

State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

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

Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

June 4, 2024

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on June 4, 2024. The board will hold its official business meeting at 9:30 am at the Vernon County Erlandson Building, 1st Floor Conference Room, 318 Fairlane Dr. in Viroqua, WI. There will not be a virtual option. 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 April 2, 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 Recommendation for approval of 5 Year LWRM Plan review for Chippewa County

Lynda Schweikert, Chippewa County Conservationist/Deputy Director; Charles Bomar, Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee Chair

- 4 Recommendation for approval of 5 Year LWRM Plan review for Vernon County
Ben Wojahn, Vernon County Conservationist; Will Beitlich, Mary Henry, Nathaniel Slack, David Eggen Land Conservation and Education Committee Chair and Members

- 5 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates
Ron Grasshoff, LWCB

Mark Cupp, Chair;

Monte Osterman, Secretary

*Members: Andrew Butties; Ron Grasshoff; Rebecca Clarke; Yogesh Chawla; Brian McGraw;
Andrew Potts; Robby Personette; Jill Schoen*

- 6 Agency reports (written reports only)
- 7 Planning for August 2024 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 8 Adjourn

Adjourn for lunch. Following lunch planned field visits to sites at Sidie Hollow County Park, Yttri-Primmer Dam, and Steve Barr's Grade Stabilization project.

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 2, 2024
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 6, 2024, LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met over Microsoft Teams on **April 2, 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, Andrew Buttles, Katy Smith for Robby Personette, Andrew Potts, and Chris Clayton for Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Christina Anderson (WI Land + Water), Ian Krauss (FSA), Dave Gundlach (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW Extension)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Cupp requested to take up agenda item 5 before agenda item 2. McGraw motioned to approve the agenda as revised, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Potts motioned to approve the February 6, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

Item #5 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates & Bylaw Revision

Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP, discussed updates from the March 5th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Research including a review of the Committee's work plan; McGraw volunteered to serve on Advisory Committee on Research in a limited capacity; the Committee will reconvene on July 2nd, 2024.

Smith, DATCP, discussed a proposed bylaw revision the committee recommended at its January 9th meeting. Osterman clarified that his recommendation for the bylaw change was to require one member of the committee to be filled any WI Land + Water member, including but not limited to association staff, Land Conservation Committee Representatives or County Staff- the original intent of the recommendation was not to limit committee representation to LWCB members elected under s. 15.135(4)(b)2., Wis. Stats. Smith indicated that agency staff would consult DATCP Office of Legal Counsel surrounding Board authorities to appoint non-Board members to Committees and their

eligibility to vote. After a discussion between the Board and Committee representatives, Osterman motioned to send bylaw revision back to the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

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

MaryJo Gingras, County Conservationist, and George Bussey, Land Conservation Committee Vice-Chair, and Charlie Ortman, Land Conservation Committee Member, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

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

Jim Arch, Clark County Conservationist, and Fritz Garbisch, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

Item #6 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 into 2024; Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2022 Cost-share dollars

Katy Smith, DATCP presented on the extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 to 2024 and a written report, available within the [April 2, 2024 meeting packet](#), on transfers and reallocations of 2023 cost-share dollars.

Motion

Buttles motioned to approve the extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 to 2024 as presented, seconded by McGraw. The motion carried.

Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Barron County

Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Conservationist, Dave Gifford, Director of Land Services, and Randy Cook, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

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

Item #9 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Gundlach submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Gundlach reported Josh Odekirk is still Acting State Conservationist; Ryan Gerlich recently started as Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships; there are 3 Notice of Funding Opportunities and 3 National Agreement Opportunities including Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production available through grants.gov
- c. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz reported: [Dr. Malika Nocco](#) has joined the Biological Systems Engineering Department to work on water quantity issues; the [Wisconsin Rural Partnerships Institute](#) has funded 2 UW CALS Projects: *Preparing Wisconsin's rural communities for amplified weather conditions* and *Improving Central Sands groundwater quality to ensure a vibrant future for agriculture, rural living and surrounding ecosystems*; Discovery Farms is working on water quality monitoring in Kewaunee County and will be adding an element for bioreactors; the [Agriculture Institute](#) at Extension is very close to being fully staffed.
- d. WI Land + Water- Anderson reported with April 2nd being election day, County Board supervisors are up for election, looking forward the association will focus on training new Land Conservation Committee members around the state; WI Land + Water will be [adjusting the timing of elections for association representatives to the LWCB](#); the association had a successful annual conference with over 500 attendees in early March.
- e. DOA- Potts previously reported that DNR submitted a s. 13.10 request to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to access \$125 million dollars approved under the state 23-25 biennial budget to address PFAS contamination. The DNR withdrew their initial request and resubmitted a request to more closely align with legislative prerogatives; the legislative session is now over and won't resume until January.

- f. DATCP- Smith submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- g. DNR- Clayton submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).

Item #10 Planning for the April 2, 2024 LWCB meeting

The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting, which will be an in-person meeting in Vernon County:

- 5-year Review Chippewa and Vernon Counties
- If available, the 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates

Item #11 Adjourn

Motion

Smith motioned to adjourn, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: May 20, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the *Chippewa 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 Chippewa County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2029, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2024. In advance of the five-year review, Chippewa 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
- 2023 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2024 Annual Workplan

Presenter: Lynda Schweikert, County Conservationist/Deputy Director, Chippewa County LCFMD
Charles Bomar, Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee Chair



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

County: Chippewa

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.

Goal 3, Objective 2: Chippewa County participated in a Groundwater Quality Index Study. This study supplemented the long-term nitrate testing being conducted in the County, along with helping to create a nitrate groundwater risk assessment through UW Stevens Point. The risk assessment is to help identify areas by looking at soil types and land uses to predict their prevalence of nitrate contamination. This will be used in the future to help fine tune conservation practices that can reduce and prevent future nitrate contamination.

Chippewa County also participated in a Nitrate Trend Study. This is an annual testing of similar wells to identify areas that are trending up, down or staying the same in regards to Nitrate contamination. This study will lead to further investigation of land uses in the areas trending down to see if correlation can be identified and to help develop practices that will reduce contamination in the future.

To assist in surface water sampling, Chippewa County installed a gaging station on Drywood creek to monitor hydrologic effects on land use changes.

Goal 4, Objective 5: A major accomplishment was the completion of two (2) 9 Key Element Plans for the Lake Wissota Watershed Basin. The first 9 Key Element Plan was created for the Little Lake Wissota Watershed. This Watershed had been the focus of an ongoing partnership with Leinenkugel's where they provided funding to address nonpoint pollution concerns in the local water body.

The second 9 Key Element Plan was completed for Lower Yellow River & Moon Bay of the Lake Wissota Watershed. This 9 Key Element Plan was a great planning tool, inventorying all the land uses and resource concerns that flow to a portion of Lake Wissota. The creation of this plan allowed the County to apply for a large-scale Targeted Runoff Management Grant to address the resource concerns of the watershed.

Goal 4 Objective 6: Amended Stormwater Erosion Control Ordinance 10/10/2023. Urban Stormwater Erosion Control. This revision included the addition of Illicit Discharge. By continuing to partner with the MS4 Permitted municipalities and

improving our Stormwater Management, we can continue to prevent surface water pollution from our Urban Areas.

