022. Results showed progress, as well as areas to emphasize future work.  Wet Season and lack of contractor availability set many of our projects back – 3 waterways were installed in 2024.  Utilize WI DATCP CREP Program=0 acres. implemented but 3 projects using SWRM and CFF grants were initiated to be complete in 2025.  Utilize will be a pasture walk and speaker event in the county 17 acres rotation grazing cost shared / 1 pasture walk & speaker event was held – Jim Gerrish.  Work in conjunction with NRCS on field testing sites NRCs/InDepth Agronomy, and Black Box Soil lab, Haney soil tests scheduled for next year. Black Box Soil lab, Haney soil tests scheduled for next year. Black Box Soil lab, Haney soil tests scheduled for next year. Black Box Soil lab, Haney believed back to 2025.  *Same as K) above.	
KS (so	1 H G D C B A	-
If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	A) Rent out Interseeder/No Till Drill & roller crimper B) Clean Farm Families/Ozaukee County Demo Farms. Adaptive Management with Cedarburg and Grafton C) Critical Area Stabilization to establish vegetated channels D) No Till/Reduced Tillage-goal of 2,000 acres E) Cover Crops-goal of 1200 acres F) Grass waterway & subsurface drainage G) Establish riparian buffers H) Managed Grazing with the Grazing Farm Families group I) Monitor Edge of Field Runoff J) Soil Health monitoring K) Rock Chute L) Streambank Erosion	
CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	• Cropland  Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management A) County owned Interseeder/NoTill Drill/ airseeder B) Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms. Adaptive Management with Cedarburg and Grafton C) Critical Area Stabilization D) No Till Tillage E) Cover Crops F) Grass Waterway subsurface drainage G) Buffer strip H) Pastures J) Conservation Innovation Grant field monitoring J) Soil Health Initiative K) Rock Chute L) Streambank Erosion	• Livestock

A) 1 manure storage and 1 waste transfer were completed in

A) Manure storage installation, waste transfer

Livestock

A) Manure storage and waste transfer and manure pit abandonment	and closure SWRM and NRCS funds  B) Appropriate injection or surface manure	2024, along with 2 manure pit abandonments.  R) 800 acres low disturbance manure amplication that was cost
B) Inform Farmers of manure spreading rules		
C) FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 &		
E) IKM Grants F) Grazing Animal Management	With installation.  F) Meet up with landowners interested in	<ul><li>D) 357 New acres enrolled in NMP'S 5 new NMP'S</li><li>E) Gasser- Project Installed and will be sent for DNR</li></ul>
G) Horse Event for manure management	grazing  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure	reimbursement by the end of the year. Hamm- No Progress w/ landowner & project (too costly) – DNR will be obtaining
)	mgt, nutrient mgt and pasture mgt.	paperwork to cancel grant funds requested. Eskra- Amendment will be made to extend grant & project funds
		For Further solidify Grazing Farm Families group, promote
		grazing and nave 1 pasture wank and speaker event in the county 17 acres rotation grazing cost shared / 1 pasture walk & speaker event was held – Jim Gerrish. Roughly 55
		G) We hosted 2 horse events – one on our own in the Spring (17 Attendees) and one was partnered with Washington County in the Fall froughly 50 Attendees)
• Water quality		
Water quality/quantity (other than	diluc ()	A) Promote CREP to establish new buffer area, goal is 3 sites.
activities already listed in other	A) CKEP B) Streambank stabilization	Landowner outreach and mailers struck interest, but no formal enrollment.
categories) A) Buffers	C) Poseidon Pellet nutrient runoff research	B) Wet season / lack of contractor availability pushed this
B) Streambank Protection	<ul> <li>U) Surface Water testing for nutrient and bacteria.</li> </ul>	project back to 2023.  C) Water testing utilizing Poseidon Pellets 2 samples taken this
C) Nutrient Reduction		
research		<ul> <li>Lesung nas commenced; o sues were tested monthly – Imal results pending.</li> </ul>
D) water quanty testing		
• Forestry		
Forestry A) County tree sale	Practice installation A) Have an annual sale- goal of 27,000 trees	A) 23,200 Sold in 2024. B) 4 people utilized the tree planter
B) County tree planter	B) tree planter rental- goal of 5 renters	C) Information on managing forest at our sale with general
C) MFL  D) EAB and Gypsy/Sponge Moth	D) Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy/sponge Moth	D) General outreach and education was held to inform public on these species

<ul> <li>Invasive</li> </ul>		
Invasive species A) Invasive species membership B) Event	<ul><li>A) Member of SEWISC</li><li>B) Education articles and postings on aquatic</li><li>And terrestrial invasive species</li></ul>	<ul> <li>A) Continued membership with Friends of Cedarburg Bog and their invasive removal efforts. Informative flyers handed out at tree sale event.</li> <li>B) Facebook posts during WI Invasive Week. Offer a scholarship to attend the SEWISC Invasive Plant Mgt Workshop, although there were no takers for the scholarship this year.</li> </ul>
• Wildlife		
A) Assist landowner with wildlife/wetland habitat plan	A) Assist with project funding by sharing project with nonprofit organizations B) Wildlife Damage Program C) Native Plant Sale D) Blue bird house sale E) Promote the MMSD Reforestation and Wetland Restoration	<ul> <li>A) NOSD Wildlife Habitat restoration project consisting of 10 acres in its first establishment years requiring mowing. Trees &amp; Shrubs were donated in 2024</li> <li>B) Assisted 7 Landowners w/ temporary fencing, permanent fence, shooting permits, and general damage inquiries &amp; abatement.</li> <li>C) Plant sale ads in the Ozaukee Press. Increased native plant sale to 300 flats, sold 299.25 flats in 2024.</li> <li>D) Promote and sell bluebird houses made by friends of Harrington Beach State Park. 11 sold in 2024.</li> <li>E) Promoted at county tree sale, arbor day and misc public displays</li> </ul>
• Urban		
Urban issues  A) Public education/information about proper waste disposal B) Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems C) Stormwater runoff research	<ul> <li>A) Clean Sweep Program in May</li> <li>B) Correction of failing septic systems</li> <li>C) Stormwater infiltration monitoring in MS4</li> <li>Permit</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A) Conduct an annual collection of agricultural and household chemicals and used tires. 20,615 # of HHW and 2,058 # of Ag waste collected in 2024.</li> <li>B) 88 permits pulled for NP or failing systems to be replaced in 2024.</li> <li>C) Annual infiltration testing was conducted w/in the MS4 area in 2024. Continued work with Sweetwater as our managing education/ outreach and training collaborator. MS4 audit took place in August 2024, and work has commenced within a schedule of compliance.</li> </ul>
• Watershed		
Watershed strategies  A) 9 key element plans B) Producer Led Group C) Milwaukee River TMDL. Lake shore TMDL in development	<ul> <li>A) Help implement the 3 9 key element plans</li> <li>B) Producer-led group (Clean Farm Families of the Milwaukee River Watershed). Work with Ozaukee County Demonstration Farm Network to promote soil health</li> <li>C) Phosphorus management program. P compliance and coordinate TMDL</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A) Farm visits have targeted 9 key element areas. Local adaptive management municipalities have successful programs implemented to help with TMDL's.</li> <li>B) Work with farmers in the entire county for promoting CFF soil health goals. Promote soil health: field days, workshops, hosted 13 events in 2024- attendee # ranges from 20-67, had 90 participants, 20 landowners renting our County owned equipment.</li> </ul>

		C) P compliance and coordinate TMDL. Begin NEL TMDL plan.
<ul> <li>Other</li> </ul>		
Other A) Information and Education B) Non-Metallic Mining	<ul><li>A) Poster Contest, conservation camp and student soil health day</li><li>B) Oversee NMM program management</li></ul>	<ul> <li>A) Encourage schools to participate in the annual poster contest and have kids write an essay to attend conservation camp, educational visits to classrooms, science clubs and host a student soil health field day</li> <li>B) 2 site visits performed, 19 acres reclaimed in 2024. NMM Audit occurred with the DNR in 2024 and are working on ordinance, fee and program updates.</li> </ul>

