



State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

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Madison, WI 53708 - 8911
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Land and Water Conservation Board Agenda

June 3, 2025

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **June 3, 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 996 114 191# 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 April 1, 2025 meeting minutes
- 2 Public appearances*

**Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes or less. Each speaker must complete a Public Appearance Request Card and submit it to a DATCP representative before the start of the meeting*
- 3 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Winnebago County
Chad Casper, Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department Director and Chuck Farrey, Land Conservation Committee Chair
- 4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM 5-Year Review for Marinette County
Sheri Denowski, County Conservationist; Tim Oestreich, Land Information Department Director and Tom Mandli, Development Committee Chair
- 5 Wake boating and the environment
Jeff Meesmann, Last Wilderness Alliance

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

*Members: Andrew Buttlis; Ron Grasshoff; Rebecca Clarke; Mike Hofberger; D.J. Nichols
Andrew Potts; Tim Anderson; Jason Knutson*

- 6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan Revision for Rusk County
Nick Stadnyk, Land Conservation & Development Department Director and Phil Schneider, Land Conservation Committee Chair
- 7 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates
- 8 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
- 9 Planning for August 2025 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 10 Adjourn

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2025
2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room &
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 4, 2025, LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI 53718 and over Microsoft Teams on **April 1, 2025**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

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

Advisors: Ryan Gerlich (NRCS), Dr. Francisco Arriaga (UW-CALS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Knutson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Hofberger motioned to approve the February 4, 2025, 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 LWRM Plan revision for Lafayette County

Erica Sauer, County Conservationist; Max Blackburn, Conservation Technician; Laney Finkelmeyer, Conservation Specialist; Jed Grant, 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, Hofberger motioned to recommend approval of Lafayette County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Marathon County

Kirstie Heidenreich, County Conservationist; Matt Repking, Conservation Analyst; Mike Ritter, Environmental Resources Committee Vice 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, Knutson motioned to recommend approval of Marathon County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Balancing on-farm economic incentives with water quality benefits

Jeffrey Hadachek presented research on the cost-effectiveness of the WI Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program at improving water quality and increasing conservation practices.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Jefferson

Patricia Cicero, Director Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department; Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist; Meg Turville-Heitz, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

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

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, Grasshoff motioned to recommend approval of Jefferson County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Clarke, and the motion

Item #7 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 into 2025; Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2024 Cost-share dollars (written report only)

Susan Mockert, DATCP presented on the extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 to 2025 and a written report, available within the April 4, 2023 meeting packet, on transfers and reallocations of 2024 cost-share dollars.

Motion

McGraw motioned to approve the extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 to 2025 as presented, seconded by Osterman. The motion carried.

Item #8 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates

Grasshoff delivered an update on the March meeting of the Committee. The committee will reconvene in May.

The Board received a request for a letter of support from UW-Platteville Professor, Evan Larson. Cupp noted that the Board could convene an executive committee to review and issue a letter of support on behalf of the Board. Osterman recommended convening an executive committee to review the draft letter.

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 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Krauss reported that FSA is waiting on updates related to the farm bill for further information on program enrollment periods.
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- c. UW-Extension- Amber Radatz reported that the Ag and Water Quality Program just concluded a webinar series. Topics included nitrate leaching, neonics, extreme weather, tile drainage and the science assessment being developed for the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, recorded webinars can be accessed here: <https://agwater.extension.wisc.edu/webinars/>
- d. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that Carl Wepking has started in the role to facilitate SITCOM; WI Land + Water is working on 2 toolkits for Renewable Energy Siting and Incorporating Resilience in LWRM plans; the association has started advocacy efforts surrounding county conservation staff funding
- e. DOA- Potts submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- f. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- g. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- h. Member Updates- Cupp noted a recent news story related to septage spreading and asked if any of the agencies were familiar with the narrative and implications.

Item #10 Planning for the June 2025 LWCB Meeting

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

- Plan Revision for Rusk County
- Plan Reviews for Marinette and Winnebago Counties
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Educational Opportunity- Cupp advocated for a presentation on wake boating and impacts on conservation.

Item #12 Adjourn

Motion

Osterman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Clarke, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

DRAFT

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

SUBJECT: *Five Year Review of the Winnebago 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 Winnebago 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, Winnebago 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(s): Chad Casper, Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department Director
Chuck Farrey, Land Conservation Committee Chair



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

County: Winnebago

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.

Winnebago County LWCD has implemented local, state, and federal programs over the last five years. Many Best Management Practices were installed that addressed ground water and surface water resource concerns that were funded by the following sources: Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP), Winnebago County LWCD Spirit Fund Program (SFP), DATCP, WDNR, Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV), Natural Resource Damage Assessment, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Great Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program Grant, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant and Climate Smart Commodities Grant. Winnebago County staff provided engineering and technical services and cost sharing for a variety of conservation practices which include the following:

- Nutrient Management: 3,691 acres, • Cover Crops: 3,584 acres, • No-Till: 3,148 acres,
- Waterway System: 12 acres, • Water & Sediment Control Basins: 3 jobs,
- Critical Area Stabilization: 2 acres, • Barnyard Run-Off Control System: 2 jobs,
- Waste Storage Structure: 5 jobs, • Waste Storage Closure: 3 jobs, • Diversions: 54 In ft,
- Stream Crossings: 218 In ft, • Steambank/Shoreline Protection: 14,139 In ft,
- Riparian Buffer (out-of-production): 18 acres, • Riparian Buffer (harvestable): 7 acres,
- Well Decommissioning: 41 jobs, • Rain Gardens: 8 jobs,
- Wetland Restoration: 20 acres, • Shoreline Habitat Restoration: 580 In ft,

These practices resulted in a reduction of 12,388 lbs of phosphorus and 6,444 tons of sediment annually. Total amount of cost-share funds was \$1,307,092.

Enrolled producers into the Soil Health Challenge (SHC), which is a 6-year program sponsored by the Winnebago County WQIP. The SHC incentivizes participants that work with the Winnebago County LWCD by committing a portion of their cropland to soil health principles and provide outreach/education to farmers and the public.

The Rat River Watershed has been the priority for targeted efforts to reduce phosphorus pollution from agricultural sources. To help address these issues, the Winnebago County LWCD partnered with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) and received a grant award from the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) to implement soil health practices. Funding through the Great Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program Grant and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant are also supporting these efforts.

These targeted efforts resulted in the first official Producer-Led Group (PLG) created in Winnebago County; the "Muddy Bottom Farmers". Their mission is to improve water quality & soil structure through implementation of soil health principles & conservation practices, along with providing outreach/education to farmers and the public.

The County Board and County Executive's support of the LWCD's conservation work resulted in the approval of the LWCD SFP, which allocated over 3 million dollars for installing add'l conservation projects in Winnebago County over the next 10-15 years.

Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan implementation, which is guiding efforts to meet water quality and pollution reduction targets over a 20-year time frame. The plan outlines ways to restore habitat, improve shorelines, prevent invasive species, improve recreation, and more.

Winnebago County LWCD is going on the 6th year being a partner of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demo Farm Network. This is a collaboration of 9 LWCDs, Green Lake Association, and the NRCS in the Upper Fox and Wolf River Watersheds. Winnebago County has 3 producers who voluntarily joined the Network and are implementing soil health practices, reducing runoff pollution and improving water quality.

In 2024, a full-time Soil Health Specialist was hired at the Winnebago County LWCD in partnership with the USDA and FWWA to implement the Farm Climate Smart Grant which incentivizes implementation of sustainable farm practices in the Fox-Wolf Watershed. Cost sharing, guidance and support are offered to participating producers.

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.

Overall, the Winnebago County LWCD has made great strides in implementing activities and working towards the goals within our work plans. This is due primarily to targeted outreach and education in the highest pollutant loading HUC 12s along with a substantial increase in local cost-share dollars being invested into conservation efforts in the County.

Even though overall practice implementation was successful, there are still ways to improve and accomplish more conservation on the land. Unfortunately, we have installed less projects than would have been possible due to WDNR permitting barriers with structural conservation practices. We are continuing to bring attention to this issue and hope to bring changes in the future to simplify and create better efficiency, communication and consistency when permitting conservation projects.

Weather can create significant challenges when installing conservation projects. Extreme rain events, drought and other factors have made it challenging to get vegetation established on many of the BMP projects. Warmer winters have made it difficult to install off-shore breakwall projects which need ice thick enough for heavy equipment.

Another emerging challenge is the significantly increasing prices for construction of conservation projects which means that cost-share funds do not go as far.

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 current priority farms are our FPP participants. All participants are in compliance with NR151. Each participant or their operator is required to meet with staff and complete the annual review process. During that visit, we communicate all that is required and verify rotations so we can validate their NMP.

Building trust with producers and voluntary compliance along with education and cost-sharing has been the most effective way to meet the goals set in our LWRM Plan. To bring producers into compliance with NR151, we are using TMDL, EVAAL and ACPF modeling data to prioritize the HUC 12s and identify the potential runoff risk and erosion vulnerability. We also have completed barnyard inventories as part of the 9KE planning process. These efforts allow our department to be the most efficient in doing outreach to address resource concerns and get producers into compliance with NR151.

The draft Winnebago Waterways Program, 9KE Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water identified the Rat River Watershed as the highest phosphorus and sediment loading HUC 12. Outreach and education efforts have been successful in this watershed by focusing on supporting producers with soil health practices and structural BMPs.

Participation in the MDV Program included outreach and education to address resource concerns resulting in the allocation of the MDV funds to cost-share the installation of conservation projects and get producers in compliance with NR151.

In the last five years, 44 permits were issued under the Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (LWMO). In 2024, the Winnebago County LWMO was amended to update referenced State Statutes, technical standards, definitions, and other wording along with reviewing and updating the current Permit Fee Schedule.

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.

The LWCD has created two new positions (Watershed Specialist & Soil Health Specialist) for soil health initiatives. Our goal is to continue to make substantial increases in efforts to promote and implement soil health practices by continuing to do outreach and prioritize the highest loading HUC12 watersheds over the next five years.

- The approval of LWCD SFP has resulted in additional funds to promote cost-sharing structural BMPs up to 90%, soil health practices and conservation buffers. Conservation buffers are enrolled into 10-15 year contracts through the SFP. Three buffer options are available: harvestable buffers, out-of-production buffers and field-road buffers.

Winnebago County LWCD has been working with four local farms on the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP). The goal of this program is to reduce nitrates in

surface and groundwater and improve the farmer's bottom line. We will continue these efforts over the next 5 years.

Winnebago County is developing a 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which will incorporate our current LWRM Plan.

Carbon sequestration will be more of a focus because it is a deliverable in the Farm Climate Smart Grant.

The Muddy Bottom Farmers PLG has exceeded our expectations for interest and success, so we will continue to support these efforts to expand the group and will explore creating another PLG in the county.

Winnebago County does mention climate challenges and goals within our current LWRM Plan, but we may need to start exploring options for having a more organized Climate Resiliency Plan in the future.