Goal 5 Objective 5: Repealed Animal Waste Management & Utilization Ordinance and Adopted the Agricultural Performance Standards, Manure Storage and Livestock Facility Management (APSMSLFM) Ordinance 9/14/2021. The update to the existing Animal Waste Storage Ordinance added all of the NR 151 Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. A lot of planning goes into the update of an Ordinance and this major change required a lot of information, education and outreach.

Goal 5, Objective 5: Amended the Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance 3/12/2024. This ordinance was amended to more directly reference and incorporate policy and procedures, and administrative guidance used in ordinance administration (LCFM). This allows us to proactively protect our surface and groundwater resources. Also completed a 6 year study with UW River Falls to demonstrate reclamation techniques using test plots

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.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Expanding Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA's). The county was able to establish two (2) AEA's, however they haven't expanded much beyond the original landowners interested in the Farmland Preservation Program. Much of this was due to the low tax credit paid to AEA's. \$5.00/Acre barely covered soil samples, much less pay for the writing of a nutrient management plan. This disinterest caused the county to focus efforts in the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project.

Goal 2, Objective 3: CREP Buffers were very popular in the early 2000's, however, interest had tapered off with decreasing rental rates, increasing management requirements and expiring contracts within perpetual easements. Initially, perpetual easements were very popular with the upfront incentive payment, however, as rental payments stopped and land changed owners, the appeal of perpetual easements has decreased. Chippewa County is now looking at precision agricultural practices that assess the low yielding areas of the fields that would be better off in harvestable buffers or field borders than continuing to put inputs into commodity crops.

Goal 2, Objective 5: Support the efforts of major farm and forestry organizations and public agencies to develop and pursue market-based mechanisms to sequester carbon and increase soil organic matter, improve water quality, and mitigate climate change as part of ongoing agricultural and forestry operations, including efforts to compile, market, and monitor carbon or water quality credits. Chippewa County Board voted not to pursue Forestry Carbon Credits 12/13/2022

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.

In 2019, the priority farms were based on the fact that public requests exceeded funding. Chippewa County implemented the requirement for a voluntary NR 151 assessment prior to applying for cost sharing. In addition, the county applied for two large scale TRM Grants in Little Lake Wissota and Yellow River watersheds in consecutive years and requested MDV funding. None of these funds were allocated when I started in 2022. We started doing direct mailings to producers in the watershed, but didn't receive any applications with the NR 151 whole farm walk over requirement.

We reassessed our priority farm strategy and came at it from the major resource concern for Chippewa County, and that was nitrate contamination in the groundwater. We then refocused our priorities on landowners that were located on soils sensitive to nitrate leaching. We have been promoting soil health practices, such as cover crops, and have achieved great success in promoting the practice and seeing continued adoption past the cost shared year.

We have maintained the NR 151 walkover requirement on farms applying to install an Animal Waste Storage Facility and for farms that receive a viable NR 151 runoff complaint. Cost sharing will be prioritized for those addressing NR 151 standards.

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.

Changes in our Land & Water Resource Management Plan for the next 5 years are the following:

Goal 2, Objective 2: While not a deviation from the original LWRMP, the approval of WI Act 42, will allow us to do greater outreach for Farmland Preservation in our AEA Areas. In 2025, Chippewa County will be updating their Farmland Preservation Plan and we are hoping that we will have interest in expanding the AEA's into other townships as well.

Goal 2, Objective 2: The LWRMP references technical assistance throughout the document. We are in the process of expanding the job approval and skills of our engineering division to install a more diverse set of practices. In the past the, office focused on spending the funds on one or two large practices such as Animal Waste Storage or CREP Buffers. We are expanding our knowledge into roof runoff structures, heavy use area protection, grassed water ways and waste facility closures. By diversifying our skill set, we are able to assist many more producers than we have in the past.

Goal 4, Objective 2: Emphasis will be put on Farmer Written Nutrient Management Plans and assisting with updates. By focusing more on training and less on cost sharing, we feel we are empowering the producer to be in control of their own plan and ultimately their operation. We feel this approach will help with achieving continuing compliance in NMP.

Goal 4, Objective 5: In 2024, we hope to apply for another Large Scale TRM Grant in the Lower Yellow River Watershed to apply the new practices, implement cover crop and soil health practices, and continue our partnership with the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association.

Goal 5, Objective 5: Once again, while not a deviation from the LWRMP, we will be updating the APSMSLFM Ordinance to make it more enforceable. Having had the opportunity to enforce utilizing the amended ordinance, consultants have found loop holes in the verbiage and we hope to improve the enforceability of the Ordinance going forward.

Two new items not mentioned in the 2019 LWRMP that we will be pursuing are the creation and support of Chippewa Valley Producer Led Watershed Council (CVPLWC). We are supporting their efforts in finding a coordinator and will provide information, education for their outreach events. The CVPLWC was established in 2023 and has received a 2024 PLW grant. They plan on providing cost sharing for the promotion of rotational grazing, cover crops, soil health and precision agriculture.

The second new activity will be to continue to work with townships to establish water refill stations in areas of high nitrate concentrations as a way for the county to provide a safe source of drinking and cooking water for the residents, while looking for ways to prevent further contamination of the resource.

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.

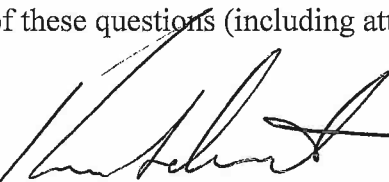
Board Review Process

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:
2/21/2024

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

 Date: 2-21-2024

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

Chippewa 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management Goal 2 – Preserve the land, support sustainable production, provide biodiversity & protect the natural ecology Objective 2 – Support community to protect farmland and to preserve productive working lands under WI Stat Chapter 91	Conduct NR 151 farm evaluations Install Cropland practices as prescribed from walkovers	1. 4 - AEA's 18 Self Certified 2. 2 – AWO 8 inspections 3. 1 - CAFO's 1 inspection with DNR 4. 4 - NR 243 Complaints 5 Complaints 1. 100 Acres Cover Crops 592 Ac 2. 2 Ac Grassed Waterways 1 contracted but not installed 3. 30,000 ac Updated NMP's 43,535 Ac Updated 4. 500 ac New NMP's 0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	Plan and install livestock facilities	1. 1 AWO Permits issued 2 Issued 2. 1 AWO structures to install 1 Installed 3. 5 AWO structures to abandon 4 permitted/1 deconstructed 4. 2 existing AWO structures to be inspected 8 inspected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories) Objective 4 – Provide technical assistance and services to landowners	<i>Practice installation</i> <i>CREP</i> <i>Groundwater testing</i> <i>Citizen monitoring</i>	1. 10 Ac Riparian Buffers 0 Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #’s of P Reduced #’s of sediment reduced 2. 25% of CREP Contracts Inspected 2 inspected 3. # of wells tested through Rural Well Testing Program 142 4. # of wells sampled through Groundwater Quality Index 699 5. # of wells sampled through Nitrate Occurrence and Source Inv 291
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	Practice installation	1 Outdoor Recreation Plan developed Completed 12/12/2023 117 miles of recreation trails maintained Complete 18 forest roads maintained Complete