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews	Permits anticipated to be issued	2024 Actual YTD 11-27-2024
	anticipated		
Feedlot permits	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3	3
Manure storage closure	3	3	2
Livestock facility siting	0	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0	0
Shoreland zoning	50	50	50
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2	2	4 wetland rezonings, but no Chapter 30's
Other			

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned	2024 Actual YTD 11-27-2024
Total Farm Inspections	20	21
For FPP	15	17
For NR 151	3	4
Animal waste ordinance	9	9
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Nonmetallic mining	1	2

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity		
Tours	Number	2024 Actual
	2	0
Field days	Popup field events (ongoing),	Jim Gerrish grazing event,
	cover croping in nord day(s)	up day, Pollinator field day.
Trainings/workshops	Soil Health Speaker, Horse	Soil Health Workshop, Urban
	Event Speaker	Ecology presentation, PLW
		annual meeting presentation,
		Regional Ag Day presentation,
		Horse Management Workshop,
		Tom Kilcer presentation,
School-age programs (camps, field	4 talks a year to school kids to	Testing the Waters=Freshmen
days, classroom)	educate and advocate for soil	biology class at 57 plot,
	health, conservation	Student Government Day, RL
		conservation fair
Newsletters	1	0
Social media posts	Update county website and	Posts made to LWM, DFN and
	weekly facebook posts	CFF FB pages on a weekly-bi-
		weekly basis.
News release/story	Tree/shrub program, native	Monthly Report made for our
	pollinator program, deer	Natural Resources Committee.
	donation program, clean sweep	
	and soil health events	

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

1 aois 3. Smil Houis and Labseica Costs (stail can	stati can ee comena or instea many	d IIIdi vidadii y )	
Staff/Support	Hours	Estimated Costs	2024 Actuals
County Conservation Staff 1	2,080 - 100%	SUM \$163,317	\$113,154.07
County Conservation Staff 2	2,080 - 100%		\$92,010.19
County Conservation Staff 3	2,080 - 100%		\$90,367.5
County Conservation Staff 4	2,080 - 50%		\$69,577.03
Cost Sharing (can be combined)			
Ex. Bonding	N/A	\$56,200	\$56,200
Ex. SEG	N/A	\$25,000	\$25,000
Ex. MDV	N/A	\$22,000 projected/anticipated	\$34,257.95
TRM	N/A	\$306,763	\$146,513
Farmer Producer Led	N/A	\$17,000	\$107,875
NMFE	N/A	\$3,000	\$3,000 plus 2023 carryover