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:

Signature of Authorized Representative: Chuck Larry **Date:** 4-7-25
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Guidance

Items included in the annual work plan must be consistent with the goals and objectives described in the County's LWRM Plan. References to the county LWRM plan, such as goal number or objective number, are not required, but can be added to Table 1 under "Category."

The work plan template includes five tables. Table 1 is designed to allow for a more detailed and county-specific narrative summary of planned activities and performance measurements. Tables 2, 3 and 4 are designed to capture activities that are more easily quantified. If you include information in Table 2, 3 and 4, you do not have to also include this information in Table 1. Table 5 can be used to meet LWRM planning requirements for costs and hours.

To complete Table 1:

- Describe all relevant planned activities for each applicable category, including those beyond what is supported directly with SWRM funds. If a category is not applicable in your county, skip that category.
- Identify benchmarks for each planned activity.
- Identify performance measures. In particular, performance measures related to sediment and nutrient reductions if applicable and known.

Please note, the items identified in the template are **examples** of activities and performance measurements. It is not expected that all counties do all these things. Replace and/or delete each activity as needed. If there is a category that is not applicable, do not include it in your work plan.

Examples of practices for each category and examples of landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories are listed below:

Cropland practices may include:

- NM plan development (acres)
- Grassed waterways (acres)
- Cover crops (acres)
- No-till (acres)
- WASCOB (number)
- Grade stabilization (number)
- Critical area stabilization (number)
- Contour strips (acres)

Livestock practices may include:

- Barnyard runoff control – not roof or diversion (number)
- Roof runoff systems (number)
- Clean water diversion (feet)
- Grazing plan (number)
- Manure storage closure (number)
- Trails and walkways (feet)
- Livestock watering facilities (number)
- Stream crossing (feet)
- Livestock fencing (feet)
- Feed storage runoff control (number)
- Milking center wastewater (number)

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Water quality practices may include:

- Streambank/shoreline protection (feet)
- Well decommissioning (number)
- Sinkhole treatments (number)
- Riparian buffers (acres)
- Critical area stabilization (number)

Forestry practices may include:

- Forest management plans (number)
- Trails, access roads and walkways (feet)
- Stream crossings (feet)

Landscape-scale survey and/or inventories might include:

- Transect survey
- Use of SnapPlus to estimate soil loss
- Mapping of certain geographic features
- Inventories of certain types of practices or where practices are needed
- Inventory of certain types of operations or structures within WQMA's
- EVAAL of areas in county

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost projections. Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs. Continue the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Grant to work with farmers in the Rat River Watershed on implementing no-till, cover crops & low disturbance manure applications. Extended the National Fish & Wildlife Grant working with farmers in the Rat River Watershed on implementing no-till, & cover crops. Implementation of the USDA Climate-Smart Commodities Grant with FWWA and 7 other County LWCDs to create market opportunities for agricultural products produced using climate-smart practices. Renew the multi-year agreement to continue participation in the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farms Network. Support the installation of no-till & cover crops. Inventory the cropland on a total of 20-30 farms in HUC 12s 040302022102, 040302030102, 040302030401 & 040302030103 in Winnebago County for TMDL/Agriculture Performance Standards. Complete FPP monitoring requirements county wide. Contact landowners to promote best management practices in targeted/funded HUC 12s listed above and to achieve NR 151 compliance. Implementation of the LWCD Spirit Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500 new acres of cropland in compliance with agricultural performance standards 1,200 acres Enroll 2 Soil Health Champions to implement soil health practices for six years under WQIP funding Done Enroll 500-1,000 acres into the Soil Health SFP 688 cover crop acres and 493 acres no-till 1,250 acres of new NMP enrollment or less if using up to 50% SEG funds for soft practices to assist with compliance 1,255 acres enrolled 1,200 acres of no-till and cover crops planted 1,770 acres of cover crops planted & 1,555 acres of no-till planted 3 acres of waterway systems 4.9 acres installed 2 WASCOD 2 installed 44 ft. stream crossing 62 ft. installed 50-100 attendees at training sessions and Farmer Roundtable Events. 190 attendees Make contacts with 10 -20 landowners that were identified from running EVAAL & ACPF in the top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. Done Hire and train a "Grant Soil Health Specialist" funded through the Climate Smart Grant (3-year position) to begin implementation. Done Begin signing soil health contracts with producers through the Climate Smart Commodity Grant (500-1,000 acres) Enrolled over 1,800 acres Sign a new multi-year contract for participation in the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farms Network. Done Get approval for 2 NOPP grants to include 4 farms. Assist with 4 NOPP test plots. Done Hold 3 Soil Health Field Days 2 Field Days and 1 Winter Workshop

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<p>Program (SFP) which consists of structural BMPs, soil health practices and conservation buffers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) which is a 2-year grant. 	
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• *Livestock*

Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs • Inventory the livestock facilities on a total of 10-20 farms in HUC 12s 040302022102, 040302022105, 040302022104, 040302011201 in Winnebago County for TMDL/Agriculture Performance Standards. • Inventory the new requested facilities of the Town of Nepeuskun for new FPP participants. • Contact landowners to promote best management practices in the targeted/funded HUC 12s listed above and to achieve NR 151 compliance. • Inventory livestock facilities without a Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (LWMO) Permit starting in the top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard, FPP and/or the TMDL 3 Done • 1 barnyard runoff control 1 installed • 1 manure storage 2 installed • 2 manure storage abandonments 3 installed • Issue 5-10 "after the fact" LWMO Permits for facilities that did not secure the proper LWMO Permit. 1 issued
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• *Water quality*

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs • Promote CREP and administer the County's responsibilities. • Engage with Winnebago Waterways Program, & Winnebago Lake Management implementation. • Partner on a WDNR Surface Water Grant to begin comprehensive planning for Little Lake Butte des Morts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 acres of riparian/conservation buffers 12.4 acres installed • 100 feet of shoreline/streambank protection 101 ft. installed • 8 wells decommissioned 7 decommissioned • 40 ft. shoreline habitat restoration for developed areas 134 ft. installed • 2 rain gardens 5 installed • Conduct a shoreline inventory on Little Lake Butte des Morts Done
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Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reevaluate the grant funding sources that have expired for the installation of the Terrell's Island/Samer's Bay Project. • Assist with the design of the Poygan Breakwall Project. • Address shoreline and streambank issues county wide to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL reductions in sediment and phosphorus. • Apply for a WDNR Surface Water & NRDA grant for the VanDyke breakwall project on Lake Winneconne 	
• <i>Forestry</i>		
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP Survey, Design and Cost Projections • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs 	
• <i>Invasive</i>		
Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the WDNR AIS Demo Project with FWWA as coordinator. • Support AIS boat inspections, surveys/inventories via Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA). • Engage with Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat launch educational program. • Support coordinated citizen scientist monitoring. • Partner with the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Partnership (NEWIP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 boats inspected • 6,000 people contacted • 1,200 hours monitoring boat launches • Attend 10 events • Citizen scientist monitoring at 25 locations <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">All completed by FWWA</p>
• <i>Wildlife</i>		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs. • Promote wetland restorations county wide to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL reductions in sediment and phosphorus. • Administer Wildlife Damage Abatement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 acres of wetland restorations 1.5 acres installed • 150,000 trees sold and planted in Winnebago County 150,900 planted

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and Claims Program Conduct annual tree and supply sale. 	
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor EC Training Sessions Implement MS4 Stormwater Management Plan. MS4 Permit Annual Report by 3-31-2023. Secured a WDNR Grant and plan to contract with Westwood Engineering to conduct the MS4 stormwater model. Conduct IDDE inspection & monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinances in compliance with State Code and MS4 requirements. Done MS4 Permit in compliance. Done Complete the MS4 stormwater model Done
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• *Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize EVAAL and ACPF for top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. Continue to complete watershed inventories to get WDNR & EPA approval of the Winnebago Waterways Regional Nine Key Element Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water. Participation in the LFR Ag Implementation Group Implement the MDV watershed plan for the Upper Fox HUC8 with a focus on the highest pollutant loading HUC12 watersheds (040302011001, 040302011204 & 040302011201). Outreach and communication with targeted landowners in HUC12s 040302011001, 040302011204 & 040302011201 to utilize MDV funds to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL goals. Communication and implementation with targeted landowners in the top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds in the County to utilize SWRM & County Program funds to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL goals. Pursue grants and grant administration options with FWWA or other partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several presentations will be given. Done Make contacts with 10 -20 landowners that were identified from running EVAAL & ACPF in the top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. Done Begin outreach with the landowner list created from the top 4 highest loading sub-watersheds that are adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams to promote buffers. Done Continue to use the draft Winnebago Waterways Regional Nine Key Element Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water Plan as a strategic guide to begin working in the highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. Working in the highest loading HUC 12 and are engaging producers and installing conservation practices. Get WDNR approval of the 2022 MDV Watershed Plan extension. Done Allocate the MDV funding in the Upper Fox HUC8. Annual Farmer Roundtable with 75-100 attendees. 84 attendees Increase the number of producers using soil health practices and recruit 5 new members to the Muddy Bottom Farmers Producer-led Group Done
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Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the Winnebago Waterways Basin Ag Team to increase the knowledge in conservation staff. Continue partnership with the WDNR and FWWA on a large breakwall project on Lake Butte des Morts and a study with UWO on evaluating the effectiveness of breakwall projects on the Winnebago System. Begin outreach and implementation of the LWCD Spirit Fund Program (\$3,030,300) for water quality improvement projects throughout the county. Secure a grant through DATCP, Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. Apply and secure two DATCP NOPP grants with a farmer from the Producer-Led group and a farmer with the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network 	
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- *Other*

Other	
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	8	8 (10)
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2	2
Manure storage closure	2	2 (3)
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	8	8
Shoreland zoning	6	6
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	6	6
Other		

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	50
For FPP	10
For NR 151	40
Livestock waste ordinance	10
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	8 (LWCD)
Nonmetallic mining	0

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	3 (2)
Trainings/workshops	3
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2 (4)
Newsletters	2 (6)
Social media posts	75
News release/story	6

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
LWCD Staff	16,510	\$762,968
LWCD Climate Smart Grant Staff	2,080	\$93,309
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Bonding w/ Extensions	N/A	\$62,442
SWRM SEG w/ Extensions	N/A	\$100,220
Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Funding w/Extensions	N/A	\$225,781
Multi-Discharge Variance	N/A	\$21,659
NRDA Grant	N/A	\$16,978
Producer-Led Grant	N/A	\$5,000
Climate Smart Commodity Grant	N/A	\$276,000

Winnebago County 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Great Lakes Grant	N/A	\$57,000
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant	N/A	\$10,000
LWCD Spirit Fund Program	N/A	Est. \$100k-\$150k (\$152,242)
Monsanto Settlement	N/A	\$27,414

2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Guidance

Items included in the annual work plan must be consistent with the goals and objectives described in the County's LWRM Plan. References to the county LWRM plan, such as goal number or objective number, are not required, but can be added to Table 1 under "Category."