Chippewa 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

		2 snowmobile bridges - 76 feet replaced Complete 65' of crossings installed Complete
• <i>Invasive</i>		
Invasive species	Surveys Management plans Control	1 of survey completed Complete 2 control efforts implemented/sites treated Complete
• <i>Wildlife</i>		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wetland restoration Wildlife damage program Tree and plant sales	2 Acres of wetland restored No landowner interest 2 landowners serviced 10,000 trees sold 11,700 Trees Sold
• <i>Urban</i>		
Urban issues	Stormwater control	60 - site visits 79 inspections 6 - plans reviews 11 Reviewed 6 - permits issued 11 Issued 1 - compliance issues resolved 0 compliance issues
• <i>Watershed</i>		
Watershed strategies Goal 4 Nonpoint source water pollution control programs to pursue state and local water quality objectives and protect the public health, safety and welfare Objective 5 – Support State efforts to pursue water quality objectives through the development and implementation of TMDL limits in designated EPA 319 watersheds	Implement agreements with Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association to implement the Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project for TMDL implementation	<i>Number of meetings attended/presentations given</i> 14 <i>Number of partner contacts made</i> Several <i>Information system/tracking developed</i> Updated Budget Tracking <i>Number of partnership development activities accomplished</i> LWIPA Annual Meeting Tree Planting Moon Bay Pot Luck LWIPA Family Reunion NW State Fair Fall Tour Outreach & Appreciation Meeting
• <i>Other</i>		
Other	Non-metallic and frac sand mining	2 – Permits Issued 0 80 – Inspections Performed 22 90 – Compliance certificates issued 22

Chippewa 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued	Actual
Feedlot permits			
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1	2 issued/1 installed
Manure storage closure	5	5	4 issued/1 installed
Livestock facility siting			
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2	0 issued/1 reclaimed
Stormwater and construction site erosion control			11 issued
Shoreland zoning			
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)			
Other			

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned	Actual
Total Farm Inspections		
For FPP	5	0
For NR 151	5	4
Animal waste ordinance	2	3
Livestock facility siting		
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	10	11
Nonmetallic mining	40	22

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number	Actual
Tours	1	1
Field days	4	6
Trainings/workshops	1	1
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2	1
Newsletters		
Social media posts		
News release/story	4	1

Chippewa 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	1879	\$96,991
Program Agronomist	2080	\$95,292
Env. Engineer	2080	\$116,492
Project Engineer	2080	\$95,292
Conservation Specialist	2080	\$101,782
Admin Asst	1670	\$68,983
Accountant	1670	\$52,443
LTE	975	\$17,847
LTE	975	\$17,847
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$62,000
SEG	N/A	\$75,000
MDV	N/A	\$2,000

Chippewa 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management Goal 2 – Preserve the land, support sustainable production, provide biodiversity & protect the natural ecology Objective 2 – Support community to protect farmland and to preserve productive working lands under WI Stat Chapter 91	Conduct NR 151 farm evaluations Install Cropland practices as prescribed from walkovers	1. 4 - AEA's 2. 2 - AWO 3. 1 - CAFO's 4. 4 - NR 243 Complaints 1. 100 Acres Cover Crops 2. 2 Ac Grassed Waterways 3. 30,000 ac Updated NMP's 4. 500 ac New NMP's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	Plan and install livestock facilities	1. 1 AWO Permits issued 2. 1 AWO structures to install 3. 5 AWO structures to abandon 4. 2 existing AWO structures to be inspected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories) Objective 4 – Provide technical assistance and services to landowners	<i>Practice installation</i> <i>CREP</i> <i>Groundwater testing</i> <i>Citizen monitoring</i>	1. 10 Ac Riparian Buffers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #’s of P Reduced #’s of sediment reduced 2. 25% of CREP Contracts Inspected 3. # of wells tested through Rural Well Testing Program 4. # of wells sampled through Groundwater Quality Index 5. # of wells sampled through Nitrate Occurrence and Source Inv
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	Practice installation	117 miles of recreation trails maintained 18 forest roads maintained 2 snowmobile bridges - 76 feet replaced 65’ of crossings installed

Chippewa 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Invasive*

Invasive species	Surveys Management plans Control	1 of survey completed 2 control efforts implemented/sites treated
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wetland restoration Wildlife damage program Tree and plant sales	2 Acres of wetland restored 2 landowners serviced 10,000 trees sold
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	Stormwater control	60 - site visits 6 - plans reviews 6 - permits issued 1 - compliance issues resolved
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies Goal 4 Nonpoint source water pollution control programs to pursue state and local water quality objectives and protect the public health, safety and welfare Objective 5 – Support State efforts to pursue water quality objectives through the development and implementation of TMDL limits in designated EPA 319 watersheds	Implement agreements with Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association to implement the Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project for TMDL implementation	<i>15 Number of meetings attended/presentations given</i> <i>6 Number of partner contacts made</i> <i>Website Updated</i> <i>Fixed Point Photo Stations Created</i> <i>Pollinator Planting at Boat Landing</i>
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• *Other*

Other	Non-metallic and frac sand mining	2 – Permits Issued 80 – Inspections Performed 90 – Compliance certificates issued
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Chippewa 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	5	5
Livestock facility siting		
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control		
Shoreland zoning		
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)		
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	
For FPP	5
For NR 151	5
Animal waste ordinance	2
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	10
Nonmetallic mining	40

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

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

Chippewa 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	1879	\$106,597.37
Program Agronomist	2080	\$98,178.48
Env. Engineer	2080	\$121,421.54
Project Engineer	2080	\$87,706.94
Conservation Specialist	2080	\$106,164.43
Admin Asst	1670	\$73,303.43
Accountant	1670	\$67,364.29
LTE	975	\$25,002.32
LTE	975	\$25,002.32
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	N/A	\$71,200
SEG	N/A	\$70,000
MDV	N/A	\$0

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: May 23, 2024

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the *Vernon 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 Vernon County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2029, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2024. In advance of the five-year review, Vernon 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
- 2023 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2024 Annual Workplan

Presenter: Ben Wojahn, County Conservationist, Vernon County LWCD
Bill Beitlich, Land Conservation & Education Committee Chair



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

County: Vernon

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.

- **Mission Statement**

The Mission of Vernon County Land & Water Conservation Department is to foster and carry out locally led conservation. Locally led conservation is based on the principle that local leaders and community members are best suited to identify and resolve local natural resource problems. It challenges local, state, and federal agency representatives and urban and rural neighbors to work together and take responsibility for addressing resource needs.

The Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department is much more complex and diverse than most other county LWCD offices in Wisconsin. Our department is responsible for soil conservation practices, nutrient management, runoff concerns, nonmetallic mining, flood control structures, forestry, manure storage, and parks and recreation. We also offer assistance with a diverse range of agricultural and natural resource questions for our public.