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

A) Rent out Interseeder/No-Till Drill & B) roller crimper, Airseeder. Respective goals of 500, 50 and 500 acres of implementation B) Clean Farm Families/Ozaukee County Demo Farms/Grazing Farm Families. Adaptive Management with Cedarburg and Grafton Educational Events Critical Area Stabilization to establish vegetated channels D) No Till/Reduced Tillage-goal of 2,000 acres E) Cover Crops-goal of 1,200 acres G) F; E) Cover Crops-goal of 1,200 acres G) Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface drainage & Rock Chutes F) Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface drainage & Rock Chutes G) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health parameter monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Establish riparian buffers H) Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590 compliance D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's E) Manage I TRM grants and design/assist with installation. F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing G) Sponson a horse event to discuss manure mgt,	CATEGORY	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS	PERFORMANCE MFASTIREMENTS
• Cropland  • County owned Interseeder/NoTill Drill & Drill & Eprineer Led Group/Demo Farms/ Clean Fam Families/ Drawlee  Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms/ By Clean Fam Families/ Drawlee  Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms/ By Clean Fam Families/ Drawlee  Grafton  Critical Area Stabilization  Corrical Area Stabilisation  Corrical Area Stabil	(goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code	(examples in italics)
• Cropland  opland, soil health and/or  trient management  County owned Interseeder/NoTill  Drill airseeder  Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms/ Grafton  Critical Area Stabilization  Cover Crops  Buffer strip and buffers  Buffer Research-Conservation  Introducing animals back to the faringe & Rock Chutes  Introducing animals back to the monitoring  Conserved Rock  Amanure storage and waste transfer  and manure pit abandonneum  And manure pit abandonneum  and manure pit abandonneum  and manure pit abandonneum  by Prep barnyard rumoff, NR Ps  ATCP 50  Creptom farmers of manure  C		(examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	
tritient management County owned luterseeder/NoTill Drill & A) Rent out Interseeder-NoTill Drill & B roller crimper, Airseeder. Respective County owned luterseeder/NoTill Braimer Led Group/Demo Farms/ Braimer Led Group/Demo Farms/ Braimer Led Group/Demo Farms/ Management with Cedarburg and Management with Cedarburg and Management with Cedarburg and Management with Cedarburg and Grafton Cover Crops Grass Waterway subsurface drainage Brifer strip and buffers Field Research- Conservation Field Research- County Field Research- Conservation Field Research- County Field Research- County Field Research- County Field Research Field Research- County Field Research Field Research- Cou	<ul> <li>Cropland</li> </ul>		
Parmer Led Group/Deno Farms/   Grafton Edmingenent with Cedarburg and Gradpire Management with Cedarburg Dono Farms/Crazing Farm Families.   Diagnostics of Control Farms/ Crazing Farm Families.   Diagnostics Fard Gradpire Management with Cedarburg   Diagnostics Field Research Conservation   Field Research Conservation	Cropland, soil health and/or	Rent out Interseeder/No-Till Drill &	
Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms/ grazing network. Adaptive  Management with Cedarburg and Crafton  Adaptive Management with Cedarburg  Adaptive Management with Cedarburg  Crafton  Critical Area Stablization to establish  vegetated channels  Critical Area Stablization  Critical Area Stablish  Eractor  Critical Area Stablish  Erac Cover Crops-goal of 1.200  Critical Area Stablish  Artor Sol  Artor Sol  Critical Area Stablish  And manure pir aban		roller crimper, Airseeder. Respective	
Farmer Led Group/Demo Farms/ grazing network. Adaptive  Management with Cedarburg and Crafton		goals of 500, 50 and 500 acres of	Network events hosted, 8 farmers in the Adaptive Management
Management with Cedarburg and Grafton Educational Events     Management with Cedarburg and Grafton Educational Events		implementation Clean Farm Families/Ozankee County	
Grafton Grafton Grafton Grafton Grafton Grafton Critical Area Stabilization Cover Crops Grass Waterway subsurface drainage Grass Waterway subsurface Introducing animals back to the Introducing animals Introducing animals Introducing animals Introducing animal	grazing network. Adaptive	Demo Farms/Grazing Farm Families.	
Critical Area Stabilization  Cover Crops  Gover Crops  Grass Waterway subsurface drainage  Buffer strip and buffers  Field Research- Conservation  Buffer strip and buffers  Field Research- Conservation  Field Research Field Monitoring  Field Research Field Monitoring  Field Research Field  Field Resea	Management with Cedarburg and Grafton	arburg	
Cover Crops  Grass Waterway subsurface drainage acres Field Research Conservation Innovation Grant field monitoring Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface drainage & Rock Chutes Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface Introducing animals back to the Grass waterway, crossing of Introducing Grass waterway, crossing and waste transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  And manure storage and waste transfer And manure storage and waste transfer, and closure of transfer, and clos			CFF, EQIP and NRCS Programs, Use the Transect Survey to
Crover Crops  Buffer strip and buffers  Buffer strip and buffers  Field Research-Conservation Innovation Grant field monitoring Introducing animals back to the field Research-Conservation Introducing animals back to the Grant field monitoring Introducing animals back to the Grant for manure across waterway, crossings & subsurface drainage & Rock Chutes Introducing animals back to the Grants and parameter monitoring & subsurface drainage with grants and waste transfer.  In Design Manure storage and waste transfer and closure of unused manure pix abandonment and manure spreading and stacking spreading rules  Spreading rules  C) FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 & B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure spreading and stacking compliance  ATCP 50  D) New outreach for NMP's  E) TRM Grants  E) TRM Grants  F) Grazing Animal Management  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, and and an anure mgt, and an animal manure mgt, and an animal manure mgt, and an an animal manure mgt, and an animal manure mgt, and an an		vegetated channels	
Buffer strip and buffers Field Research- Conservation Innovation Grant field monitoring Introducing animals back to the Introducing animal back to the Introducing animal back to the Introducing animal manuterer transfer Introducing animal back to the County Interocular for NMP's Introducing animal back to the County Introducing an		No Till/Reduced Tillage-goal of 2,000	
Field Research-Conservation Field Research-Conservation Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing.  Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing animals back to the landscape via grazing.  Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing animal manitoring.  Introducing accordance introducing and service interested in grazing animal management introducing animal management int			
Innovation Grant field monitoring drainage & Rock Chutes landscape via grazing.  Introducing animals back to the drainage & Rock Chutes landscape via grazing.  Introducing animal back to the drainage & Rock Chutes and soil health parameter monitoring. By the consistence of manure storage and waste transfer and manure pit abandonment and manure pit abandonment and manure sof manure Sorage and waste transfer and manure sof manure C FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 & D Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's compliance and manure for manur		Cover Crops-goal of 1,200 acres	
Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing.  Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing.  Introducing animals back to the landscape via grazing.  In weather, moisture and soil health monitoring larameter monitoring. In Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  In weather, moisture and soil health monitoring larameter monitoring larameter monitoring larameter monitoring larameter monitoring larameter and manure storage and waste transfer and manure pit abandonment land manure pit abandonment lands larameter of manure spreading and stacking larameter larameter of manure spreading and stacking larameter monitoring larameter lara		Grass waterway, crossings & subsurface	
restock  estock  mure storage and waste transfer  by Weather, moisture and soil health monitoring  li Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet. l) Livestock Fencin	, , ,	drainage & Rock Chutes	
restock  The weather, mosture and southeatth parameter monitoring  The parameter monitoring and stacking  The county.  The parameter manuer of the County.  The parameter pir abandonment  The parameter monitoring and waste transfer.  The parameter monitoring and waste transfer.  The parameter monitoring and stacking and active of 590 compliance  The parameter monitoring and design/assist with installation.  The parameter monitoring and design/assist with installation.  The parameter monitoring and design and active monitoring and a	landscape via grazing.	Establish	Bush USDA CIG. NRCS live weather station data. Work in
restock  I) Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  In Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  In Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  In Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  A) Design Manure storage or transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandonment  In Livestock Fencing - 1,000 feet.  A) Design Manure storage or transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.		weamer,	Conjunction with INCCS on field testing sites INCCS/InDepute Agreement and Rlack Rox Soil lab Haney onlitests scheduled
restock  nure storage and waste transfer  manure pit abandonment orm Farmers of manure  P barnyard runoff, NR 151 &  W outreach for NMP's  rzing Animal Management  The storage and waste transfer  A) Design Manure storage or transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandonment  manure spreading and stacking  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  compliance  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  compliance  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  compliance  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing of source and reservent to discuss manure mgt, and anyth anyth and anyth anyth and anyth anyth and anyth anyt		monitoring	for next year. Black Boy Soil lab recults showed no cimilificant
nure storage and waste transfer  manure pit abandonment orm Farmers of manure  manure spreading and stacking eading rules  C P barnyard runoff, NR 151 &  W outreach for NMP's rzing Animal Management rse Event for manure  A) Design Manure storage or transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pit abandore pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure pits of the County.			ion next year. Diack box soil iau lesuits showed no significant impact on soil biology hetween our plots
nure storage and waste transfer  I manure pit abandonment orm Farmers of manure compliance CP 50 Compliance D Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's D Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation. F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt,		Livestoen i chemis - 1,000 feet.	
A) Design Manuer storage and waste transfer, and closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure spreading and stacking  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  CP 50  CP 50  CP 50  CP 50  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  E) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing F) Sponsor and horse event to discuss manure mgt, and the standard management of the county.  C) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, and the standard management of the county.  B) Doal of 250 acres of new NMP's but management installation.  E) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing by the standard management of the standar	• Livestock		
closure of unused manure pits of the County.  B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure spreading and stacking  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  C) Compliance  D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)	Livestock		(A)
B) Educate on appropriate injection or surface manure spreading and stacking C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590 C) compliance D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation. F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)	A) Manure storage and waste transfer		B
Inform Farmers of manure  Spreading rules  FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 & Compliance  ATCP 50  New outreach for NMP's  TRM Grants  Grazing Animal Management  Horse Event for manure  C) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  C) compliance  C) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)	and manure pit abandonment	_	cost shared, more acres were implemented. Host a
Spreading rules  FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 & compliance  ATCP 50  New outreach for NMP's  FRM Grants  Grazing Animal Management  G) Perform farm walkovers for review of 590  C) Compliance  D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G) Sponsor and of social production and the sponsor and the s			
FPP barnyard runoff, NR 151 & compliance ATCP 50 New outreach for NMP's FRM Grants Grazing Animal Management G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, Compliance D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation. FRM Grants Grazing Animal Management G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)	spreading rules	_	
ATCP 50  D) Goal of 250 acres of new NMP's  New outreach for NMP's  E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.  TRM Grants  Grazing Animal Management  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing  F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing  G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)			
New outreach for NMP's       E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.       E) Manage 1 TRM grants and design/assist with installation.       E) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing F)         Grazing Animal Management G) Sponsor a horse Event for manure       F) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)       F) G)	ATCP 50		
TRM Grants       F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing       F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing       F) Horse Event for manure       F) G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt,       G) G)		_	E
Grazing Animal Management F) Meet up with landowners interested in grazing F)  Horse Event for manure G) Sponsor a horse event to discuss manure mgt, G)			Ĺ
HOISE EVENTION MAINURE		_	£ &
	_ `	nutrient	) 
ADV funds for Phosphorus reduction H)			Ĥ

	projects: 2 projects that prioritize County Initiatives.	Phosphorus loss reductions.
Water quality  Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)  A) Buffers  B) Streambank Protection  C) Water quality testing	A) CREP & CFF Incentive B) Streambank stabilization – 2 projects planned. C) Surface Water testing for nutrients. Partner with Public Health Dept on their Beach Monitoring, and Sweetwater for Lab logistics. WRMG Infiltration Testing, Slake Tests, soil compaction, CO2, Worm counts.	<ul> <li>A) Promote CREP and CFF incentives to establish new buffer area &amp; field borders, goal is 3 sites. Landowner outreach and mailers struck interest in the new NEL TMDL Subbasins.</li> <li>B) Goal is to implement 2 streambank restoration designs.</li> <li>C) Testing will be done monthly, goal is to acquire funding to support E.Coli and source testing.</li> <li>WRMG will supply results of their research annually.</li> </ul>
• Forestry  Forestry  A) County tree sale  B) County tree planter  C) MFL  D) EAB and Gypsy/Sponge Moth	A) Host annual Tree Sale. B) Tree planter rental C) Promote MFL D) Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy/sponge Moth	<ul> <li>A) Goal of 27,000 trees sold. Expand sale to include tree tubes.</li> <li>B) Goal of 5 renters.</li> <li>C) Information on managing forest at our sale with general outreach and education</li> <li>D) General outreach and education was held to inform public on these species.</li> </ul>
• Invasive		
Invasive species A) Invasive species membership B) Event	A) Member of SEWISC B) Education articles and postings on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	<ul> <li>A) Continued membership and monetary sponsor of Friends of Cedarburg Bog and their invasive removal efforts.</li> <li>Informative flyers handed out at tree sale event.</li> <li>B) Facebook posts during WI Invasive Week. Offer a scholarship to attend the SEWISC Invasive Plant Mgt Workshop, although there were no takers for the scholarship this year.</li> </ul>
• Wildlife		
A) Assist landowner with wildlife/wetland habitat plan	A) Assist with project funding by sharing project with nonprofit organizations B) Wildlife Damage Program – 1 project. C) Native Plant Sale D) Blue bird house sale.	<ul> <li>A) Goal of one project that supports wildlife management by partnership with Pheasants Forever.</li> <li>B) Goal of one project including: Canons, deterrents, fencing etc.</li> <li>C) Goal of 500 flats sold.</li> <li>D) Goal to sell 10 Blue bird houses.</li> </ul>
• Urban		
Urban issues	<ul><li>A) Clean Sweep Program in May</li><li>B) Correction of failing septic systems</li><li>C) Stormwater infiltration monitoring in MS4</li></ul>	<ul> <li>A) Goal of 22,000 # of combined waste.</li> <li>B) Goal of 80 Repalcements</li> <li>C) Annual infiltration testing, continued work with Sweetwater</li> </ul>