The work plan template includes five tables. Table 1 is designed to allow for a more detailed and county-specific narrative summary of planned activities and performance measurements. Tables 2, 3 and 4 are designed to capture activities that are more easily quantified. If you include information in Table 2, 3 and 4, you do not have to also include this information in Table 1. Table 5 can be used to meet LWRM planning requirements for costs and hours.

To complete Table 1:

- Describe all relevant planned activities for each applicable category, including those beyond what is supported directly with SWRM funds. If a category is not applicable in your county, skip that category.
- Identify benchmarks for each planned activity.
- Identify performance measures. In particular, performance measures related to sediment and nutrient reductions if applicable and known.

Please note, the items identified in the template are **examples** of activities and performance measurements. It is not expected that all counties do all these things. Replace and/or delete each activity as needed. If there is a category that is not applicable, do not include it in your work plan.

Examples of practices for each category and examples of landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories are listed below:

Cropland practices may include:

- NM plan development (acres)
- Grassed waterways (acres)
- Cover crops (acres)
- No-till (acres)
- WASCOB (number)
- Grade stabilization (number)
- Critical area stabilization (number)
- Contour strips (acres)

Livestock practices may include:

- Barnyard runoff control – not roof or diversion (number)
- Roof runoff systems (number)
- Clean water diversion (feet)
- Grazing plan (number)
- Manure storage closure (number)
- Trails and walkways (feet)
- Livestock watering facilities (number)
- Stream crossing (feet)
- Livestock fencing (feet)
- Feed storage runoff control (number)
- Milking center wastewater (number)

Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Water quality practices may include:

- Streambank/shoreline protection (feet)
- Well decommissioning (number)
- Sinkhole treatments (number)
- Riparian buffers (acres)
- Critical area stabilization (number)

Forestry practices may include:

- Forest management plans (number)
- Trails, access roads and walkways (feet)
- Stream crossings (feet)

Landscape-scale survey and/or inventories might include:

- Transect survey
- Use of SnapPlus to estimate soil loss
- Mapping of certain geographic features
- Inventories of certain types of practices or where practices are needed
- Inventory of certain types of operations or structures within WQMA's
- EVAAL of areas in county

Winnebago County 2025 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost projections. Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs. Support the installation of no-till & cover crops. Complete the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Grant working with farmers in the Rat River Watershed on implementing no-till, cover crops & low disturbance manure applications. Complete the National Fish & Wildlife Grant working with farmers in the Rat River Watershed on implementing no-till, & cover crops. Implementation of the USDA Climate-Smart Commodities Grant with FWWA and 7 other County LWCDs to create market opportunities for agricultural products produced using climate-smart practices. Continue participation in the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farms Network. Inventory the cropland on a total of 20-30 farms in HUC 12s 040302022105, 040302011201, 040302011204 & 040302011002 in Winnebago County for TMDL/Agriculture Performance Standards. Complete FPP monitoring requirements in the Town of Nepeusken. Contact landowners to promote best management practices in priority HUC 12 watersheds listed above and to achieve NR 151 compliance. Implementation of the LWCD Spirit Fund Program (SFP) which consists of structural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 new acres of cropland in compliance with agricultural performance standards Enroll 1-2 Soil Health Champions to implement soil health practices for six years under WQIP funding Enroll 700 acres into the Soil Health SFP 1,250 acres of new NMP enrollment or less if using up to 50% SEG funds for soft practices to assist with compliance 1,200 acres of no-till and cover crops planted 3.3 acres of waterway systems 1 WASCOB 25 ft. stream crossing 50-100 attendees at training sessions and Farmer Roundtable Events. Make contacts with 10 -20 landowners that were identified from running EVAAL & ACPF modeling in the identified priority HUC 12 watersheds in the County. Enroll producers into soil health contracts and verify field checks for cover crops and no-till through the Climate Smart Commodity Grant (2,000 acres) Get approval for 2 NOPP grants to include 4 farms. Assist with 4 NOPP test plots. Hold 2 Soil Health Field Days

Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	BMPs, soil health practices and conservation buffers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) • Continue working with the Producer-Led Watershed Group, Muddy Bottom Farmers 	
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• *Livestock*

Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs • Inventory the livestock facilities on a total of 10-20 farms in HUC 12s 040302022105, 040302011201, 040302011204 & 040302011002 in Winnebago County for TMDL/Agriculture Performance Standards. • Inventory the new requested facilities in the Town of Nepeuskun for new FPP participants. • Contact landowners to promote best management practices in the priority HUC 12 watersheds listed above and to achieve NR 151 compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard, FPP and/or the TMDL • 1 barnyard runoff control • 1 manure storage • 2 manure storage abandonments • 1 milkhouse waste system • Issue 5-10 LWMO Permits.
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• *Water quality*

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. • Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs • Promote CREP and administer the County's responsibilities. • Engage with Winnebago Waterways Program, & Winnebago Lake Management implementation. • Partner with municipalities to continue the comprehensive planning for Little Lake Butte des Morts. • Reevaluate the grant funding sources that have expired for the installation of the Terrell's Island/Samer's Bay Project. • Secure \$875,000 in funding through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 acres of riparian/conservation buffers • 300 feet of shoreline/streambank protection • 6 wells decommissioned • 190 ft. shoreline habitat restoration for developed areas • 1 rain garden
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Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<p>existing programs and grants for the installation of an off-shore breakwall project on Lake Winneconne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address shoreline and streambank issues county wide to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL reductions in sediment and phosphorus. 	
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• *Forestry*

Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and provide needed BMP Survey, Design and Cost Projections Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs 	
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• *Invasive*

Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the WDNR AIS Demo Project with FWWA as coordinator. Support AIS boat inspections, surveys/inventories via Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA). Engage with Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat launch educational program. Support coordinated citizen scientist monitoring. Partner with the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Partnership (NEWIP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,000 boats inspected 6,000 people contacted 1,200 hours monitoring boat launches Attend 10 events Citizen scientist monitoring at 25 locations
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• *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and provide needed BMP survey, design and cost estimates. Sign CSAs to provide funding for eligible BMPs. Promote wetland restorations county wide to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL reductions in sediment and phosphorus. Administer Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program Conduct annual tree and supply sale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 acres of wetland restorations 40,000 trees sold and planted in Winnebago County
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• *Urban*

Urban issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement MS4 Stormwater Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinances in compliance with State Code and MS4
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Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS4 Permit Annual Report by 3-31-2025. Conduct IDDE inspection & monitoring. 	requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS4 Permit compliance.
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- Watershed*

Watershed strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize EVAAL and ACPF modeling for the identified priority HUC 12 watersheds in the County. Continue to complete watershed inventories to get WDNR & EPA approval of the Winnebago Waterways Regional Nine Key Element Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water. Participation in the LFR Ag Implementation Group Implement the MDV watershed plan for the Upper Fox HUC8 with a focus on the highest pollutant loading HUC12 watersheds (040302011204 & 040302011201). Outreach and communication with targeted landowners in HUC12s 040302011204 & 040302011201 to utilize MDV funds to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL goals. Communication and implementation with targeted landowners in the identified priority HUC12 watersheds to utilize SWRM & County Program funds to achieve NR151 compliance and TMDL goals. Pursue grants and grant administration options with FWWA or other partners. Continue to work with the Winnebago Waterways Basin Ag Team to increase the knowledge in conservation staff. Implementation of the LWCD Spirit Fund Program (\$3,030,300) for water quality improvement projects throughout the county. Secure another grant through DATCP, Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-4 educational presentations will be given. Make contacts with 10 -20 landowners that were identified from running EVAAL & ACPF modeling in the priority HUC 12s in the County. Begin outreach with the landowner list created from the priority sub-watersheds that are adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams to promote buffers. Continue to use the draft Winnebago Waterways Regional Nine Key Element Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water Plan as a strategic guide to begin working in the highest loading sub-watersheds in the County. Get WDNR approval of the 2022 MDV Watershed Plan extension. Allocate the MDV funding in the Upper Fox HUC8. Annual Farmer Roundtable with 50-100 attendees. Increase the number of producers using soil health practices and recruit 5 new members to the Muddy Bottom Farmers Producer-Led Watershed Group Apply for another DATCP NOPP grant.
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Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the DATCP NOPP grant with three farmers from the Producer-Led group, Muddy Bottom Farmers and a farmer with the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network 	
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- *Other*

Other	<i>Publish the 2026 Winnebago County Plat Book.</i>
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	8	8
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	2	2
Manure storage closure	2	2
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	8	8
Shoreland zoning	6	6
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	5	5
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	30
For FPP	5
For NR 151	25
Livestock waste ordinance	10
Livestock facility siting	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	8 (LWCD)
Nonmetallic mining	0

Winnebago County 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	2
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	75
News release/story	6

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
LWCD Staff	16,510	\$784,592
LWCD Climate Smart Grant Staff	2,080	\$92,929
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Bonding w/ Extensions	N/A	\$71,075
SWRM SEG w/ Extensions	N/A	\$99,015
Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Funding w/Extensions	N/A	\$197,484
Multi-Discharge Variance	N/A	\$9,060
NRDA Grant	N/A	\$301,978
NAWCA Grant	N/A	\$165,000
Producer-Led Grant	N/A	\$10,100
Climate Smart Commodity Grant	N/A	\$276,000
Great Lakes Grant	N/A	\$40,000
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant	N/A	\$4,000
LWCD Spirit Fund Program	N/A	Est. \$150,000
Monsanto Settlement	N/A	\$27,414

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

SUBJECT: Five Year Review of the *Marinette 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 *Marinette* 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, Marinette 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(s): Sheri Denowski, County Conservationist, Marinette County
Tim Oestreich, Land Information Department Director, Marinette County
Tom Mandli, Development Committee Chair



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

County: Marinette

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.

In 2021, the county partnered with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop and fund a Conservation Specialist position to facilitate our work on cropland practices to protect water quality. This led to the following achievements in 2021 – 2024:

*5,077 acres managed by new Nutrient Management Plans (85,488 total cropland acres reported *55,572 in NMPs = 65%) *2,470 acres planted into cover crops after a cash crop *795 acres planted with no till planting *2 grazing management plans developed

Unfortunately due to the uncertainty of federal funding, this position has ended.

Cost sharing and promotion of projects on farmsteads continues to be an objective to protect water quality. Since we no longer have an Engineering Technician, our focus over the past 4 years has been to leverage cost share funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program plus the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) along with providing oversight on all waste storage and barnyard projects through the enforcement of our Agriculture Performance Standards and Animal Waste Ordinance (AAWO). Construction was completed for the following:

*13 Waste Storage Facilities (WSF) *5 Roofed Barnyards *5 Feed Leachate Runoff Collection Systems *2 Milking Wastewater Collection Systems *1 WSF Closure *1 Stream Crossing/ Fencing to prevent uncontrolled cattle access to a stream *1 Well Decommissioning *1 acre of riparian buffer

Those practices were partially supported by leveraging \$1,219,026 in TRM Funds. Two additional projects have received funding approval for construction in 2025-2026 with \$550,000 in TRM funds.