As a Land Conservation Department, we take care of public infrastructures such as dams and parks and also assist private landowners with their erosion and conservation challenges. The floods, therefore, have created an extreme increase in workload with flood debris clean up, assisting landowners with damage, and documenting and fixing our public infrastructures. Planning through the LWRM, as well as through the Watershed Plan EIS process, is helping us to make the difficult decisions surrounding dam decommissioning and BMP implementation.

Our department is continually securing grant funding for staffing and soil and water conservation projects. This department currently utilizes Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (DATCP) funds to assist land owners and farmers with their conservation needs. Ben Wojahn and Sarah McDowell have continued to increase staff funding through DATCP and through an NRCS Contribution Agreement. Ben and Sarah have also worked to ensure that DATCP Bond, SEG, NMFE, Conservation Aids, Trout Unlimited, and other monies are available for important conservation practices. The LWRM planning process, along with County priorities, helps us to demonstrate to funders that our grant applications are addressing identified needs in Vernon County.

The LWCD also continues to manage the Wildlife Damage Program, snowmobile trails, stream fishing easements and restoration, Conservation Reserve Enhancement, Nutrient Management assistance and farmer training, managed grazing planning, pasture walks and farmer field days, conservation planning, and other diverse technical assistance. It is the intention of the Land and Water Conservation staff to serve Vernon County and its residents to the best of our ability. We are first and foremost public servants. We will strive to work with the people of Vernon County to protect, utilize, and preserve our natural resources in an economical and sustainable manner. The LWRM plan, along with our mission statement, helps to identify these local priorities with an emphasis on farm economics, surface and groundwater quality, public health, flood mitigation, reducing soil erosion, and enhancing wildlife, recreation, and public health. Planning through the LWRM process helps us to identify priority efforts. We are now utilizing our new Watershed Planner to focus our efforts. Using Lidar, the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework tool, and sophisticated geoprocessing, we are now focusing our efforts to where we can achieve the "biggest bang for the buck". These tools are helping to avoid the buckshot approach of conservation, and instead target projects where the greatest amount of runoff and concentrated flow occur. This is becoming a crucial component to our future planning and activities.

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

In general, Vernon County Land & Water has been able to accomplish and implement our planned goals.

The primary change in emphasis for our department is surrounding the PL-566 dams. Now that two of our dams are breached, and the Watershed Study has identified that Dams in the Coon Creek Watershed and WestFork of the Kickapoo do not meet the cost-benefit analysis for repair or replacement, we must "switch gears" to move forward with dam decommissioning in these Watersheds. Taking out these dams will require significant time and money over the next five plus years. In addition, significant public outreach is needed to explain what is happening and how we are going to continue to increase our efforts with flood mitigation BMP's in order to reduce flooding and runoff.

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.

Meeting the NR 151 performance standards is a priority for our Department. We wouldn't accomplish much without our amazing farmers and landowners. Trust and voluntary compliance with incentives and education are the best ways to further the performance standards and our LWRM goals. This is one reason why we put so much efforts into our Farmer-Led Watershed groups. Vernon County has worked hard to build capacity amongst these groups. It has been an excellent outlet for our farmer education and outreach efforts. We work with our partners to secure additional funding, including DNR funding for a 9-Key

element plan to be developed in the Coon Creek Watershed (Timber Coulee). Farmland Preservation has continued to grow in Vernon County. Countless numbers of night meetings have been attended by our County Conservationist in order to expand the number of towns with Farmland Preservation Zoning. We believe strongly in utilizing our community ties, Watershed Groups, and partners to promote Farmland Preservation, nutrient management, and greater compliance and awareness of the performance standards. Inspections and compliance are an important component to this program.

Promotion and education only go so far. New capacity is also coming from a variety of "unplanned" sources which still compliment our goals in the LWRM plan. Two new positions have been created in our Department utilizing new funding sources. The Watershed Planner position is focused on working with outreach and education with our Watershed groups, as well as doing focused conservation planning and modeling. An additional technician position, titled Conservation Specialist, is focused on the survey, design, permitting, tracking, and construction oversight of BMP practices. All of our efforts have the benefit of improving NR 151 compliance while also addressing soil loss, farm productivity, and flood mitigation.

Funding and support sources include additional DNR money, Ho-chunk funding, Sand County Foundation, Thriving Earth Exchange, NRCS studies and contribution agreements, as well as additional non-profit sources.

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 the past two decades, Vernon County has bore witness to numerous unprecedented floods with devastating effects on the local population and landscape of picturesque hilltops to beautiful stream valleys that characterize the Driftless region. The flooding has impacted nearly every facet of society challenging our safety and security and revealed significant limitations in our communication. Consequently, we recognize our responses need to (re)build capacity and engage a diversity of partners (public, private, and non-profit organizations) to strengthen an integrated recovery to emerge that contributes to a culture of preparedness and thus resilient communities.

Following the 2018 flooding, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded Vernon, in partnership with Monroe and La Crosse Counties, a 2.2 million watershed study in the Coon Creek and West Fork Kickapoo (HUC 10). This study has helped determine the future of the PL-566 flood control dams that breached and failed causing catastrophic damage downstream. Unfortunately, this study will not provide specific recommendations for implementing alternative agricultural practices which would continue the region's celebrated conservation legacy initially undertaken in the 1930s to mitigate environmental damages caused by unsustainable land use practices.

Another emergence in the aftermath of this calamity is the formation of the Flood Mitigation Alliance (FMA). It is a multi-agency collaborative with participants from Vernon County's Emergency Management, Land and Water Conservation, Zoning and Sanitation, Highway, Land Information, Economic Development, UW-Extension, and the nonprofit organization Valley Stewardship Network. FMA efforts work toward the three key goals of flood mitigation, public education, and technological innovation as a means to urgently reduce risk and support community-building to increase resiliency. This organization may develop into a more formal working group or task force in Vernon County.

Our capacity-building project focuses on a strategy that 1. improves administration and expands partnerships affiliated with pre/active/post disaster events and 2.

enables high-impact investments to a culture of preparedness that reduces natural hazard risks while increasing resilience at the community-level. This effort is multi-faceted and rooted in collaboration. As a result, our Land and Water Resource Management Plan reflects the current strategy of a much longer term undertaking that employs a holistic approach to promote a culture of preparedness in the public in addition to those serving the general population. Our Land & Water Resource Management Plan also involves multiple scales: one extent is county-wide and the other local-level of watersheds. We believe our identified goals for Vernon County enable us to proactively learn from the past and to productively inform future efforts. We also anticipate this endeavor will prepare us to apply for large-scale infrastructure mitigation in a forthcoming grant funding cycles.