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews	Permits anticipated to be issued
	anticipated	
Feedlot permits	N/A	N/A
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3
Manure storage closure	3	3
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0	0
Shoreland zoning	50	50
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2	2
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	20
For FPP	91
For NR 151	5
Manure Storage Facilities	9
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	1

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	Popup field events (ongoing),
Trainings/workshops	Soil Health Speaker, Horse
	Event Speaker, Soil Health Academy
School-age programs (camps, field	2 talks a year to school kids to
days, classroom)	educate and advocate for soil
	health, conservation
Newsletters	1
Social media posts	Update county website and
	weekly facebook posts
News release/story	Tree/shrub program, native
	pollinator program, clean
	sweep and soil health events

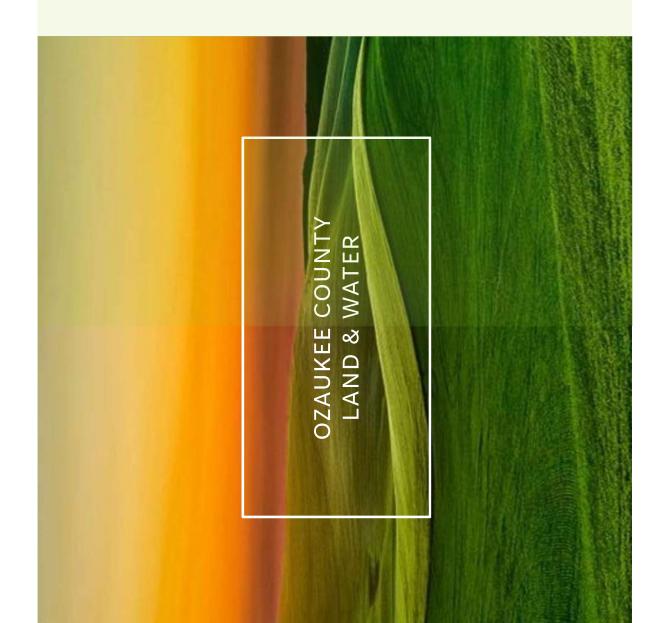
Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

ed individually)	Estimated Costs	SUM \$365,598					\$56,200	\$25,000	\$34,000 projected/anticipated	\$80,00	\$99,400	\$11,998	\$3,000	
Stall call de collidined of list	Hours	2,080 - 100%	2,080 - 100%	2,080 - 100%	2,080 - 50%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Table 3. Stall flours and expected Costs (stall can be combined of fisted individually)	Staff/Support	County Conservation Staff 1	County Conservation Staff 2	County Conservation Staff 3	County Conservation Staff 4	Cost Sharing (can be combined)	Ex. Bonding	Ex. SEG	Ex. MDV	TRM	Farmer Producer Led	SWRM Innovative	NMFE	

# OZAUKEE COUNTY LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT

5-YEAR REVIEW





Director - Katie Vogeler

Geoff Schramm

Chase Brouillette

Sarah Jaeger

Ed Pfister

Tony Austin

Barry Sullivan

Nick Mikkelson

Natural Resources Committee Chairman – Rob Holyoke



235 SQUARE MILES
25 MILES OF LAKE FRONTAGE
93,111 POPULATION
16 MUNICIPALITIES
RURAL NORTH, URBAN SOUTH
30 LICENSED DAIRY FARMS
BEEF-GRAIN-HOBBY FARMS
HORSE BOARDING

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

DEVELOPMENT
OLDEST COUNTY IN THE STATE
+ 1,200 ACRES PARK LANDS
BLUFF PROTECTIONS
SAME COWS, LESS OPERATORS
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
UNDERSERVED AWARENESS

### CONSERVATION

- Conservation Restoration and BMP Installation
- Grant Writing and Program Management
- Clean Sweep
- Tree Sale
- Ag Equipment Rentals
- Producer Led Farmer Group Collaboration
- Community Research and Educational Events
- Farmland Preservation
- Manure Management and NR 151 compliance
- Wildlife Damage & Abatement
- Partnerships: NRCS, RCPP, Farmer Cooperatives, Ag
   Retailers, Adaptive Management with Municipalities,
   Schools, Non-Profits





### SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES

- Cover Crops
- No-Till
- Low Disturbance Manure Injection
- Harvestable Buffers
- Planting Green
- Rotational Grazing
- Pollinator/Native Seedings

**Equipment Conversion** 

- Bare Ground Initiative
- Manure Management
- Manure Storage & Abandonments
- Barnyard Management
- Clean Water Diversions

### Farmer Leaders

- Clean Farm Families
- **Grazing Farm Families**
- Demo Farm Network

### Partners

- NRCS, RCPP, In Depth
   Agronomy, Local
   Cooperatives, Compeer,
   FFLM, Water Resources
   Management Group LLC and
   many more
- Host 10-12 conservation events annually

### OZAUKEE COUNTY AG EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

 Tractor with a 7.5-inch drill/ interseeder for cover crops in corn rows

Crimper

Airseeder

2024	189	108	32	444	21
2023	191	261 1	274	652	27 2
2022	414	397	10	750	22
2021	675	ı	ı	ı	ı
	No-Till Drill	Interseeder	Crimper	Airseeder	# of renters



### CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

\*Data calculated with the Producer Led Watershed Program result model

2024	12	2,333	17,221	Calculating	Calculating	Calculating
2023	10	3,187	5,301	763 lbs	1,642 Tons	608 Metric Tons
2022	7	2,934	5,199	908 lbs	1,108 Tons	621 Metric Tons
MEASUREMENT	# of Events	# of acres with cost shared soil health practices	# of acres of soil health acres w/o cost share	Phosphorus Reduction* (cc & NT)	Tolerable Soil Loss*	CO2 Emission Reduction*
METRIC	Educational Events	Incentivized Acres	Not Incentivized Acres	Water Quality	Sediment Loss	Climate

### SANITATION & ZONING

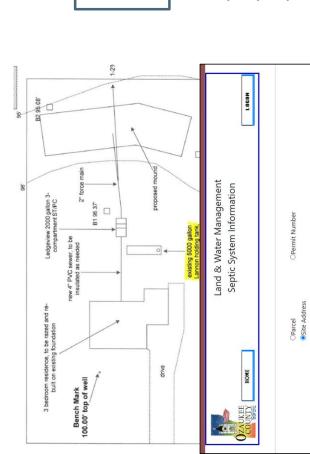
- POWTS Management of Maintenance
- POWTS Plan Review and Inspection
- POWTS Interactive Online Mapping
- DSPS Continuing Education Opportunities
- Shoreland & Floodplain Zoning
- **MS4 Permit**
- Community Rating System level 8
- Wetland Delineation Mapping
- OHWM Determinations
- Non-Metallic Mining Authority
- Partnerships: DSPS, Water Labs, Local POWTS installers and soil testers