Models show that the completed projects result in a reduction of 6,790 pounds of phosphorus, 21,690 pounds of nitrogen, and 843 tons sediment flowing into our surface and groundwaters each year.

There has been significant progress made toward Marinette County's Goal #2 which is to Protect and enhance the natural fish and wildlife habitat:

1) Obtained three grants through the US Fish & Wildlife Service – Natural Resources Damage Assessment program (\$1,049,771) for work from 2021 – 2027. This work focuses on improving fish passage and spawning habitat for Northern pike. Projects completed to date include:

*Replacement of 11 failed culverts *Removal of 8 obstructions *Clearing and improvements for 1.5 miles of ditches *8.2 acres spawning wetlands restored *11.14 miles of stream opened for fish passage *Opened access to 432.2 acres of existing spawning wetlands *Road/Stream Crossing Inventory completed for all culverts in the project area

2) Completed studies of long term monitoring of water quality on Lake Noquebay and Bass Lake

3) Collaborated with the DNR to control the invasive plant, European frog-bit, when it was discovered in 2021 in coastal waters along the bay of Green Bay. We hired 2 to 3 seasonal employees for three summers to monitor and control the spread of the invasive plant.

4) Completed a pilot project (DNR funded) to create and use herbicide barriers to treat invasive plants in a lake. The project reduced the use of herbicide while still maintaining effectiveness.

5) Continued our partnership with Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC), to leverage their help in addressing invasive species in Marinette County. Among many other efforts:

- Assisted in hosting an Exotic Pet Surrender Event (35 animals re-homed)
- Invasive Plants Trade Up Events annually since 2023 (331 invasive plants traded in)

6) Re-established our partnership with the Lumberjack RC&D to leverage their assistance in monitoring boat launches for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

7) Completed aquatic plant surveys, removed Eurasian watermilfoil with our Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) unit, created management plans-Dolan, Thunder, Beecher Lakes (control of AIS).

8) Worked with three landowners to stabilize 1,000 feet of Menominee River shoreline

Marinette County continues to focus on educational programming as a means to reach all of our goals. Our Education Specialist on staff meets with 6,500 to 9,000 children and adults each year to promote a love of nature, the understanding of watersheds and water quality, and the protection of the natural environment for all living creatures. She also has assisted public (schools, libraries, etc.) and private entities to install and maintain 50 Pollinator Invitation Gardens.

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.

Each year's workplan included developing a program for well water testing and groundwater mapping. We have found a potential grant source to support the well testing and mapping work, but we currently do not have staff available to administer a program.

Since 2022, we have recognized the need to update our AAWO (Ordinance: Ch 18). It was last updated in 2006 and references guidance from outdated performance standards.

Our focus has been on Soil Health practices and initiatives and fish passage and spawning habitat projects instead of the well testing and ordinance update. Grant funds tend to direct our work, and we were able to obtain grants to support soil health practices (NRCS, SWRM, TRM) and fish habitat practices (USFWS – NRDA, DNR, Fund for Lake MI, Coastal States Organization).

Our focus also includes management of a 500 acre, county owned property named the Harmony Arboretum. Through agreements with the local master gardeners group, the USFWS, and local volunteers the prairie, demonstration gardens, stream buffer areas, recreational trails, and woodland

areas are getting long overdue maintenance completed. We developed a Management Team of experts including partners from USFWS, DNR, NLMGAI, Forestry Department, and local scientist volunteers. In 2024, a 10 year management plan (2024-2034) was completed and includes habitat improvements to support the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee that was documented on the site in 2022. Soil health practices were encouraged in the latest round of cropland rental agreement bids.

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.

Marinette County is also promoting soil health practices through a partnership with Oconto and Shawano Counties and NRCS through the Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network. We hired a farm network manager (agronomist) and have offered three field days each year plus a winter meeting to summarize the demonstration farms' cutting edge practices to promote soil health:

*No Till or Reduced Tillage *Low Disturbance Manure Injection *Nitrogen rates on triticale research *Wide & regular row corn interseeded with cover crops *Drone Seeding of Cover Crops *Rotational grazing on cover crops *Installation of 360Rain unit – to spread liquid agricultural wastes as irrigation water

In 2022, we coordinated with UW-Madison Extension to host the following Field Days in our Priority Farms area:

- o Manure Spill Response Day ~ 80 in attendance including many local fire fighters
- o Soil Health Day (also with NRCS) ~ approximately 25 in attendance

Marinette County LWCD completed 38 compliance checks for field application of nutrients and waste storage facility management from 2021 – 2024 (10 in compliance, 18 resolved, 6 in the process of being resolved, and 4 not resolved).

From 2021 through 2024, we issued 13 permits through our AAWO for the construction of waste storage facilities and barnyards that are designed to NRCS standards.

We updated a 2015 inventory using ArcGIS to map all of the barnyards and waste storage facilities in the county as of 2023. We also have Nutrient Management Planning acres mapped in ArcGIS for 2023-2025, and we have a list of NMPs that we review each year for completeness and compliance.

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 2025 we were awarded a SWRM Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) grant in order to encourage farmers to attend a class to understand and update their NMP. Seven farmers attended the class in 2025, and we are applying for another year of the NMFE grant to continue to build on this work. This is a partnership with UW-Madison Extension staff who instructor the class.

The Cooperative Agreement with the USFWS for work at the Harmony Arboretum directs us to do additional prairie maintenance such as cutting and treating brush and trees. The Forestry Management Plan requires us to get a timber sale set up for thinning the number of trees in the pine

plantations and for removal of ash trees. We will continue to collaborate with the NLMGAI and our volunteer team to complete regular trail maintenance and removal of invasive and aggressive species.

2025 is a pivotal year for us in the area of soil health and cropland practices. Since funding for the Conservation Specialist position which administers these programs expires in September, our focus on conservation in agriculture will be diminished due to lack of staff. The workplan does not reflect this due to the position ending sooner than expected.

Our GBWS Demonstration Farm Network has expanded from having one participating farm in Marinette County to having an additional satellite farm. The Cooperative Agreement ends September 2025. Oconto County has applied for a renewal. Again, due to changes at the federal government, continuation of this is in jeopardy.

We also rely on NRCS to provide engineering technician services to our farmers. Due to past budget cuts, the county no longer employs its own technician. Federal funds and partnerships along with the DATCP staffing grant and SWRM funds are critical for our completion of conservation work.

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: 4/8/2025

Signature of Authorized Representative: Shen Deronch **Date:** 4/11/25
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:
Katy.Smith@wisconsin.gov

MARINETTE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (Progress in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality Goal 4 -Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information Goal 3 -Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events	-Cost Share 1,060 Acres of NMP -Cost Share 300 acres of Cover Crops -Obtain annual Nutrient Management Plan updates from producers -Continue to collaborate with NRCS through the Cooperative Agreement and to supervise our employee in the Conservation Specialist Position -Continue participation in Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network (with Oconto, Shawano, and NRCS) -Administer and Enforce Chapter 19 of Marinette County Code of Ordinances (Floodplain Zoning)	<i>1300 acres</i> <i>197 acres</i> <i>46 NMP updates/Snap+ files received</i> <i>Met or exceeded 4 of 7 accomplishment goals</i> <i>3 field days and 1 annual meeting</i> <i>174 permits issued</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality	-Cost share installation of manure storage facilities, manure transfer systems, and feed leachate collection systems -Administer and Enforce Chapter 18 of Marinette County Code of Ordinances (Agriculture Performance Standards and Animal Waste Management) -Visit Farms to inspect BMP installation and operation -Work on 2025 TRM grant application for 1 farm -Apply for NRCS Cooperative Agreement for Conservation Engineering Technician position for	<i>1 cost share contract (TRM)</i> <i>1 practice installed with cost share funds (WSF)</i> <i>1 waste storage permit issued</i> <i>3 inspections completed</i> <i>Determined that ordinance update is needed</i> <i>3 site visits</i> <i>1 Application completed for April 2024 deadline</i> <i>Award NOT received</i> <i>NO Technician hired</i>

MARINETTE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

• *Water quality*

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	-Continue to advise local lake districts such as Lake Noquebay, Beecher, Thunder, and McCaslin, and other lake associations as requested	<i>4 regular meetings plus calls and surveys for 2 lake associations' application for DNR grant</i>
Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality	-Respond to availability of new resources, new requests for assistance, or new problems.	<i>2 responses and 2 applications for lake projects (AIS Control Plan writing – Beecher/Upper Lakes and Thunder-Island-Eagle Lakes)</i>
Goal 2 -Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat	-Complete seeding and stabilization on 1 Menominee River project	<i>NOT completed – DNR requirements for permit did not meet NRCS Conservation Practice Standards</i>
Goal 3 -Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events	-Continue to seek funding for a well testing program	<i>1 agency contacted for potential funds but did not apply (no staff to do the work)</i>
Goal 4 -Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information	-Get training from WGNHS for mapping wells from well reports for later development of groundwater maps for Marinette County	<i>Received training from WGNHS; no staff to map wells from existing well reports</i>
	-Collaborate with Lake Noquebay Rehabilitation District on dam operation – complete final 10 year review of dam	<i>Agreement renewed Contractor hired for required 10 year inspection Inspection completed and submitted to DNR Update Emergency Action Plan and Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Plan – NOT completed</i>
	-Enforce and Administer Chapters 10 (Env Site Assess), 15 (Septic Systems), 18 (Ag Wastes), 19 (Floodplain Zoning), 20 (Non-Metallic Mine Recl) & 21 (Shoreland-Wetland Zoning) of the Marinette County Code of Ordinances	<i>659 plans reviewed 659 permits issued</i>
	-Maximize the number of Private On-site Water Treatment Systems (POWTS) in county's maintenance program	<i>9,520 reminder postcards sent</i>
	-Learn about Marinette County Natural Hazards	<i>NOT done</i>

• *Forestry*

Forestry	Partnering with NRCS and US Forest Service in Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Initiative	<i>3 referrals to NRCS; deliverables exceeded</i>
Goal 2 -Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat		

MARINETTE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- Invasive*

<p>Invasive species</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information</p>	<p>-Continue to work with DNR regarding monitoring and removing invasive European frog-bit plant in coastal waters</p> <p>-Complete AIS Plan for Thunder-Eagle-Island Lake Association</p> <p>Complete AIS Plan for Beecher-Upper Lake Association</p> <p>-Continue to work with landowners and lake groups throughout Marinette County to respond to new aquatic invasive species, to manage existing AIS, and to evaluate AIS management efforts</p> <p>-Conduct aquatic plant surveys to determine needed invasive species control methods</p> <p>-Coordinate with Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) for educational events and terrestrial and aquatic invasive species removal</p> <p>-Partner with Lumberjack RC & D Council (FLOW) for DNR funded Clean Boats Clean Waters work plus outreach to lake associations for additional efforts</p>	<p><i>2 LTEs hired (re-hired from previous summers)</i> <i>10 sites monitored and treated</i> <i>958.5 staff hours spent assisting DNR</i></p> <p><i>Report—in progress – Deadline is June 30, 2025</i></p> <p><i>Report—in progress – Deadline is June 30, 2025</i></p> <p><i>-Use of Diver Assisted Suction Harvester DASH on various lakes (Lundgren, Little Newton, Dolan, Thunder, etc.)</i> <i>-Coordination with Lumberjack RC&D FLOW</i></p> <p><i>6 lakes AIS reconnaissance and mapping completed (Beecher/Upper, Thunder-Island-Eagle, McCaslin)</i></p> <p><i>3 Board of Directors meetings attended</i> <i>3 events (Trade Up Days, Exotic Pet Surrender, Environmental Field Days)</i> <i>3 referrals for treatment</i></p> <p><i>1 event – Environmental Field Days – 3 days</i> <i>0 trainings attended</i> <i>3 boat launches provided with AIS signs and boat cleaning tools</i></p>
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- Wildlife*