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: 5-23-24

Signature of Authorized Representative:  Date: 5-23-24
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:

Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

**VERNON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<i>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</i> <i>49 inspections performed</i> <i>205 of compliance certificates, compliance schedules or letters issued</i> <i>103 Landowners served</i> <i>2,080 staff hours expended for design and installation</i> <i>800 acres contour striped</i> <i>205 of farms in compliance with a performance standard</i> <i>222 of NM plans reviewed</i> <i>100% Cost-share dollars spent</i> <i>6 towns assisted with FPP</i> <i>2 mailings sent out FPP</i> <i>5 press releases published</i> <i>6 farmer education events with over 250 attendees</i>	<i>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management 48 inspections performed</i> <i>227 of compliance certificates, compliance schedules or letters issued</i> <i>142 Landowners served</i> <i>2,080 staff hours expended for design and installation</i> <i>300 acres contour striped</i> <i>227 of farms in compliance with a performance standard</i> <i>242 of NM plans reviewed</i> <i>100% Cost-share dollars spent</i> <i>6 towns assisted with FPP</i> <i>2 mailings sent out FPP</i> <i>3 press releases published</i> <i>6 farmer education events with over 250 attendees</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>Spend and Administer 100% cost-share</i> <i>Stream Crossings 2-3 installed</i> <i>Farm Walkovers At least 20</i> <i>Manure Spreaders Calibrated At least 3</i> <i>Well abandonment 2-5</i> <i>Manure Storage permit 1-3</i> <i>Manure Storage abandonment 1-3</i> <i>Other practices including barnyard/roof gutter 2</i> <i>Managed Grazing Plans 2-3</i> <i>Access Roads 3</i> <i>Runoff Manure Complaint follow-up 3-5</i>	<i>1300+ staff hours expended for design and installation</i> <i>100% cost-share dollars spent</i> <i>1 manure storage permits issued or obtained</i> <i>2 managed grazing plans</i> <i>2 Access Roads</i> <i>1 Manure Storage Ordinance reviewed</i> <i>5 Well abandonments</i> <i>1 underground outlet</i> <i>6 complaints follow-up</i> <i>1 livestock fencing</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>Streambank projects 3</i> <i>Outreach education events</i> <i>Runoff mitigation on public lands</i> <i>Perennial Buffer Demonstration</i>	<i>Number of streambank protection projects</i> <i>15 educational events held serving 300+ landowners</i> <i>2 riparian buffers</i> <i>2 perennial buffers complete</i>

**VERNON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

	<i>PL566 dams maintained</i> <i>Groundwater testing program 100+ participants</i> <i>Citizen monitoring with VSN</i> <i>Planning (e.g. lake, source water)</i> <i>Grade Stabilization structures 2-3</i>	<i>1 Critical area stabilization</i> <i>1 Clean water diversion</i> <i>Groundwater Testing program 100+ participants</i> <i>1 Streambank projects completed</i> <i>22 dams maintained (2 breached)</i> <i>3 Grade Stabilization Structures installed</i>
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• *Forestry*

Forestry	<i>Forest Management Plan assistance</i> <i>Stream Crossings</i> <i>Acres Planned</i> <i>large tree planting</i> <i>tree planting protected</i>	<i>Forest Management Plans 4 assisted</i> <i>Stream Crossings 1</i> <i>Acres Planned 130</i> <i>2 large tree planting</i> <i>2 tree planting protected</i>
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• *Invasive*

Invasive species	<i>West Fork Survey of Invasives</i> <i>Control Site Demo 1</i> <i>Control of site 1</i> <i>Mutli-Agency Collaboration On-going effort, at least 2 partner organizations</i> <i>Invasive Species cooperative grant</i> <i>Partnership with Upper Sugar Watershed</i> <i>Biological Invasive Species Control project</i>	<i>West Fork Survey of Invasives 1</i> <i>Control Site Demo 1</i> <i>Control of site 1</i> <i>Mutli-Agency Collaboration On-going effort, at least 2 partner organizations</i> <i>Invasive Species cooperative grant</i> <i>Partnership with Upper Sugar Watershed</i> <i>2+ Biological Invasive Species sites</i>
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>1 Wetland restoration</i> <i>1 Wildlife damage program</i> <i>16,000 trees sold</i> <i>1,000 trees planted on public land</i> <i>450 trees planted with school groups</i>	<i>1 Wetland restoration</i> <i>1 Wildlife damage program administered</i> <i>17,000 trees sold</i> <i>2,000 trees planted on public land</i> <i>150 trees planted with school groups</i>
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	<i>Work with Villages and Cities with MDV-4-6</i> <i>Implement practices with these funds3-10</i>	<i>Number of Communities engaged-25</i> <i>Amount of money received MDV-\$39,556.23</i> <i>Number of Projects completed with MDV funds-1</i>
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<i>Tainter Watershed Producer-led Continued</i> <i>Coon Creek Producer-Continued</i> <i>Bad-Axe Producer-Continued</i> <i>Rush Creek Producer led-developing</i> <i>Administer multi-county Watershed Study for dams and flooding</i> <i>Oversee contracts with A&E Firm on \$2.1 million</i>	<i>Watershed groups continued</i> <i>Number of groups developing</i> <i>1-Watershed study administered</i> <i>Contract oversight completed</i> <i>Landowner group continued</i> <i>% of watershed modeled</i> <i>Areas modeled or mapped</i>
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**VERNON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

	<i>Watershed Study</i> <i>West Fork Landowner led watershed group</i> <i>Utilize ACPF tool for Watershed Planning</i> <i>Maintain Watershed Planner Position</i> <i>Decommission MLSNA Dam</i> <i>Partnership with Thriving Earth Exchange</i>	<i>Watershed Planner position maintained</i> <i>1 Dam Decommissioned</i> <i>Watershed Partnerships maintained</i>
• <i>Other</i>		
Other	<i>PL 566 22 Structures inspected, operated, and maintained</i> <i>Non-metallic gravel and sand quarries 47</i> <i>Parks Maintained All parks maintained and continually improved</i> <i>Flood mitigation related Issues</i> <i>Well Testing Program</i>	<i>22 Dams maintained and inspected</i> <i>Number of inspections-22</i> <i>48 Non Metallic Mine inspections completed</i> <i>Community meetings about flood mitigation-22</i> <i>Well testing program continued</i> <i>Flood mitigation alliance continued</i>

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	1	1
Manure storage closure	1	1
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	48	48
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA	NA
Shoreland zoning	NA	NA
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2	NA
Other		

**VERNON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	50
For FPP	50
For NR 151	25
Animal waste ordinance	4
Livestock facility siting	3
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	48

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	3
Field days	7
Trainings/workshops	10
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	500 students
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	40+ (partners)
News release/story	24

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>Ex. County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$105,000
<i>Ex. Technician</i>	3120	\$110,000
<i>Ex. Support Costs</i>	2080	\$80,000
Remaining Staff		\$275,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Ex. Bonding</i>	N/A	\$66,500
<i>Ex. SEG</i>	N/A	\$75,000
<i>Ex. MDV</i>	N/A	\$36,000