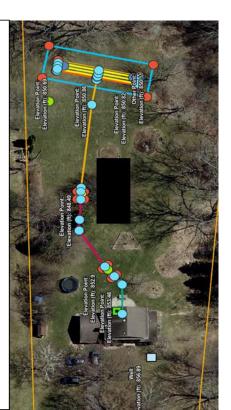
### WHY SANITATION & ZONING

Public Health
Public Safety
Environmental Protections

Nutrient Runoff Water Quality







### **FUTURE PLANS**

- GPS Mapping POWTS
- Online Accessibility
- Digitizing all Permits and paper files
- Digitizing Map features
- Host Update Meetings

Search

- Enhance Maintenance Efficiencies
- Utilizing GPS for NMM reclamations

Clean Farm Families Soil Health Demo Plot

Improving Soil Health

NSD (SD

**Updating Ordinances** 



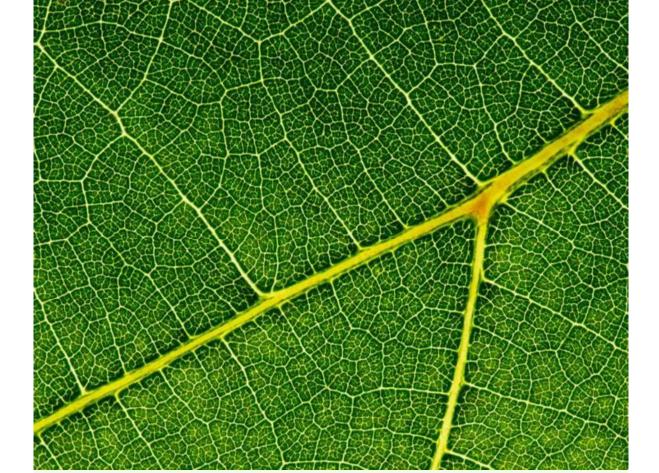


### THANK YOU

Katie Vogeler

262-284-8279

kvogeler@ozaukeecounty.gov



### CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2025

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Ian Krauss, Farm Service Agency

### **SUBJECT: FSA Program Updates for February LWCB Meeting**

- Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) has a deadline of March 31st.
- ARC/PLC signup is ongoing and producers have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to enroll.
- The following programs signup deadlines have moved to March 1<sup>st</sup> starting with applications for 2024. This includes notice of loss, application for payment, and supporting documentation for the application.
  - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
  - Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
  - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

### **NRCS Wisconsin**

### Programs Update - February 2025



### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

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

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

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

### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

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

### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP focuses on restoring and protecting wetlands, conserving productive agricultural lands, and conserving grasslands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements. Applications for the ACEP are taken on a continuous basis. There were two application deadlines for FY25: October 4, 2024, and December 20, 2024. Over 30 applications were evaluated and ranked under sign up 1. Another 20 are in process for ranking under the second sign up and selections are contingent upon funding availability. Funding is available under General, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and Inflation Reduction Act fund pools. Contact Dave Gundlach, ASTC-Easements, david.gundlach@usda.gov for more information.

NRCS	Programs	Quarte	rly Fisc	al Upda	ite
Program		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Environmental Quality	Financial Assistance	\$0	\$4,214 <sup>ac</sup>	\$O <sup>ac</sup>	\$0ª
Incentives Program (EQIP)	Contracts	0	2 <sup>ac</sup>	Oac	O <sup>a</sup>
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial Assistance	\$15,336,831 M <sup>c</sup>	\$0 <sup>ac</sup>	\$0M	\$0 <sup>c</sup>
	New Contracts	0	Oc	O <sub>c</sub>	0c
	Renewal Contracts	316	0	0	0
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Financial Assistance	0	\$0°	\$0	\$0°
	Contracts	0	0	Oc	0°
	Easement Parcels	0	0	Oc	Oc
	Easement Financial	0	\$0	\$0°	\$0°
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program- Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)	Financial Assistance	\$0°	\$0°	\$0°	\$0°
	Parcels	Oc	Oc	Oc	Oc
	Acres	Oc	Oc	Oc	Oc
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program- Wetland Reserve	Financial Assistance	\$0°	\$0°	\$0°	\$0°
	Easements	O <sub>c</sub>	O <sub>c</sub>	Oc	Oc
Easements (ACEP-WRE)	Acres	O <sub>c</sub>	Oc	Oc	Oc
Emergency Watershed	Financial Assistance	Op	Od	Od	Oq
Protection Program- Floodplain	Proposed Easements	Ор	Od	Od	Oq
Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)	Proposed Acres	Ор	Od	Od	Oq

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Includes initiatives and special funding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Initiatives and special funding allocations have not been determined yet.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Funding decisions not yet complete for the fiscal year; not all apps have been fully obligated yet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Not available yet for FY25

### NRCS Wisconsin 2024 Conservation Highlights and Results

Last year brought many opportunities for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin to work with farmers, private landowners, and Tribal Nations through the 2018 Farm Bill and additional funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. In this Annual Report, you'll learn about our fiscal year 2024 NRCS conservation program successes, along with highlights of the work we do 'Helping People Help the Land' for future generations.

### Click here to read.

### USDA Announces Strategy to Uphold its Federal Trust Responsibilities to Increase Support for Conservation on Tribal Lands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has released a new Tribal Relations Strategy, demonstrating the agency's commitment to honoring its federal trust relationship with the 574 federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Villages that have sovereign interest in more than 119 million acres of land across the United States.

This strategy builds on many years of listening, working, and consulting with tribes to address their natural resources concerns. NRCS is committed to carrying out its federal trust responsibilities by ensuring that the agency has tribal operations built into its organizational structure.

### Click here to learn more.

### Conservation Trailblazers: Amplifying Water Quality Benefits Through Stacking Practices

As a member of the <u>Door-Kewaunee Demonstration Farms</u> <u>Network</u> and <u>Peninsula Pride Farms</u>, Lee Kinnard of Kinnard Farms partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to be one of the first in the nation to have a <u>denitrifying bioreactor</u> and a <u>Phosphorus Removal System</u> built in-line on the same tile system within a field.

With technical and financial assistance through the NRCS <u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</u> (EQIP) and funding from the <u>Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</u> (GLRI), multiple conservation practices were stacked together, magnifying the positive impact from a soil health and water quality perspective, with the goal of keeping soil and nutrients out of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

### Click here to read more.

### Biden-Harris Administration Sets Record Investment in Private Lands Conservation in 2024

The Biden-Harris Administration announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supported more than 23,000 climate-focused conservation contracts funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. These investments cover over 11 million acres in fiscal year 2024, contributing to the highest total investment in private lands conservation in any year in the history of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Biden-Harris Administration's Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history, bolstered funding for in-demand NRCS conservation programs for climate-smart practices on farms, ranches, and forests. NRCS also released updated state-by-state data showing where financial assistance went in fiscal year 2024 for resources provided under both the Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act.

### Click here to learn more.

### USDA and Wisconsin Award \$23.2 Million to Projects that Strengthen Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to award \$23.2 million for 30 projects through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). The 30 Infrastructure Grants recently announced and the previously announced 41 Equipment Grants total 71 projects in Wisconsin funded through RFSI to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain while strengthening local and regional food systems.

### Click here to read more.

### USDA Invests More than \$7.5 Million in Composting and Food Waste Reduction Projects

USDA is investing more than \$7.5 million in 26 cooperative agreements that support innovative, scalable waste management plans to reduce and divert food waste from landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) cooperative agreements are part of USDA's broad support for urban agriculture. The CFWR program is jointly administered by USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Selected projects, including the Sun Prairie Food RESCU Pilot in Wisconsin, will be implemented between now and 2027.