<p>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information</p>	<p>Continue to Implement NRDA grant work (Year 3 of 4) to increase and improve Northern pike spawning habitat and reduce stream passage impediments on Green Bay tributaries and the Lower Peshtigo River watershed</p> <p>Includes continued coordination with NRCS for some design work and cost share funds (wetland restorations and stream crossings)</p> <p>Work with landowners as requested to restore or improve wildlife and wetland habitat</p> <p>Coordinate rental of 2 department owned Tree</p>	<p><i>0.95 miles of stream opened for fish passage</i> <i>3.2 acres spawning wetlands restored</i> <i>13 acres of improved access to wetlands</i></p> <p><i>1 wetland scrape (0.55 acres) designed and constructed</i> <i>1 channel improvement (680 feet)</i></p> <p><i>3 landowners implemented practices with our assistance</i></p> <p><i>12,500 trees planted</i></p>
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MARINETTE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<p>Planters for landowners</p> <p>Continue TOAD (Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery) programming (average over 6,000 people reached each year) – includes highlighting emerging conservation issues (pollinators, bats, runoff pollution, Dark Skies initiative, etc.)</p>	<p><i>257 programs offered (200+ planned)</i> <i>7,500 attendees (7000+ expected)</i> <i>13 pollinator gardens planted and maintained (11-12)</i> <i>Website/Social media promotion of pollinator gardens</i></p>
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• *Urban*

<p>Urban issues</p> <p>Goal 1-Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p>	<p>Ongoing: Continue to assist the City of Niagara in obtaining funding and engineering services to address riverbank erosion and improve in stream habitat along Menominee River</p>	<p><i>NOT completed; no staff time, no grants available</i></p>
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• *Watershed*

<p>Watershed strategies</p> <p>Goal 1-Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 3-Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water</p>	<p><i>*See previously listed activities that apply to watersheds*</i></p> <p>Continue to implement 9 Key Element Plan for Lower Peshtigo River Watershed</p>	<p><i>52,520 acres in Nutrient Management Planning</i> <i>Updated NMP map</i> <i>NOT done: Review evaluation with DNR</i> <i>NOT done: Determine next steps</i></p>
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• *Other*

<p>Other</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water</p>	<p>Create Harmony Arboretum Management Plan (10 Yr) for ~500 acres of property</p> <p>Collaborate with Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association to implement annual agreement to operate, maintain, and improve Harmony Arboretum Demonstration Gardens</p>	<p><i>10 Year Management Plan created and presented to committee</i> <i>Timber Sale requested – no bidders, contractor hired for prescribed burn, 0.7 acres stream buffer seeded, invasive brush cut and treated along woodland trails; bridge decking replaced</i></p> <p><i>Agreement signed by county and NLMGA</i> <i>17 of programs delivered</i> <i>Improvements: Sign installed; Pavilion Building Painted; driveway graded/gravel added</i></p>
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MARINETTE COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

	<p>Continue to Collaborate with US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine pollinator habitat enhancements at Harmony Arboretum for Endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebee</p> <p>Lead classes at Lifelong Learning Institute of UW-GB</p> <p>Create and publish monthly editions of the <i>Northwoods Journal</i></p> <p>Social media posts about nature and conservation – Facebook page</p> <p>Maintain Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division webpage</p> <p>Create <i>Notes from the Shore</i> publication for Lakes Groups</p> <p>Continue to work with the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) to develop maps and assist with baseline monitoring for new conservation easements, to promote NEWLT and conservation easements in Marinette County, and to monitor enrolled sites (1,962 acres)</p> <p>Continue staff participation on committees and groups, including WLWCA Technical and Youth Committees, WLWCA Great Lakes and Lake Michigan Area Committees, Wisconsin EFB Taskforce, National Estuarine Research Reserve Association-Green Bay Group, WRISC, FLOW, staff trainings, etc.</p>	<p><i>cost share agreement finalized</i> <i>-Mowing & brush removal completed on West Prairie</i></p> <p><i>4 classes</i></p> <p><i>12 editions; 3,250 newspaper copies each month in the summer; online and printed copies other months</i></p> <p><i>1,318 posts</i> <i>514 followers</i></p> <p><i>3 updates</i></p> <p><i>9 lakes groups receiving publication; 17 total recipients</i></p> <p><i>3 landowners connected to NEWLT</i> <i>6 sites visited for monitoring purposes</i> <i>2 GIS maps provided for new easements</i></p> <p><i>24 meetings attended</i> <i>8 trainings attended</i></p>
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MARINETTE COUNTY 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 (# <i>Completed</i>)
Feedlot permits	1	1 <i>issued 0 permits</i>
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3 <i>issued 1 permit</i>
Manure storage closure	-	- <i>NA – no ordinance</i>
Livestock facility siting	-	- <i>NA – no ordinance</i>
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	85	85 <i>83</i>
Shoreland and Wetland zoning	134	134 <i>174</i>
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	-	- <i>NA</i>
Other – Sanitary Permits	375	375 <i>401</i>

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	9 <i>3</i>
For FPP	<i>N/A</i>
For NR 151	9 <i>3</i>
Animal waste ordinance	20 <i>3</i>
Livestock facility siting	<i>N/A</i>
Shoreland and Wetland Zoning	134 <i>5</i>
Nonmetallic mining	85 <i>10</i>

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2 <i>0</i>
Field days	3 <i>6</i>
Trainings/workshops	1 <i>1</i>
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	250 <i>257</i>
Newsletters	16 <i>16</i>
Social media posts	370 <i>1,318</i>
News release/story	12 <i>6</i>

MARINETTE COUNTY 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
Total Department Salary and Fringe Costs	12,406	561,684
(For conservation activities only)		
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Structural -Carryforward from 2023		\$ 19,586 <i>0 due to cancelled project</i>
SWRM Structural – Allocation 2024		\$ 49,000 <i>\$49,000</i>
SWRM SEG – Carryforward from 2023		\$ 5,094 <i>\$5,094</i>
SWRM SEG – Allocation 2024		\$ 50,000 <i>\$37,162</i>
SWRM DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation		\$150,820 <i>\$150,820</i>
Wildlife Damage Program		\$122,913 <i>\$111,583</i>
TRM Bond – Carryforward 2022		\$225,000 <i>\$225,000</i>
NRDA (2021-2025 Remaining Funds)		\$ 88,209 <i>\$88,209</i>
NRDA (2024 Amendment -Additional Funds)		\$309,025 <i>+ \$391,890 = \$700,915</i>
NRCS Cooperative Agreement		\$ 72,008 <i>\$52,287</i>
DNR – European frog-bit		\$ 24,298 <i>\$21,280</i>

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

2025 Work Plan - Marinette County

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
• <i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality Goal 4 -Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information Goal 3 -Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events	-Cost Share 1000 Acres of NMP -Cost Share 510 Acres of Cover Crops -Cost Share 140 Acres No Till -Obtain 68 annual Nutrient Management Plan updates from producers -Offer Spring Nutrient Management Class with Follow Up meetings; pay 5 Marinette County producers for class attendance and completed NMP (with Oconto County – also pay 5) -Continue to collaborate with NRCS through the Cooperative Agreement, to supervise our employee in the Conservation Specialist Position, and to obtain 1 year extension to 9/29/2026 -Continue participation in Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network (with Oconto, Shawano, and NRCS) -Harmony Arboretum – remove marginal land from production; replace with 3 acres grassland and 0.8 acres stream buffer	# acres # NMP updates/Snap+ files received #Producers attending class and submitting an NMP for the Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant Meets or exceeds deliverables in contract Quarterly Meetings with NRCS District Conservationist #field days and annual meeting # acres planted into grassland # acres planted into a stream buffer
• <i>Livestock</i>		
Livestock Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality	-Cost share installation of (1) manure storage facilities, (1) manure transfer systems, and (2) feed leachate collection systems -Administer and Enforce Chapter 18 of Marinette County Code of Ordinances (Agriculture Performance Standards and Animal Waste Management) -Update Chapter 18 Agriculture Waste Management Ordinance -Visit 35 Farms to inspect BMP installation and operation – TRM Grant Follow up	#cost share contracts #practices installed with cost share funds Collaboration with NRCS-EQIP Funds #waste storage permits issued #inspections completed Update approved by Development Committee and County Board # site visits

	-Submit 2026 TRM grant application for 1 Roofed Barnyard and 1 Waste Storage Facility	Application completed for April 2025 deadline
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• *Water quality*

Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories) Goal 1 -Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality Goal 2 -Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat Goal 3 -Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events Goal 4 -Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information	-Continue to advise local lake districts such as Lake Noquebay, Beecher, Thunder, Dolan, Lundgren, Little Newton, McCaslin, and other lake associations as requested -Respond to availability of new resources, new requests for assistance, or new problems. -Geolocate water wells from well reports for future development of groundwater maps for Marinette County -Collaborate with Lake Noquebay Rehabilitation District on dam operation – complete any DNR required maintenance -Enforce and Administer Chapters 10 (Env Site Assess), 15 (Septic Systems), 18 (Ag Wastes), 19 (Floodplain Zoning), 20 (Non-Metallic Mine Recl) & 21 (Shoreland-Wetland Zoning) of the Marinette County Code of Ordinances -Maximize the number of Private On-site Water Treatment Systems (POWTS) in county's maintenance program - Create <i>Notes from the Shore</i> publication for 9 Lakes Groups and send 17 total by mail -Harmony Arboretum- 3.8 acres stream buffers established and maintained -Learn about Marinette County Natural Hazards	#meetings and calls #aquatic plant surveys DASH Harvesting completed as needed #responses and #applications for lake projects Map wells in GIS from all well reports available per WGNHS instructions Agreement renewed Update Emergency Action Plan and Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Plan # of plans reviewed # of permits issued # of responses to complaints # of violations brought into compliance # of reminder postcards sent # of violations brought into compliance # of lakes groups receiving publication # acres planted Brush removed/areas mowed at least twice a year
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• *Forestry*

Forestry Goal 2 -Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat	Harmony Arboretum Forest Management	-timber sale of pine plantations completed -timber sale of ash trees completed -scattered red pine areas managed for large trees -trails and stream crossings maintained
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- *Invasive*