VERNON 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN **LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<i>Nutrient Management Inspection</i> <i>Certificate of Compliance</i> <i>Landowners served</i> <i>Design staff hours</i> <i>Contour Strips layed out</i> <i>Perf. Standard Review</i> <i>NMP Plans Reviewed</i> <i>Cost share spent</i> <i>FPP Townships</i> <i>NM planning and training</i> <i>Landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories</i>	<i>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</i> 49 <i>inspections performed</i> <i>229 compliance certificates, compliance schedules or letters issued</i> <i>103 Landowners served</i> <i>2,080 staff hours expended for design and installation</i> <i>600 acres contour striped</i> <i>205 of farms in compliance with a performance standard</i> <i>240 of NM plans reviewed</i> <i>100% Cost-share dollars spent</i> <i>1 NMP Class held</i> <i>6 towns assisted with FPP</i> <i>2 mailings sent out FPP</i> <i>5 press releases published</i> <i>6 farmer education events with over 250 attendees</i> <i>1 -2 Watersheds Modeled</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>Staff hours practices</i> <i>Cost-share spent</i> <i>Manure storage permit</i> <i>Managed grazing plans</i> <i>Access road designed and installed</i> <i>Manure storage ordinance</i>	<i>1300+ staff hours expended for design and installation</i> <i>100% cost-share dollars spent</i> <i>2 manure storage permits issued or obtained</i> <i>2 managed grazing plans</i> <i>2 Access Roads</i> <i>1 Manure Storage Ordinance reviewed</i> <i>6 Well abandonments</i> <i>1 underground outlet</i> <i>6 complaints follow-up</i> <i>1 livestock fencing</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>Collaboration</i> <i>PL-566 Dams maintained</i> <i>PL-566 Dams decommissioned</i> <i>Rain garden installed</i> <i>Water Testing Program</i> <i>Runoff mitigation on public lands</i>	<i>Mutli-Agency Collaboration On-going effort, at least 2 partner organizations</i> <i>22 maintained</i> <i>1-3 dams decommissioned</i> <i>1 rain garden demonstration installed</i> <i>1 Water Testing program (if budget allows)</i>

VERNON 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<i>Grade stabilization structures</i> <i>Perennial buffers installed</i>	<i>Mitigation enhanced</i> <i>3-5 grade structures installed</i> <i>15 acres installed/prepped</i>
• <i>Forestry</i>		
Forestry	<i>Forest Management Assistance</i> <i>Stream Crossings 1</i> <i>Acres Planned 130</i> <i>1 large tree planting</i> <i>tree planting protected</i> <i>Tree tubes throughout community</i>	<i>Forest Management assistance 100 landowners</i> <i>Stream Crossings 1</i> <i>Acres Planned 130</i> <i>1 large tree planting 5-10 acres</i> <i>2 tree planting protected</i> <i>300+ tree tubes</i> <i>1 tree sale administered</i>
• <i>Invasive</i>		
Invasive species	<i>Biological Invasive Control Coop</i> <i>LMPN workplan administered</i>	<i>2+ Biological Invasive Species sites</i> <i>1 LMPN grant administered</i>
• <i>Wildlife</i>		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Wetland restoration</i> <i>Wildlife damage program</i> <i>Tree and plant sales</i>	<i>Acres of wetland restored</i> <i>Number of trees sold</i>
• <i>Urban</i>		
Urban issues	<i>Stormwater control</i> <i>Construction site erosion control</i> <i>Floodplain protection</i>	<i>Number of site visits</i> <i>Number of plans reviews</i> <i>Number of permits issued</i> <i>Number of compliance issues resolved</i>
• <i>Watershed</i>		
Watershed strategies	<i>P-compliance</i> <i>Producer-led</i> <i>9-key element plan development</i> <i>Watershed modeling</i>	<i>Phosphorus Index compliance maintained in all compliant NMP's</i> <i>Partnership and support maintained for at least three watershed groups</i> <i>1 9-key element plan primarily developed</i>
• <i>Other</i>		
Other	<i>PL 566</i> <i>Non-metallic and frac sand mining</i>	<i>Number of plans reviewed</i> <i>Number of inspections</i>

**VERNON 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits		
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	1	1
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	48	48
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA	NA
Shoreland zoning	NA	NA
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	2	NA
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	50
For FPP	50
For NR 151	25
Animal waste ordinance	4
Livestock facility siting	5
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	0
Nonmetallic mining	48

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	3
Field days	7
Trainings/workshops	10
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	500 students
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	40+ (partners)
News release/story	24

**VERNON 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
<i>Ex. County Conservationist</i>	2080	\$117,000
<i>Ex. Technician</i>	3120	\$127,000
<i>Ex. Support Costs</i>	2080	\$83,000
Remaining Staff		\$350,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
<i>Ex. Bonding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$61,200</i>
<i>Ex. SEG</i>	<i>N/A</i>	\$80,000
<i>Ex. MDV</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$39,200</i>

NRCS Wisconsin

Quarterly Update

June 2024



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices. Applications are accepted on a continuous, year-round basis. Applications received by November 3, 2023, are being evaluated and considered for potential funding in Fiscal Year 2024. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP assists landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years to further enhance their stewardship efforts. Applications are accepted on a continuous year-round basis. Applications received by February 9, 2024, will be evaluated, and considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2024 for CSP Classic sign-up. Contact Melissa Bartz, melissa.bartz@usda.gov, for more information.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS assists producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Current active projects for water quality improvement are located within the Oconomowoc River, Milwaukee River, and Yahara River watersheds, Driftless Area to improve fish and wildlife habitat, stream, and riparian habitat, and select counties in Northern Wisconsin to improve Golden-winged and Kirtland's warblers' habitats and select areas of Southern Wisconsin to improve soil health and protect agriculturally productive farmland. 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, and they are ranked and considered for funding one time per year. The application deadline for Fiscal Year 2024 was November 13, 2023. For FY2024, Wisconsin funded two Agricultural Land Easement applications through the Inflation Reduction Act and a third using General Farm Bill funds. will be offering enrollment to 20 Wetland Reserve Easement applications including 12 under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in addition to 4 applications selected for IRA funding this fiscal year. Contact Dave Gundlach, dave.gundlach@usda.gov for more information.

NRCS Programs Quarterly Fiscal Update					
Program		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial Assistance	\$0	\$10.6M ^{ac}	\$43M ^{ac}	
	Contracts	0	265 ^{ac}	1,224 ^{ac}	
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial Assistance	\$6.7M	\$6.7M ^{ac}	\$6.7M	
	New Contracts	0	0 ^c	0	
	Renewal Contracts	266	266	266	
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program– Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP–ALE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	
	Parcels	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	
	Acres	0 ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c	
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program– Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP–WRE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^c	0 ^c	\$967,500	
	Easements	0 ^c	0 ^c	3	
	Acres	0 ^c	0 ^c	380	
Emergency Watershed Protection Program– Floodplain Easements (EWPP–FPE)	Financial Assistance	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	
	Proposed Easements	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	
	Proposed Acres	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Financial Assistance	0	\$0 ^c	\$186,943 ^c	
	Contracts	0	0	24 ^c	
	Easement Parcels	0	0	2 ^c	
	Easement Financial	0	\$0	\$689,356 ^c	



Wisconsin NRCS Helps Celebrate 10 Years of Locally Led Watershed Conservation

Farmers, conservation professionals and project partners gathered at Brickstead Dairy Farm in Greenleaf, Wisconsin, earlier this month to commemorate and celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the [Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network](#). Funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Brown and Outagamie County Land and Water Conservation Departments, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (NEW Water), the Great Lakes Commission, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, the project was designed to showcase and demonstrate the effectiveness of conservation practices on participating farms located in the Lower Fox River watershed.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Wisconsin NRCS Encourages Producers Within High-Priority Watersheds to ACT NOW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has announced they will begin utilizing the new Act Now policy, which offers additional flexibilities for eligible Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applicants enrolled in the [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative \(MRBI\)](#) and [National Water Quality Initiative \(NWQI\)](#). These NRCS initiatives were designed to help agricultural producers within high-priority watershed areas implement voluntary conservation practices to control nutrient runoff, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, and maintain agricultural productivity.