### Click here to learn more.

FEBRUARY 2025 WISCONSIN



### **GREETINGS**

For more than 85 years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin has worked directly with America's farmers and landowners to put conservation on the ground and protect our natural resources. We are dedicated to helping people make investments in their operations and local communities to keep our working lands working.

Fiscal year 2024 brought more opportunities than ever before for NRCS to work with private landowners and Tribal Nations through the Farm Bill and the additional funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. The combination of these resources have allowed NRCS to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance needed to support conservation opportunities in a way that is cost effective and aligns with your conservation goals. Each of our voluntary programs incorporate enhancements aimed at bolstering conservation opportunities at the local level. Through the adoption of conservation practices, we work together to address your natural resource concerns. NRCS Wisconsin is dedicated to assisting those who are helping improve soil health, water, and air quality, and many more of our nation's natural resources.



In this annual report, you'll learn about our fiscal year 2024 program successes, along with highlights of the work we do. Through our continued focus and emphasis on conservation planning, our field staff are connecting with customers across the state to develop and implement plans to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the country's life-supporting vital natural assets. We will continue to meet the unique conservation and business goals of those who grow our nation's food and fiber. We are 'Helping People Help the Land' to ensure our natural resources are regenerative for future generations.

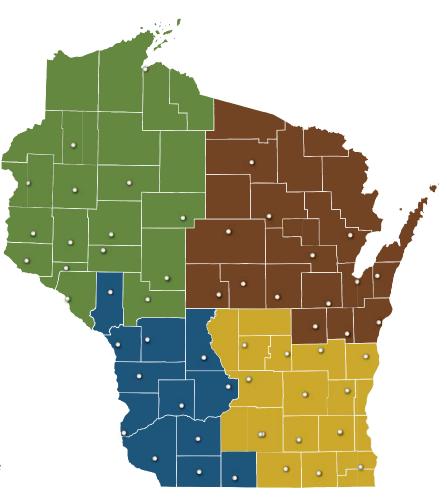
Nathan J. Fikkert
State Conservationist
NRCS Wisconsin

### **OUR AGENCY**

NRCS works with farmers, landowners, ranchers, private forest managers, Tribal Nations, and agricultural producers of all-sized operations across the country to help them boost agricultural productivity and protect our natural resources through conservation. Our vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

### **OUR STAFF**

NRCS in Wisconsin has nearly 325 staff across the state to meet the unique resource needs of our farmers and landowners. Every county in Wisconsin is supported by one of the 54 USDA Service Centers located across the state. Our offices (see map) provide customer service at the local level.









### **Table of Contents**

Conservation Results	1
State Resource Priorities	1
Funding Impact	2
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	2
Top 10 EQIP Practices	3
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	4
Conservation Stewardship Program	4
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	5
Partnerships in Focus	6
Outreach in Action	6

### United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200 Madison, Wisconsin 53717-2906 (608) 662-4422

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi





Find us on YouTube www.youtube.com/@NRCS\_WI

Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) www.twitter.com/NRCS\_WI

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/USDANRCS

### **CONSERVATION RESULTS**



1,133,654

**ACRES OF CONSERVATION** APPLIED TO IMPROVE **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.** 



55,779

**ACRES OF FOREST LAND WITH CONSERVATION APPLIED TO** IMPROVE PLANT CONDITION.



955,676

**ACRES OF CROPLAND WITH CONSERVATION APPLIED TO** IMPROVE SOIL QUALITY.

**1.23 MIL.** acres were covered under conservation plans.

acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability.

39,251

acres of grazing land with conservation applied to improve the resource base.

3,966

acres with conservation applied to improve agricultural irrigation water

19,735 acres of non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat.



### STATE RESOURCE PRIORITIES

Identified by the

### **WISCONSIN STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- Concentrated Erosion
- 2 Degraded Plant Condition
- Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
- Soil Quality Limitation
- Wind and Water Erosion

# **FUNDING IMPACT**



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



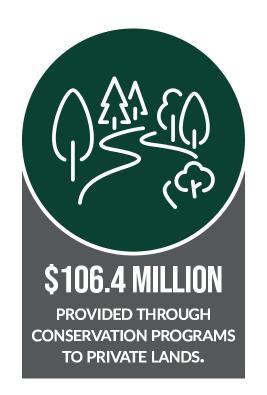
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

\$34.7 MIL.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

\$58.3 MIL.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM** 



# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program promoting agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality that helps install or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices to protect soil and water quality. In fiscal year 2024, NRCS staff worked to establish 1,486 contracts, enrolling 208,128 acres. Conservation results are below:

9.69 MIL.

dollars provided in 111 EQIP contracts on 48,020 acres through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

2.64 MIL.

dollars provided for Socially Disadvantaged groups.

616,767

dollars provided in 5 EQIP contracts covering 231 acres for the National Water Quality Initiative.

595,781

dollars provided through EQIP to 5 Tribal Nations covering 1,015 acres for conservation improvements.

145,985

dollars provided in 6 EQIP contracts covering 1,050 acres for Mississippi River Basin Initiative.

11.5 MIL.

dollars provided in 422 EQIP contracts covering 19,538 acres for New and Beginning Farmers.

317,529

dollars provided in 15 EQIP contracts covering 137 acres for the National Organic Initiative.

28.8 MIL.

dollars provided in 461 EQIP contracts covering 106,508 acres for Climate-Smart Agriculture & Forestry through the Inflation Reduction Act.

24,376

dollars provided in 2 EQIP contracts covering 33 acres for the Organic Transition Initiative.

257,620

dollars provided in 18 EQIP contracts covering 170 acres for Urban Agriculture and Forestry Conservation.

31,954

dollars provided in 10 EQIP contracts covering 269 acres for On-Farm Energy.

1.1 MIL.

dollars provided in 220 EQIP contracts covering 14,990 acres for Conservation Planning Activities, Design & Implementation Activities, and Conservation Evaluation & Monitoring Activities.

# TOP 10 EQIP PRACTICES by Practice Count

COVER CROP
Practice count: 1152
Funds obligated: \$15,888,752

BRUSH MANAGEMENT
Practice count: 594
Funds obligated: \$2,514,259

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

Practice count: 537

Funds obligated: \$6,931,865

RESIDUE & TILLAGE MANAGEMENT, NO-TILL
Practice count: 382
Funds obligated: \$7,341,588

FENCE
Practice count: 355
Funds obligated: \$7,537,610

MULCHING
Practice count: 291
Funds obligated: \$6,981,434

TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT
Practice count: 249
Funds obligated: \$3,027,346

LIVESTOCK PIPELINE
Practice count: 231
Funds obligated: \$6,937,999

FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT
Practice count: 225
Funds obligated: \$1,859,100

WATERING FACILITY
Practice count: 201
Funds obligated: \$6,940,250



# **AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands, wetlands, and adjacent uplands and their related benefits. Wetland Reserve Easements provide technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Tribal Nations to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) or 30year wetland restoration contract. Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) provide financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land and mitigate the threat of conversion to nonagricultural uses. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. Highlights for fiscal year 2024 include:

**6.6 MIL.** dollars were provided covering 1,344 acres. dollars were provided for 17 ACEP-WRE agreements

dollars were obligated to partnership agreement easement monitoring and management services. dollars were obligated to partnership agreements providing

**967,500** dollars were provided for 3 ACEP-ALE agreement covering 391 acres.





# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP **PROGRAM**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. The CSP provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years.

293,845

acres were enrolled in new Conservation Stewardship Program

classic (new) Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.

renewed Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.

Grassland Conservation Initiative contracts.





\$532,000

PROVIDED IN WRE

REPAIR, MAINTENANCE

AND MANAGEMENT

PROJECTS.

# REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation by leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals on a regional or watershed scale. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts or easement agreements to help producers, landowners, and other entities install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.

1.68 MIL dollars provided in 91 contracts for Land Management & Rental (LMR).

dollars provided in 13 contracts for Entity Held Easements (EHE).

18.479 dollars is the average contract obligation amount.



NRCS Wisconsin is involved in 13 active RCPP projects - 10 Classic and 3 Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) - and is the lead state on 11 projects.





**BRUSH** MANAGEMENT Contract count: 20 Funds obligated: \$185,305

**FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT** Contract count: 15 Funds obligated: \$56,572

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN** Contract count: 13 Funds obligated: \$29,971

HERBACEOUS WEED TREATMENT Contract count: 10 Funds obligated: \$54,184





### PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS

Partnerships allows NRCS to expand the reach and depth of conservation. In fiscal year 2024, NRCS Wisconsin collaborated with conservation partners to enter into 34 new agreements. These agreements leverage NRCS financial investments with partner contributions to help put conservation on the land and address natural resource concerns.

NRCS Wisconsin thanks the following partners for their collaboration and financial commitment in making conservation work:

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Calumet County Land Conservation Department

Dominican Center for Women, Inc.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Earth Island Institute

Glacierland Resource Conservation &

Development Council, Inc.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation &

Development Council, Inc.

King's Academy Christian School

Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department Monroe County Land Conservation Department

Northcentral Technical College

Oneida Nation

Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Pierce County Land Conservation Department

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Rooted

Stockbridge-Munsee

Community

Urban Triage

University of Wisconsin -Platteville

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Extension University of Wisconsin
– Madison, College of
Agriculture and Life
Sciences

University of Wisconsin System

USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

Valley Stewardship Network

Victory Garden Initiative

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Wetlands Association



# OUTREACH IN ACTION

NRCS is dedicated to ensuring our programs and services are made accessible to all NRCS customers, fairly and equitably, with an emphasis on reaching underserved and socially disadvantaged agricultural producers throughout Wisconsin. By institutionalizing outreach and partnerships in delivering our services and programs, we are increasing our ability to reach a broader, more diverse group of producers. Supportive efforts made in fiscal year 2024 are highlighted below:

**25** outreach events were recorded by field staff at the local/area level.

of the recorded events identified at least one of the following groups as being the primary target audience: Historically Underserved, Urban/Small-Scale agricultural producers, Veterans, women, and new customers.

23 statewide conferences/events housed NRCS booths that were staffed with employee volunteers.

of the contracts funded in fiscal year 2024, were awarded to participants identifying as historically underserved producers. The approximate breakdown of these contracts are as follows: 27.5% RCPP, 34.6% EQIP, 19.2% CSP, and 12.6% GLRI.





# Helping People Help the Land



www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi

#### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**







#### **DATCP**

#### **Bureau of Land and Water Resources**

#### February 2025

#### **Soil and Water Resources Management Grants**

- Reimbursement requests for 2024 are due February 15, 2025. This includes SWRM cost-share, staffing, NMFE, and cooperator grants.
- The 2026 SWRM Grant Application is available on the SWRM webpage.
- **NEW FORMS REQUIRED!** Many of the SWRM forms have been updated with new content and new numbers. Please refer to <u>Section 3 of the SWRM Grant Resources</u> webpage to access these forms.
- \*\*SWRM Master Contract NOTICE\*\* The SWRM master contracts will be updated this year. These five-year contracts will require an authorized county signature this spring. IF THE COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY FOR THE COUNTY please contact Kim or Hailey with the correct name and email address. This master contract will update the 2017 master contract and will be updated every five years. In the intervening years, you will need to acknowledge approval of the Schedule of Awards as in past years.

#### **Nutrient Management News**

- 2026 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant Application open January 31<sup>st</sup>-April 15<sup>th</sup>. Request for Applications and the Application can be found on the NMFE Webpage here: <u>DATCP Home Nutrient Management</u> <u>Farmer Education Grants</u>. Please direct any questions to Andrea Topper at <u>Andrea.Topper@wisconsin.gov</u>
- **February 11**<sup>th</sup> at **10am** DATCP staff will be hosting a NMFE webinar focusing on the application process and will answer any grant related questions. Register Here: <a href="https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7b5dafb1-f1b5-43cd-9ad7-a96bf8b1c6f0@f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa">https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7b5dafb1-f1b5-43cd-9ad7-a96bf8b1c6f0@f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa</a>
- <u>2025 Virtual Nutrient Management Training for Farmers</u>-This training provides both the basics of nutrient management and an introduction to SnapPlus. The same training will be offered on 2 dates. Participants only need to attend one training date to be certified as an eligible farmer plan writer.

Date: March 14. Time: 10am to 3pm

- o Register here
- Counties that would like some assistance on Nutrient Management Quality Assurance Reviews should email Cody Calkins at <u>cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov</u>. We are looking at providing assistance this year to at least three counties.

#### **Conservation Engineering**

- After almost 25 years with DATCP, Stacy Dehne is leaving for an engineering position with DOA. Her dedication to the counties and conservation, and vast knowledge and willingness to share it with others has been greatly appreciated. She will be missed! We will be working to backfill her position as quickly as possible, so watch for a job posting coming this month.
- Engineering Reserve Fund: DATCP will once again be offering funds in 2025 for projects that address a resource concern. Projects that address a farm discharge will be prioritized, but other conservation practices that address nutrients and/or soil erosion will be considered as well. If you have a project that needs funds, or needs additional funding to complete, watch for more information coming soon from your DATCP area engineering

contact. Deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 28th.

- Cultural Resources checks for State-funded projects (e.g. SWRM grants) are now submitted through DATCP. An
  informational email was sent last month containing information on the new submittal process.
   NOTE: Federally-funded projects should continue to be submitted through NRCS as before.
   Your DATCP Cultural Resources contacts by area are below:
  - North Area Sarah Hovis (sarah.hovis@wisconsin.gov)
  - Northwest Area Dennis Marquardt, Jr. (dennis.marquardtjr@wisconsin.gov)
  - Northeast Area Peter Wurzer (peter.wurzer@wisconsin.gov)
  - Southwest Area Taylor Smagacz (taylor.smagacz@wisconsin.gov)
  - Southeast Area Jon Lisowe (jon.lisowe@wisconsin.gov)

#### Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

• At the February 4, 2025, LWCB meeting Columbia, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties will be presenting LWRM plan 5-year reviews to the board.

#### **DATCP Drainage Program**

- The DATCP Drainage Program is developing the Winter 2025 quarterly newsletter. The intent of the newsletter will be to highlight successes and challenges facing drainage districts and County Drainage Boards throughout the State. The newsletter is part of the Department's overall effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies for all stakeholders involved with Wisconsin Drainage Law. The Department is seeking input for the quarterly newsletter. If you have a project or information that you would like to highlight, please send your ideas to Barton T. Chapman, P.E., Drainage Program Manager at Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov.
- The Wisconsin Association of Drainage Boards (WADB), in cooperation with DATCP, will be holding regional educational outreach meetings throughout the State in 2025. Meeting logistics will be shared as they become available.
- All activities within drainage districts are managed and administered by a County Drainage Board. Contact
  information can be found on the Drainage Program website <a href="here">here</a> or contact Barton T. Chapman, P.E., Drainage
  Program Manager at Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov.

#### Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program

- The AIS program published <u>AIS 4600</u> for the Grid Forward Central Wisconsin Transmission Line Project in Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire and Trempealeau Counties.
- You can find more information about the AIS program at <a href="mailto:agimpact.wi.gov">agimpact.wi.gov</a>. You can also contact <a href="mailto:DATCPAgImpactStatements@wi.gov">DATCPAgImpactStatements@wi.gov</a> with questions regarding any active AIS statement or the AIS program.