<p>Invasive species</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information</p>	<p>-Complete AIS Plan for Thunder-Eagle-Island Lake Association</p> <p>Complete AIS Plan for Beecher-Upper Lake Association</p> <p>-Continue to work with landowners and lake groups throughout Marinette County to respond to new aquatic invasive species, to manage existing AIS, and to evaluate AIS management efforts</p> <p>-Conduct aquatic plant surveys to determine needed invasive species control methods</p> <p>-Coordinate with Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) for 2 educational events and terrestrial and aquatic invasive species removal including Plant Invasive Species Trade Up Days and Environmental Field Days</p> <p>-Partner with Lumberjack RC & D Council (FLOW) for DNR funded Clean Boats Clean Waters work through the Lake Monitoring Protection Network plus outreach to lake associations for additional efforts</p> <p>-Harmony Arboretum Prairie and Trail Maintenance</p>	<p>-Report submitted to DNR by 3/31/25</p> <p>-Report submitted to DNR by 3/31/25</p> <p>-Use of Diver Assisted Suction Harvester DASH on various lakes (Lundgren, Little Newton, Dolan, Thunder, etc.)</p> <p>-Coordination with Lumberjack RC&D FLOW</p> <p># lakes AIS reconnaissance and mapping completed</p> <p># of Board of Directors meetings attended</p> <p># of events</p> <p># of referrals for treatment</p> <p># of events</p> <p># of trainings attended</p> <p># of boat launches provided with AIS signs and boat cleaning tools</p> <p>-prescribed burn completed on West Prairie</p> <p>-invasive plants removed/treated in prairie and woodland trails</p> <p>-all trails mowed regularly</p> <p># Volunteers engaged</p>
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- *Wildlife*

<p>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water Information</p>	<p>Continue to Implement NRDA grant work (Year 4 of 6) to increase and improve Northern pike spawning habitat and reduce stream passage impediments on Green Bay tributaries and the Lower Peshtigo River watershed</p> <p>Installation of bioengineering practices on 1/3 mile of Peshtigo River (Hemlock Curve) for streambank stabilization and fish habitat (~\$700,000 project)</p> <p>Continued coordination with NRCS for some design work and cost share funds (wetland restorations and stream crossings)</p>	<p># practices installed</p> <p>Inspections and Coordination with Private Engineers</p> <p>Project Completed and documented</p> <p>Grant Funds from EPA (GLRI), NRDA, and Fund for Lake Michigan documented and received</p> <p># practices cost shared with NRCS-EQIP Funds</p>
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	<p>Work with landowners as requested to restore or improve wildlife and wetland habitat</p> <p>Coordinate rental of 2 department owned Tree Planters for landowners. (10,000+ trees planted)</p> <p>Continue TOAD (Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery) programming (average over 6,000 people reached each year) – includes highlighting emerging conservation issues (pollinators, bats, runoff pollution, Dark Skies initiative, etc.)</p> <p>Continue coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Inc. on prairie maintenance and creation</p>	<p># practices installed</p> <p># trees planted</p> <p># of programs offered (250+ planned) # of attendees (7,250+ expected) # of pollinator gardens planted and maintained (11-12) Website/Social media promotion of pollinator gardens</p> <p>#acres Maintenance activities completed</p>
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• *Urban*

<p>Urban issues</p> <p>Goal 1-Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p>	<p>Ongoing: Continue to assist the City of Niagara in obtaining funding and engineering services to address riverbank erosion and improve in stream habitat along Menominee River</p>	<p>Ongoing: Coordination with WI Dept of Transportation and WI Coastal Management Program</p> <p># grant applications Engineering design completed</p>
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• *Watershed*

<p>Watershed strategies</p> <p>Goal 1-Protect and Enhance Surface Water Quality</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 3-Improve Overall Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water</p>	<p><i>*See previously listed activities that apply to watersheds*</i></p> <p>Continue to implement 9 Key Element Plan for Lower Peshtigo River Watershed</p>	<p># acres in Nutrient Management Planning Update NMP map Review evaluation with DNR Determine next steps</p>
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• *Other*

<p>Other</p> <p>Goal 2-Protect and Enhance Natural Fish and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Goal 4-Provide Educational Programming/Land and Water</p>	<p>Follow Harmony Arboretum Management Plan (10 Yr) for ~500 acres of property</p> <p>Collaborate with Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association to implement annual agreement to operate, maintain, and improve Harmony Arboretum Demonstration Gardens</p> <p>Continue to Collaborate with US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine pollinator habitat enhancements at Harmony Arboretum for Endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebee</p> <p>Lead classes at Lifelong Learning Institute of UW-GB</p> <p>Create and publish monthly editions of the <i>Northwoods Journal</i></p> <p>Social media posts about nature and conservation: at least 600 Facebook posts, maintain at least 500 followers</p> <p>Maintain Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division webpage: monthly updates for committee meeting minutes and agendas, Northwoods Journals; quarterly updates with photos and Notes from the Shore; and as needed</p> <p>Continue to work with the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) to develop maps and assist with baseline monitoring for new conservation easements, to promote NEWLT and conservation easements in Marinette County, and to monitor enrolled sites (1,962 acres)</p> <p>Continue staff participation on committees and groups, including WLWCA Technical Committee (4), Technicians Meeting (2), WLWCA Great Lakes and Lake Michigan Area Committees (8), Wisconsin EFB Taskforce (4), WRISC (4), FLOW (2), staff trainings, etc.</p>	<p>#management activities completed (timber sale; prescribed burn; buffer seeding, cropland improvements, etc.)</p> <p>Agreement signed by county and NLMGA # of programs delivered # of attendees (TOAD & NLMGA) Improvements made</p> <p>-Mowing & brush removal completed -Stream Buffers planted and maintained</p> <p># of classes (3/semester planned) # of attendees (10-15/session expected)</p> <p>12 editions (3 printed and distributed throughout the county) # of electronic copies downloaded</p> <p># of posts # of followers</p> <p># of updates</p> <p># landowners connected to NEWLT # of sites visited for monitoring purposes # of GIS maps provided for new easements</p> <p># of meetings attended # of trainings attended</p>
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	1	1
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	4	4
Manure storage closure	-	-
Livestock facility siting	-	-
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	83	83
Shoreland and Wetland zoning	174	174
Other – Sanitary Permits	401	401

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	35
For NR 151	10
Animal waste ordinance	5
Shoreland and Wetland Zoning	5
Nonmetallic mining	10
Sanitary Permits	296

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	3
Trainings/workshops	1
School-age programs (field days, classroom)	250
Adult Education Programs (LLI, astronomy nights, festivals, etc.)	15
Newsletters	16
Social media posts	600
News release/story	12

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
Total Department Salary and Fringe Costs	10,386	503,112
(For conservation activities only)		
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Structural -Carryforward from 2024		\$ 47,838
SWRM Structural – Allocation 2025		\$ 54,500
SWRM SEG – Carryforward from 2024		\$ 0
SWRM SEG – Allocation 2025		\$ 75,000
SWRM SEG NMFE – Allocation 2025		\$ 15,325
SWRM DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation		\$164,105
Wildlife Damage Program		\$128,918
TRM Bond – Carryforward 2022		\$225,000
TRM Bond – 2025		\$225,000
NRDA (Phase II; 2024-2027)		\$700,915
DNR Subaward/EPA GLRI Grant		\$300,000
Fund for Lake Michigan		\$142,760
NRCS Cooperative Agreement		\$ 77,100
NRCS GBWS Demonstration Farm Network		\$ 45,053
DNR Surface Waters Grant-LMPN		\$ 19,934
DNR Surface Waters Grant-Lake AIS plan-B/U		\$ 8,472
DNR Surface Waters Grant-Lake AIS plan-T/I/E		\$ 9,419
USFWS Partner Agreement–Harmony Arboretum		\$ 11,500

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Rusk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan* meets applicable statutory and rule requirements and requests that the LWCB make a recommendation regarding approval of the plan consistent with the Board's guidance.

Summary: The plan is written as a 10 year plan, and if approved, the plan would remain in effect through December 31, 2035, and would be subject to a five-year review prior to December 31, 2030.

DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the checklist and finds that the plan complies with all the requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

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

Rusk County held a public hearing on April 17, 2025, as part of its public input and review process. The Rusk County Land Conservation Committee will present the LWRM plan for County Board approval after receiving a recommendation for approval from the LWCB.

Materials Provided:

- LWRM Plan Review Checklist
- Completed LWRM Plan Review form
- 2024 workplan with accomplishments and current 2025 workplan

Presenters: Nick Stadnyk, Rusk County Land Conservation & Development Department Director
Phil Schneider, Land Conservation Committee Chair



Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Agricultural Resource Management Division
2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911
Madison WI 53708-8911
Phone: (608) 224-4608

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM)

LWRM Plan Review Checklist

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

County: RUSK

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 3/31/2025

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

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL	Date(s)
1. Provide the dates that the local advisory committee met to discuss the development of the LWRM plan and the county plan of work	10/31/24; 3/20/25
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹	4/17/25
3. Provide the date of county board approval of the plan, or the date the county board is expected to approve the plan after the LWCB makes its recommendation. ²	6/24/25

III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the plan include the following information as part of a county-wide resource assessment:			
a. Soil erosion conditions in the county ³ , including:			
i. identification of areas within county that have high erosion rates or other soil erosion problems that merit action within the next 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_14, 35, 50, 55__ —
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16

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

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

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

- | | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ii. | identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17-18 |
| iii. | identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18, 35-39, 41, 46, 50____
— |

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

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| a. | specific water quality objectives identified for each watershed based upon the resource assessment, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20-39____
— |
| b. | pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21-39 |

Other comments: _____

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Did the county consult with DNR ⁴ to obtain water quality assessments, if available; to identify key water quality problem areas; to determine water quality objectives; and to identify pollutant load reduction targets, if any; and to review NR 151 implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66-67 |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|

Other comments: _____

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Yes No Page

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation components : | | | | |
| a. | A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage adoption of farm conservation practices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 34, 35, 43, 50 |
| b. | State and local regulations used to implement the plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55, 60-61 |
| c. | Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-59 |
| d. | Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-58 |

⁴ While requirements for DNR consultation may be satisfied by including relevant DNR representatives on the advisory committee, counties may also need to interact with DNR staff in central or regional offices to meet all of the consultation requirements. DNR may point counties to other resources to obtain information including consultants who can calculate pollutant load reduction targets.

e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA, see also 43
<hr/>			
2. Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate:			
a. expected costs of implementing the plan including cost-sharing for conservation practices needed to achieve plan objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35, 36-54
b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36-54
<hr/>			
3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	54
<hr/>			
Other comments: _____			

VI. OUTREACH AND PARTNERING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the LWRM plan describe a strategy to provide information and education on soil and water resource management, conservation practices and available cost-share funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7, 34, 36, 47-49
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35, 51, 57, 60-62
<hr/>			
Other comments: _____			

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

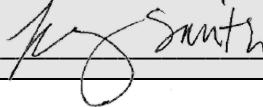
VIII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS

⁵ Counties must submit annual work plan by no later than April 15th of every year to meet the requirement in s. ATCP 50.12(2)(i) for counties to have multi-year work plans.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Staff Signature: 

Date: 5/19/25



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

County: Rusk

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

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

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

Soil Health (NMP, No-Till, Cover Crops). - Annual goal to increase the number of NMP's and acreage of no-till and cover crops. Over the last 5 years we've added 1,110 acres with a nutrient management plan, 172 acres of no-till, and 1,995 acres of cover crop. We also obtained a NMFE grant which funded a producer targeted NMP training and helped make a dedicated NMP workstation available in the office.