Through Act Now, Wisconsin NRCS can immediately preapprove all EQIP applications eligible through the MRBI and NWQI.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Wisconsin NRCS Offers Big Opportunity for Small-Scale Operations Through the Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging farmers, agricultural producers and forest landowners in Wisconsin to apply for the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP) by Feb. 9, 2024, to be considered for funding in 2024. Currently, an unprecedented amount of funding is available through the Farm Bill and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), which provides an additional \$19.5 billion in funding for CSP and other oversubscribed NRCS programs.

With the start of the new fiscal year, the minimum annual payment for CSP participants has been increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000. This increase aims to address challenges faced by small-scale, underserved, and urban agricultural producers, by making the program more equitable and financially beneficial for smaller operations.

[Click here to read more.](#)

A Family Tree Rooted in Soil Science

Written by Krisann McElvain, WI-NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

Over 160 high school participants from 25 different National FFA Organization (FFA) teams across the state competed in this year's Wisconsin State FFA Land and Soil Evaluation Contest – roughly a 40 percent increase from the number of participants last year. Wisconsin [USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) soil experts and staff joined the [Green County Land & Water Conservation Department](#) (LWCD), [Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators](#) (WAAE), Agribusiness Program staff, and many other sponsoring partners and volunteers to bring this year's contest to the [Blackhawk Technical College \(BTC\) Monroe Campus](#) for the first time.

Using a backhoe, four soil pits are dug to the depth of 45 inches in four different areas on the farm selected for the diversity of soil profile, degrees of erosion and slope, rooting depth and natural drainage. The participants are scored and ranked on the accuracy of their evaluation of the landscape's soil limitations, land capability, conservation practices for long-term land use and non-agricultural land use limitations. The top 5 winning teams receive commemorative plaques and the opportunity to compete at the [National Land & Range Judging Contest](#) held annually in Oklahoma, who hosted the first ever national contest in 1952.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Wisconsin NRCS and the Savanna Institute Partner to Create Agroforestry Demonstration Sites Across the State

The Savanna Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced plans to develop a statewide agroforestry demonstration farm network in Wisconsin where farmers can see examples of how to integrate trees successfully on farms for conservation and for profit. The cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest \$1.4 million into agroforestry demonstration and educational opportunities across Wisconsin in an effort to increase the number of landowners planting trees and other perennials on agricultural land.

Financing the cost of trees remains a significant barrier to adopting agroforestry. To address this, the Savanna Institute and WI NRCS also partner to provide Wisconsin farmers one-on-one technical assistance to plan, design, and fund the cost of trees. Savanna Institute's agroforestry demonstration farm network in Wisconsin will host public events, educational resources, and trainings for NRCS staff to help them better serve farmers with the technical assistance needed to integrate trees effectively into farm systems.

[Click here to read more.](#)



June 2024

Soil and Water Resources Management (SWRM) Grants

- 2024 SWRM Schedule of Awards were emailed May 21, 2024. To finalize the awards for 2024, and ensure funding is available for reimbursement, each county must confirm receipt of the document.
- The new practices included in ATCP 50 are available for contracting as of June 1, 2024. For questions about the practices, review Table 2.2 in the SWRM Resources on our webpage. As always, reach out if you have further questions and we can help you find answers. For more information, visit DATCP's [SWRM Grant Resources: Section 2](#) webpage.

ATCP 50 Update

ATCP 50 was published on May 28, 2024, with an effective date of June 1, 2024. Final rule language can be reviewed on the Wisconsin Legislature's [website](#). The Bureau will be providing information through our [website](#) and upcoming events over the coming months. If you have any questions, email datcplandwater@wisconsin.gov.

Nutrient Management News

- **Second annual Nutrient Management Regional Meetings are back!** Join us at one of our five meeting locations across the state this August and September to hear about new and upcoming information related to nutrient management planning and the SnapPlus software! New this year is a virtual meeting option. All events are free and will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. In-person events will offer light lunch and refreshments sponsored by the WI CCA Board and Wisconsin Land + Water! CEUs will be available for each event as well. Find your meeting location registration information here: [Nutrient Management Trainings](#).
- The [2023 Annual Nutrient Management Report](#) is now live on the [Nutrient Management homepage](#). Cody Calkins will send out the 2024 Annual NM Survey and Calculator later this summer.
- Counties that would like some assistance on Nutrient Management Quality Assurance Reviews should email Cody Calkins at cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov. We are looking at providing assistance this year to at least three counties.
- Previous SnapPlus trainings can be found here: [Nutrient Management Trainings](#).

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

- Chippewa and Vernon counties will be presenting five-year LWRM plan reviews to the LWCB at the June 4, 2024 meeting. The meeting will be held in Vernon County and will include a tour of various conservation sites within the county.
- The next meeting of the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research will be July 2, 2024.

Conservation Engineering

- For those in the DATCP Engineering Practitioner Certification and/or NRCS Job Approval Authority programs: we are passing along a reminder that this is the final year of the three-year cycle for obtaining your 30 professional development hours (PDHs). The deadline for completing the 30 PDHs is December 31, 2024. Reach out to your area engineering contact if you have questions.
- DATCP will be recruiting the following three engineering field positions that will likely be posted at some point in June:
 1. Southeast Area Environmental Specialist
 2. Environmental Specialist (Project Position) - Central part of the state
 3. Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) Engineer (Project Position)

Watch for upcoming job postings and please pass along to anyone that might interested!

DATCP Drainage Program

All activities within drainage districts are managed and administered by a County Drainage Board. Contact information can be found on the Drainage Program website [here](#) or contact Barton T. Chapman, Drainage Program Manager, at Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov.

Farmland Preservation Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)

- The Farmland Preservation Program Soil and Water Conservation Frequently Asked Questions document has been updated to reflect changes made to the program from 2023 Act 42 and changes made to soil and water conservation compliance in ATCP 50. The new FAQ was made available on June 3, 2024 and can be accessed at [Farmland Preservation: Conservation Compliance Factsheets and Guidance](#).
- Counties that update or issue new CoCs for Tax Year 2023 should submit updates for their DOR spreadsheet to DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov. Updates may be submitted as needed throughout the tax season.
 - NOTE: Please make sure you are *only* reporting changes for TY 2023. If you are using a third-party contractor, please be aware of the limitations of your data reporting.
- The 2024 Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) petition cycle is in full swing. Petition materials for new designation and modification to existing AEAs are available on the [Petitioning for AEA Designation webpage](#). Petitions will be accepted until **August 2, 2024**. If you are planning on petitioning for an AEA this year, please contact wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov.
- The [Conservation Compliance Forms webpage](#) has been revamped and includes the updated [Model Farm Inspection Form](#). Please contact Cody Calkins at cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov if you have any questions regarding the model farm inspection form or updates to the Conservation Compliance webpage.
- For counties that have effective farmland preservation agreements, we have created a new webpage to explain the [Farmland Preservation Agreement Release Process](#). This webpage contains information on who can file a release, the release requirements and application and information about the conversion fee.