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

For information about the AEA petition process, including application materials, visit the <u>Petitioning for AEA</u>
 <u>Designation webpage</u>. Please contact <u>wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov</u> with any questions you have about the AEA program.

• The <u>DATCP Home Farmland Preservation Tax Credits (wi.gov)</u> has been updated with additional information to help landowners and tax preparers choose the correct tax schedule when filing for an FP tax credit. If you receive any questions from landowners or tax preparers regarding questions related to tax credit claims or tax credit denials, please contact <u>wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov</u>. Landowners who have received a denial letter have a limited amount of time to file an appeal with DOR; timely action is critical.

#### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- <u>Farm Bill Extended to 9/30/2025</u>: On 12/21/2024 the federal government passed another extension of the 2018 Farm Bill on that runs until 9/30/2025. DATCP is waiting to hear from our FSA partners for details when CREP will be opened again for enrollment. Hopeful it will be in early 2025. DATCP will provide updates as soon as we receive more details.
- <u>Submit Outstanding Items To DATCP for Completion</u>: If you submitted a request to DATCP for processing, but were contacted by State CREP staff requesting additional items for processing, please submit those items as soon as possible. Also, continue to submit any CREP agreements from last year that DATCP has not year received.

#### **Soil Health Program**

#### **Soil Health Trainings and initiatives**

- The ATCP 50 office hours touch on how the soil health principles can guide our conservation planning by looking at the whole farm with systems approach. See the ATCP 50 update below for the recorded ATCP 50 office hours and contact Randy Zogbaum at <a href="mailto:randalll.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov">randalll.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov</a> if you have any questions.
- A new soil health module has been added to the NMFE curriculum if you are looking for resources on soil health.
- Reminder that the new online Soil Health curriculum is live and available on our <u>soilhealthtraining.wi.gov</u> website. The purpose of this curriculum is to develop a common definition and understanding of Soil Health and develop some guideposts of how to implement soil health systems on Wisconsin Farms. Modules 1-3 establish a common language of Soil Health in Wisconsin agriculture. For questions regarding this training or the soil health program contact Randy Zogbaum at randalll.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov.

#### **2025 Soil Health Trainings and initiatives**

- In 2025 we will work on completing module 4 of the online Soil Health Training focusing on applying soil health principles in Wisconsin cropping systems. Stay tuned for opportunities to be involved in this training.
- As we implement these practices knowing that this work is improving soil health can be demonstrated using NRCS Soil Health Assessment Techniques. Stay tuned in 2025 for more on this initiative.

#### **Cover Crop Insurance Rebate Program**

- <u>The 2024-2025 Crop Insurance Rebate for Planting Cover Crops Application</u> is now closed and acres are being reviewed.
- To qualify, cover crops must be planted in 2024 on fields to be insured with a cash crop in 2025. The acres cannot receive state or federal cover crop funding support during this same time.

• Program information and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the department website.

#### **Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program**

- Cycle 3 of the NOPP grants closed January 17, 2025. The NOPP team will be reviewed and scored by the NOPP Review Team. Awards should be announced in late February.
- UW will be hosting regional meetings to discuss Insights from on-farm research on February 19 in Eau Claire,
   February 21 in Arlington, and February 24 Appleton. You can register here to attend:
   https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/nitrogen-optimization-pilot-program/#Events

#### Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG) Program

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

#### **ATCP 50 Update**

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

#### **Staffing Update**

- The Land & Water Resource Management Planner position (formerly held by Lisa Trumble) has been posted with
  an application deadline of February 17. Go to wisc.jobs and search for job 16837 to learn more about the
  position and apply. If you have any questions, contact Katy Smith at <a href="mailto:Katy.Smith@wisconsin.gov">Katy.Smith@wisconsin.gov</a>.
- The Land and Water Resources Bureau Director position has been posted with an application deadline of February 17. Go to wisc.jobs and search for job 16855 to learn more about the position and apply. If you have any questions, contact Tim Anderson at Timothy1.Anderson@wisconsin.gov.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

DATE: Feb. 4, 2025

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jason Knutson, Wisconsin DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, December 2024 – January 2025, For February 2025 LWCB

Meeting

#### Runoff Grants - TRM & UNPS Construction Applications Now Available

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant applications for projects beginning in 2026 are now available on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s grant program webpage. For an overview of the Targeted Runoff Management grant program and application process, please watch the presentation on the grant program webpage.

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water (UNPS & SW) Planning Grant applications for projects beginning in 2026 are now available on the DNR's <u>grant program webpage</u>. For an overview of the Urban Nonpoint Source Planning grant program and application process, please watch the presentation on the <u>grant program webpage</u>.

Eligible applicants have until April 15, 2025 to submit applications.

#### **NOD Grant Program Update**

The DNR is accepting applications for the 2025 Notice of Discharge Grant program. Application forms and more information are available on the grant program page. Applicants should work with their Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator to develop high-quality, competitive applications. The first funding decisions are anticipated during spring 2025, with up to three additional decision periods dependent on available funding.

#### **Storm Water Program Update**

The DNR issued a modification to WPDES Mineral (Nonmetallic) Mining and/or Processing General Permit No. WI-0046515-07-02. The modified permit became effective Dec. 31, 2024 ("General Permit").



The General Permit has been modified following an administrative order signed Oct. 4, 2024. As a result of the order, effective Dec. 31, 2024, sampling point 006 will only apply to process wastewater discharges to groundwater (such as infiltration from unlined ponds) at industrial sand facility activities commonly categorized under Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 1446, pursuant to federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations.

You can access a modified version of the permit on the DNR website.

Permittees have been mailed a copy of the permit re-issuance letter.

#### **DNR CAFO Workshops**

The <u>2025 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations</u> (CAFO) Workshops are fast approaching, and there is still time to register! The DNR conducts these workshops with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension to provide useful information for Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES)-permitted CAFO owners and managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers. We are hosting seven workshops throughout the state between Jan. 28 and Feb. 12.

- Green Bay: Tuesday, Jan. 28, noon 4 p.m.
- Fond du Lac: Wednesday, Jan. 29, noon 4 p.m.
- **Manitowoc:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 8 a.m. noon
- **Darlington:** Tuesday, Feb. 4, noon 4 p.m.
- **Jefferson:** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m. noon
- Mauston: Tuesday, Feb. 11, noon 4 p.m.
- **Eau Claire:** Wednesday, Feb. 12, 8 a.m. noon

Based on attendees' feedback, we've moved the technical engineering topics and discussion to a separate session before the regular CAFO workshops in Green Bay and Mauston. Attendees, including non-engineers, are welcome to attend the engineering sessions at no additional cost. The topics for the engineering technical workshops are listed in the <u>CAFO Workshops flyer</u>. The meal is included with registration for either or both sessions.

There is time set aside before and after the sessions for networking and one-on-one time with DNR staff.

<u>Registration for the workshops is available online</u>. The registration fee is \$46, with a \$10 late fee if you register after the Thursday before the event. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 workshops.

#### <u>Surface Water Grant Program Update</u>

The DNR Surface Water Grant Program has reviewed and ranked approximately 225 final grant applications and finalized the funding list for FY25 surface water grant recipients. Additionally, the program has received and funded seven Healthy Lakes and Rivers, six AIS Early Detection and Response, 156 Clean Boats, Clean Waters and 38 Lake Monitoring and Protection Network noncompetitive grants. The Lake Monitoring and Protection Network has a continued presence in 69 of 72 counties.

Overall, the program received over \$7.8M in requests, resulting in the program being oversubscribed by approximately \$1.6M. The rivers category received approximately \$400k in requests, with the category 38% oversubscribed; the lakes category received over \$2.4M in requests, with the category 44% oversubscribed; the AIS category received over \$2.8M in requests, with the category 35% oversubscribed.

Grant awards will be announced in the beginning of February 2025, with the priority funding list posted to the <u>Wisconsin DNR's Surface Water Grant website</u>.