Install Conservation Practices. - Annual goal to maximize use of available funding for conservation practices. Designed and installed 3 barnyards, 1 manure storage closure, 1 wetland restoration, 36 well abandonments, and 54,772 feet of exclusion and/or rotational grazing fencing and developed 4 rotational grazing plans.

Increase Invasive Species Efforts. - Annual goal to expand education and control efforts for invasive species. Within the last 3 years, we have undertaken regular control activities on purple loosestrife and have developed plans to raise and distribute *Galerucella* beetles, built and made available herbicide control devices for buckthorn treatment, began forming a citizen network to assist with control efforts, and started mapping Japanese Knotweed locations within the county. Since 2021, Rusk County has partnered with Beaver Creek Reserve to provide aquatic invasive species programs.

Annual Tree Sale. - Annual goal to continue and expand tree sale activities. In 2022, we added perennial plants to our annual sale and have seen a 19% increase in sales each year. Over the last 5 years, we have sold over 28,000 trees & shrubs.

Shoreland Protection Program. - Goal to implement a countywide shoreland protection program. In 2022, we began offering a county funded program, in conjunction with the Healthy Lakes Grant program, to reimburse landowners for installation of shoreland practices. Since then, we have met with and evaluated 130 properties and designed/installed 15 native buffer projects totaling over 14,300 sq. ft., 11 rain gardens totaling 5,630 sq. ft., 190 ft. of diversions, 260 ft. of bank stabilization, and 225 ft. of gutter.

GW Sampling. - Goal was to implement a program of collecting groundwater quality data. In 2021, we began development and testing of an online mapping tool, in conjunction with County Health and Human Services, to record the location of groundwater samples. This is a voluntary program which we have continued since 2022 and so far has collected 35 locations with sample results.

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

NR151 Compliance. In the past, we have not consistently evaluated farms for NR151 compliance other than when specific complaints have been received. This is due to the limited time and staff available within our Division. Our new work plan has been revised to include a formalized annual inspection program on a small, manageable subset of farms in the county.

CREP Program. We have been working with WiDATCP for the last few years, hoping to offer CREP as another incentive for conservation projects. To date, we are still waiting for approval through the USDA farm bill.

Invasive Species Control. - While we have been quite active in IS control, we'd like to improve and expand the public participation components and get more volunteers involved with identification and mapping. Due to limited staff time and, to a certain extent, public apathy, we have not been able to generate the involvement we'd like to see. Moving forward, we hope that our improved I&E material and demonstration projects will allow us to reach our goal.

Pollinator Program. - We have planned on establishing a pollinator program for a couple of years, but various factors such as staff time, lack of county resources, and lack of other funding sources has prevented any meaningful progress. Over the last 5 years, we have had a number of landowners talk with us about converting land areas to pollinator habitat, but had no financial incentive to offer. We are hoping that with recent changes to ATCP 50 and increasing emphasis on pollinator habitat, we will be able to implement a pollinator habitat program with financial incentives.

3. *Describe the county's approach to implementation of its priority farm strategy including outreach, farm inventories and making use of multiple funding sources. How has the county evaluated the effectiveness of its priority farm strategy and used this information to improve implementation of the agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms?*

Our approach in the past has been mainly reactionary as calls are received from the public or producers approach us regarding funding availability. Outreach has been a larger component of our approach, which was largely absent under previous conservationists. Five years ago, many in the public didn't know who we were or what we did. Over the last few years, we have made a real effort to get information out to the public and have tried a variety of delivery mechanisms including, satellite office hours, mailings, community event booths, and seminars/presentations. Some of these techniques work well, others do not, and we are continually improving and expanding our outreach efforts. With our planned random whole farm evaluation program along with

planned newsletters, community events, and educational seminars, we hope to continue delivery of information and outreach to the public.

4. *Provide representative examples that show changes in direction in the county's LWRM plan and annual work plans, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in goals, objectives or planned activities.*

Rotational Grazing. Over the last 5 years, we have seen a significant increase in the number of landowners interested in starting or transitioning to beef production. Most of these landowners have also shown interest in rotational grazing, which was not a component of the previous Land & Water Plan. We have shifted some of our priorities to support this trend and have been largely successful at developing and implementing rotational grazing plans.

Pollinator Habitat. Recent years have seen increasing interest in pollinators and pollinator habitat. Over the last couple of years, we have begun integrating pollinator habitat seeding and plantings into recommendations for designed projects and have included development of a formal pollinator habitat program in our revised plan.

Shoreland Program. With a number of highly developed lakes and flowages, shoreland erosion has become an important issue in Rusk County. Implementation of our shoreland protection program has been hugely successful, not only as a way to implement conservation projects, but also as a way to disseminate information and make landowners aware of shoreland and surface water quality issues. Part of our time has necessarily been shifted to on-site evaluation, design, and implementation of the shoreland practices.

Outreach & Education. As mentioned earlier, outreach and education was lacking here in the county. Over the last 5 years, we have continually improved and increased our I&E efforts including development of educational materials, involvement with community events, and integrating with K-12 programs in local school districts. In 2023, we modified our administrative position to include information, education, and outreach duties in support of our efforts. Eventually, if funding allows, we would like to create a full-time education and outreach position within the Division.

Please consider answering the following optional question (not to exceed 1 page)

1. The LWCB is interested in learning how county conservation staff are addressing changing weather patterns. To this end, the LWCB reached out to WI Land+Water for guidance, see the [WI Land+Water memo](#) dated for October 28, 2020. Your response to the following question will be appreciated.

Is climate change resiliency contained in your LWRM plan (Yes ☒ or No ☐). If yes, indicate with page number(s) or statement(s) where within the LWRM plan it is located and please consider the factors below, as examples, in your answer.

- a. *Plants and natural communities (forests, wetlands, prairies, invasive species)*
- b. *Soil and agriculture*
- c. *Weather (growing season, seasonal temperatures, precipitation)*
- d. *Infrastructure*
- e. *Land owners (residents)*
- f. *Water resources (groundwater and surface water quality and quantity)*
- g. *Fisheries*
- h. *Wildlife*
- i. *Human health and recreation*

Answer Below

Pages 7 - 10. - Changes in climate and climate trends are undeniable and will have an impact on much of what we do in terms of conservation planning. Pages 7-10 provide a data driven summary of what we can expect and provides support for including climate resiliency in planned activities.

Page 45. - Specifically building climate resilience into design of conservation projects.

Page 47. - Recognize and quantify the impact of wetlands on climate change and promoting wetland conservation and restoration as a tool for climate resilience.

Page 48. - Proper sizing of culverts to handle increasing runoff events.

Page 62. - Quantify rate of climate shifts and plan habitat plantings accordingly.

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.

Presentation Regarding County Resource Concerns

Prepare and present a 5-8 minute snapshot to the board regarding county resources and management issues. The county must prepare one of following as part of this brief presentation:

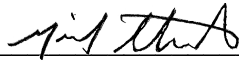
- a. A PowerPoint (showing what your county looks like, can include maps), or
- b. A hand out (2 page max)

Guidance on Board Review Process

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

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of this form (including attachments) on: 5/13/2025

Signature of Authorized Representative:  **Date:** 5/13/2025
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

RUSK COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal & objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable, identify focus areas, e.g. HUC12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)	2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
● <i>Cropland</i>			
Cropland, soil health, and/or nutrient management	Nutrient management planning focused on Devils Creek (070500010701) and Deer Tail Creek (070500010802)	● Add 200 acres under new nutrient management planning	● 244 ac. added under new nutrient managment planning
	Adoption of cover crop and no-till practices	● Add 150 acres of new cover crop and/or no-till practice implementation ● Implement county no-till drill program	● 322 ac. added of cover crop and no-till ● Still working on securing necessary funds
	Soil health/nutrient management field day	● Field day planned for August with Flambeau Valley Watershed Group (producer led) ● Field trials planned for cover crop varieties and edge of field sediment monitoring	● Monitoring site selected and discussion of parameters is ongoing
	Continue providing NMP workstation	● Continue provision of computer workstation in office for use by producers to develop nutrient management plans	● Workstation used by 2 producers during 2024
● <i>Livestock</i>			
Livestock	Barnyard runoff control systems	● Design 2 barnyard runoff control system	● Preliminary design on 2 systems completed
	Manure storage abandonment	● 1 manure storage system closures designed and implemented	● 1 manure storage system properly abandoned
	Livestock fencing and rotational grazing systems	● 2 livestock exclusion fencing projects including rotational grazing plan	● 1 livestock exclusion fencing project complete with grazing plan (14,000 ft)
	Roof runoff and clear water diversions	● 1 roof runoff or clear water diversions designed and installed	● 1 roof runoff system discussed, but not implemented
	Livestock crossing	● 2 livestock crossings designed and installed	● 1 livestock crossing designed. Planned 2025 installation.
● <i>Water quality</i>			
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	Well decommissioning	● 7 well abandonments completed	● 9 well abandonments completed
	Rain garden/shoreline restoration	● 15 projects designed and installed	● 44 on-site evaluations, 21 sites contracted and designed, 10 projects installed
	Participation in CREP program	● Signed CREP participation agreement with State/Federal partners	● No progress
	Groundwater scrape/shallow infiltration ponds	● Design and install 3 scrapes/shallow infiltration ponds	● No scrapes installed
	Grassed waterway	● Design and install 2 grassed waterways	● No grassed waterways installed
	Continue working with Rusk Co. Public Health Department to provide well testing assistance	● Obtain 60 well sampling locations with results	● 35 sample locations recorded