- All new farmland preservation agreement applicants should use the updated [Farmland Preservation Agreement Application](#). Completed application packets can be sent to datcpworkinglands@wisconsin.gov.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP Monitoring Intern Assistance – Mackenzie Shanahan has joined DATCP as the CREP intern to focus on assisting LCDs with completing CREP easement site visits and record keeping. Site visits are essential for benchmarking the status of the conservation practice and identifying and communicating to landowners issues on the site prior to them becoming severe. Over the past three years, many counties have taken advantage of the assistance offered by the CREP interns and Mackenzie is eager to assist the LCDs again this year. See message below invitation from Mackenzie with her contact information:

My name is Mackenzie Shanahan, and I am the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program intern for summer 2024. I graduated from UW-Madison this spring with a degree in environmental sciences and agricultural and applied economics. Through my degree, I was able to work on case study projects related to CREP, so I am excited to both expand my knowledge and to apply what I have learned. Throughout the summer, I will be completing CREP easement monitoring visits to verify landowner compliance with conservation plans. I will be reaching out to schedule these site visits and to provide any necessary information and paperwork. I will bring any necessary equipment and will also provide follow-up paperwork after the visit. I am looking forward to promoting responsible water and land resource usage and to encouraging conservation in agriculture! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns via email: mackenzie.shanahan@wisconsin.gov or by phone: (608) 444-3209. Thanks so much, and I look forward to working with you all!

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG) Program

We have funding for groups to host regional winter workshops or spring field days in the range of \$500-\$1,500 per event through the Producer-Led Regional Network effort. Contact your regional coordinator or Dani Heisler at Dani.Heisler@Wisconsin.gov for more information or if you have ideas for a shared, collaborative event to host with other groups in your region.

Soil Health Program

- The new online Soil Health curriculum is now live and available on our soilhealthtraining.wi.gov website. The purpose of this curriculum is to develop a common definition and understanding of Soil Health and develop some guideposts of how to implement soil health systems on Wisconsin Farms. The curriculum will assist in developing a common language of Soil Health in Wisconsin agriculture in modules 1-3. Module 4 will focus on applying soil health in Wisconsin cropping systems. The curriculum will incorporate both traditional and citizen science to demonstrate the mindset necessary to be successful as a soil health farmer. The primary audiences are LCD staff, other Agriculture Professionals in Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Farmers. Secondary audience would potentially be community members. The first objective is to discuss what soil health is (and isn't) by defining some basic vocabulary and concepts! The second objective is to demonstrate how soil health systems can be implemented on Wisconsin farms.
- **New Soil Health Training** - AFT is partnering with the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department and DATCP to host *Digging into the "Why" of Soil Health* at the Sauk County Farm. The event will take place on **Tuesday, June 25** from **9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** with a free, local lunch to follow. Registration is limited.

If you are interested in joining us, you can register here: https://bit.ly/SH_FieldDay_0625.

Date: June 25th, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Sauk County Farm
S4555 County Rd CH, Reedsburg, WI 5395

For questions regarding this training or the soil health program, contact Randy Zogbaum at randall.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov.

Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)

[NOPP program staff](#) would like to meet with any groups interested in learning more about on-farm research and how to put together your own research plan before the winter 2024 application cycle.

Cover Crop Insurance Rebate Program

Application period closed until December 2024. To qualify, cover crops must be planted in the fall of 2024 on fields to be cropped in spring of 2025. The acres cannot receive cover crop funding support during this same time.

Legislation Updates

The 2023-2024 Legislative Session ended in mid-March.

Staffing Updates

- Katie Porubcan joined us as the Land and Water Resource Management GIS Intern on May 20. Katie will be assisting with projects focused on the Farmland Preservation and Agricultural Impact Statement Programs. Katie is a UW-Madison graduate with experience in sustainability, ecological restoration, and other resource management applications. Welcome, Katie!
- Mackenzie Shanahan joined us as the CREP intern on June 3 (as mentioned in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program section). Welcome, Mackenzie!

DATE: June 4, 2024

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jill Schoen, DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, April 2024 - May 2024, for June LWCB meeting

Staffing Update

The CAFO Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator position has been filled by James Salscheider. He comes to the position with several years of experience in the CAFO Program working with farms in Kewaunee and Door Counties. James will be providing CAFO Specialists throughout the state with support on compliance and enforcement matters while continuing to work out of the Green Bay office.

Surface Water Grants Program Update

The DNR's surface water grant program guidance for the FY25 grant cycle will be posted for public review and comment sometime during the June-July timeframe. Notable program changes include updated grant ranking sheets for the Comprehensive Management Planning, AIS Population Management, and Management Plan Implementation categories. Several other clarifications and updates were made. Program guidance is available for review on the surface water grant webpage:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>.

To kick off the next grant cycle program staff plan to post a recorded introductory video in July or August. The video will include information about timelines, different grant categories, and how to apply.

Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters Update

In March 2024, the WI DNR launched an updated version of the [Watershed Restoration and Protection Viewer](#) that features the [Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters](#) (HWHQW) modeling and assessment information. This new tool allows users to easily identify the state's watershed protection priorities and assessed high-quality lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. The viewer also includes individual watershed health, vulnerability, and opportunity metrics that can be explored to better understand what is driving water-quality impacts in a particular watershed (HUC12). With this new tool, the DNR is better suited to provide technical assistance and support to County Land & Water departments interested in watershed protection. The DNR can partner with counties on watershed protection through:

- Briefing the Land & Water Conservation Board and other interested parties/committees
- Presenting at the annual Land & Water Conference
- Hosting county-focused trainings on the modeling and assessment tools and/or action plan
- Engaging counties on next steps, such as incorporating HWHQW information into land and water plans.
 - The DNR is currently partnering with three (3) counties who are incorporating the HWHQW assessment results into their DNR Surface Water Grant projects and planning efforts.

The DNR's Water Quality program hired a new statewide *Watershed Protection Coordinator* in November 2023, Lauren Haydon, who is available to provide direct support to counties and other local partners. Please contact Lauren with any public engagement and outreach requests at Lauren.Haydon@wisconsin.gov or at 414.640.0161

NPS Grants Update

The Runoff Grant Annual Reports are available on our webpages (direct links below). The latest annual report for 2023/2024 should be online soon.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/TargetedRunoff.html>

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/UrbanNonpoint.html>

[2022/2023 Runoff Management Grant Annual Report \[PDF\]](#)

[2021/2022 Runoff Management Grant Annual Report \[PDF\]](#)

Applications and instructions for 2025 Targeted Runoff Management Grants and Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Construction grants were due on April 15th.

Summary of 2025 grants submitted

Grant Type	Requested State Share	Number of Grants
Large-Scale TRM	\$2,925,000	5
Small-Scale AG TRM	\$1,616,346	9
Small-Scale Urban TRM	\$967,319	6
UNPS Construction	\$3,181,370	26
Total	\$8,689,092	44

UNPS-Construction & TRM Grant Applications – 2025 Cycle