● <i>Forestry</i>			
Forestry	N/A	N/A	N/A
● <i>Invasive Species</i>			
Invasive species	<div>Buckthorn control</div> <div>General invasive species</div> <div>Japanese knotweed</div> <div>Support AIS efforts of lake and watershed groups</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work with and support participating landowners conducting controlSecure a buckthorn control demonstration site location and initiate trial control plots</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Hold one public informational session on invasive speciesContinue with informational activities at the weekly farmers market</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Begin control efforts, with landowner permission, on known knotweed sites</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to provide technical assistance and support to local lake organizations in support of ongoing AIS control effortsAdd AIS control requirements to county zoning permit conditions for permits issued in shoreline areasBegin biological control of purple loosestrife populations</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided supplies to 4 landowners conducting buckthorn controlDemonstration site identified</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">No informational session heldAttended 11 community events</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Mapped all known locations and identified landowners</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended 3 lake organization annual meetings</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussions held regarding adding permit conditions</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Planned release cancelled. Beetles had already moved into area.</div>
● <i>Wildlife</i>			
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<div>Wildlife damage program</div> <div>Tree and native plant sale</div> <div>Wetland restoration</div> <div>Pollinator habitat</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue working with USDA-APHIS and WiDNR to implement the wildlife damage program</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">6,000 trees sold, 40 native plant flats sold</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">1 wetland restoration designed and implemented</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Begin development of a pollinator garden program for county residentsContinue to promote pollinator plantings as an option for native buffer restorations</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">6,300 trees sold. 26 perennial plant flats sold</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">1 wetland restoration designed. Implementation delayed to 2025</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Delayed to 2025Ongoing</div>
● <i>Urban</i>			
Urban issues	N/A	N/A	N/A
● <i>Watershed</i>			
Watershed strategies	<div>P compliance with municipalities</div> <div>Farmer led watershed council</div> <div>Watershed level planning and management</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate existing P compliance of municipal sourcesRe-evaluate participation in the state MDV program</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work with and support the Flambeau Valley Watershed Group</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue implementation of the Devils Creek Watershed ProjectImplement 2 conservation demonstration sites in the Devils Creek Watershed</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed 1 P trading project (Village of Hawkins) and assisted with soil samplingReviewed MDV program for Rusk County. Did not pursue.</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Identified additional conservation project locations. Planned 2025 installationSecured demonstration site and completed design. 2025 installation</div>

● <i>Other</i>			
Other	<div>Non-metallic mining</div> <div>County owned dam oversight</div> <div>Development of MapFeeder application</div> <div>Outreach and Education</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● 52 plans reviewed● Conduct aerial survey of all NMM locations to track size, active area, reclaimed area, and permit compliance</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continue maintenance and operation of aerator at Audie Lake● Conduct spring and fall inspection of all county owned dams (9)● Begin reconstruction of Betty Lake Dam</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continue working with neighboring counties in development of the existing MapFeeder data management software and interface</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continue to increase outreach and education activities for residents including conservation groups, community organizations, and the general public● Expand opportunities for our education and outreach specialist to work with K-12 classrooms</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continue manning a booth promoting conservation activities at the local farmers market● Develop trail system and investigate funding opportunities for a pavillion on our County conservation area</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● 52 plans reviewed● Drone flight completed and processed for all active NMM locations</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Did not run aerator. Will evaluate lake in spring 2025.● Removed 2 dams from county owned status. Spring inspection conducted on 7 dams● Dam design still under review by WiDNR</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● MapFeeder application complete. Data loading started</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ongoing</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided classroom presentations on public speaking. Discussed teaching wildlife and conservation class at one district. Assisted with establishment of a sustainability club at one school.● Attended 8 farmers market events. Conducted a conservation related kids activity at 4.● Mapped existing trails and began trail improvements. Will begin investigating funding opportunities in 2025.</div>

RUSK COUNTY 2025 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. HUC12 watershed code	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
<i>Cropland</i>		
Cropland, soil health, and/or nutrient management	<p>Encourage adoption of no-till and cover crops</p> <p>Soil health/conservation educational seminars</p> <p>Continue to promote nutrient management planning</p> <p>Continue providing NMP workstation</p> <p>Farmland Preservation</p> <p>Secure remaining funding for no-till drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% increase in adoption of no-till and cover crops • 3 sessions held. Track number of participants. • Add 200 acres under new nutrient management plan • Continue to provide a computer workstation in the office for use by producers to develop nutrient management plans • Discussions with ag producers to evaluate need/desire for FLP • Purchase and make available a no-till drill that ag producers can rent
<i>Livestock</i>		
Animal & animal waste management	<p>Barnyard runoff control systems</p> <p>Manure storage abandonment</p> <p>Livestock fencing and rotational grazing systems</p> <p>Livestock crossing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design 2 barnyard runoff control systems • Proper closure of 1 manure storage structure • 2 livestock exclusion fencing projects including rotational grazing plan • 1 livestock crossing designed and installed
<i>Water Quality</i>		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<p>Well decommissioning</p> <p>Rain garden/shoreline restoration</p> <p>Participation in CREP program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 proper well abandonments completed • Develop informational packet on well abandonment for the public • 5 projects designed and installed • Signed CREP participation agreement with State/Federal partners

Water Quality (Cont.)		
	Groundwater scrape/shallow infiltration pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and install 2 scrapes/shallow infiltration ponds
	Grassed waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and install 1 grassed waterway
	Wetland functions evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research/Determine value of wetlands for sediment reduction Research/Determine value of wetlands for climate resiliency
Forestry		
	N/A	N/A
Invasive Species		
Invasive species	Buckthorn control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with and support landowners conducting control Set-up buckthorn control demonstration plots
	Invasive species education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold 1 public informational session on invasive species Continue with informational activities at the weekly farmers market and other community events
	Japanese knotweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue control efforts, with landowner permission, at known knotweed sites
	AIS efforts of lake and watershed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide technical assistance and support to local lake organizations in support of ongoing AIS control efforts Add AIS control requirements to county zoning permits conditions for permits issued in shoreland areas
	Goat herd for buckthorn control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding to acquire and manage 5 head herd to use for buckthorn control
	<i>Galerucella</i> beetle program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin program to raise and distribute <i>Galerucella</i> beetles for purple loosestrife control
Wildlife		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	Wildlife damage program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with USDA-APHIS and WiDNR to deliver wildlife damage control services
	Tree & plant sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,000 trees sold, 30 native plant flats sold
	Wetland restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 wetland restoration designed and implemented

Wildlife (Cont.)

	Pollinator habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop parameters of pollinator program for county residents• Continue to promote pollinator plantings as an option for native buffer restorations
	Vegetation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate and determine recommended changes in planting recommendations to accomodate shifting animal population ranges
	Bat conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop bat related I&E material. Hold 1 educational seminar• Hold 1 bat house construction demonstration and community event

Urban

Urban issues	City & Village snow removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Cities and Villages to locate acceptable snow dumping areas
	Culvert sizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with County and City/Village Highway Departments to determine proper culvert sizing and placement

Watershed

Watershed strategies	P compliance with municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate existing P compliance of municipal sources• Re-evaluate participation in the state MDV program
	Producer-led watershed groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to work with and provide support for the Flambeau Valley Watershed Group
	Watershed level planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue implementation of the Devils Creek Watershed Project• Install streambank practices at demonstration site on Devils Creek• Hold 1 watershed management field day• Develop strategic plan to implement conservation practices in high quality watersheds and impaired watersheds as identified in the LWRMP
	Comprehensive Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with NWRPC during development of the Rusk County Comprehensive Plan

Other

	Non-metallic mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 52 plans reviewed• Conduct aerial survey of all active NMM locations to track size, active area, reclaimed area, and permit compliance
	County-owned dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate continued operation of aerator at Audie Lake• Conduct spring and fall inspection of all county owned dams (9)• Begin reconstruction of Betty Lake Dam

Other (Cont.)		
	MapFeeder application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish loading all data into the MapFeeder application
	Outreach & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to increase outreach and education activities for residents including conservation groups, community organizations, and the public• Expand opportunities to work with K-12 classrooms• Improve trail system and seek funding opportunities for a pavillion at the Gustafson Conservation Area

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances		
Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	N/A	N/A
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	1
Manure storage closure	2	2
Livestock facility siting	N/A	N/A
Non-metallic/frac sand mining	53	1
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A	N/A
Shoreland zoning	200	190
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	10	7
Other	N/A	N/A
Table 3: Planned Inspections		
Inspections	Number of Inspections Planned	
Total Farm Inspections		
For FPP	0	
For NR 151	5-10	
Animal Waste Ordinance	2	
Livestock Facility Siting	N/A	
Stormwater and Construction Site Erosion Control	N/A	
Non-Metallic Mining	52	
County Owned Dams	7	
Table 4: Planned Outreach and Education Activities		
Activity	Number	
Tours	0	
Field Days	1	
Trainings/Workshops	5	
School-age Programs (Camps, Field Days, Classroom)	10	
Newsletters	4	
Social Media Posts	50	
News Release/Story	3	
Other Community Events	5	
Table 5: Estimated Staff Hours and Costs		
Description	Hours	Cost
County Conservationist	2024.75	\$72,488.18
Conservation Engineer	2024.75	\$86,314.30
Administrative Assistant/Outreach Coordinator	1011	\$26,400.00
Intern	0	\$0.00
Cost Sharing		
Hard Practices (Bond, other grants)		\$200,000.00
Soft Practices (SEG, other grants)		\$25,000.00

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Jason Knutson, Wisconsin DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, April – May 2025, For June LWCB Meeting

Staffing Update

Victoria Ziegler started on March 10 as the CAFO Permit Coordinator. She is the DNR's lead for WPDES permitting in the CAFO Program, which includes coordinating permit language, assisting program staff with complex permits and developing program policy and trainings to support consistent statewide implementation of CAFO permits. Victoria has worked for the DNR in the Surface Water Grants Program, as a CAFO Specialist in Southeast Region for five years and in the Wastewater Program as a permit drafter and coordinator. She has also worked with The Nature Conservancy and has a MS from the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences.

DNR Nonpoint Source Program Management Plan Update

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires states to maintain and update a Nonpoint Source Program Management Plan (NPS PMP). This statewide management plan meets EPA Clean Water Act requirements and ensures Wisconsin's eligibility for Section 319 (federal NPS Program) funding. In Wisconsin, the DNR is the lead agency coordinating the state's approach to addressing nonpoint source pollution. The [current NPS PMP](#) was approved by EPA in 2021 and is nearing the end of its five-year planning period.

The DNR has been leading an effort to update the NPS PMP plan with input from many internal and external partners including DNR Drinking & Groundwater Program, DNR Water Quality Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Land and Water Resource Management Bureau, Universities of Wisconsin – Madison Extension and more. An updated and approved NPS PMP is anticipated to be finalized by EPA later this year or early next year. Changes to the plan have generally been related to updating content for accuracy, improving formatting and incorporating updated EPA guidelines.

Surface Water Grants Program Update

The DNR's surface water grant program guidance for the FY26 grant cycle will be posted for public review and comment sometime during the June–July timeframe. Notable program changes include updated application questions and grant ranking sheet for the AIS Surface Water Planning category and a list of research priorities for the AIS Research & Demonstration category. Several other clarifications and updates were made. Program guidance is available for review on the [surface water grant webpage](#).

A recorded introductory video that includes information about timelines, different grant categories and how to apply is available on the surface water grant webpage.

Runoff Grants Update

The Runoff Grant Annual Reports are available on our webpages (direct links below). The latest annual report for 2024/2025 should be online this spring or summer.

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

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

[2023/2024 Runoff Management Grant Annual Report \[PDF\]](#)

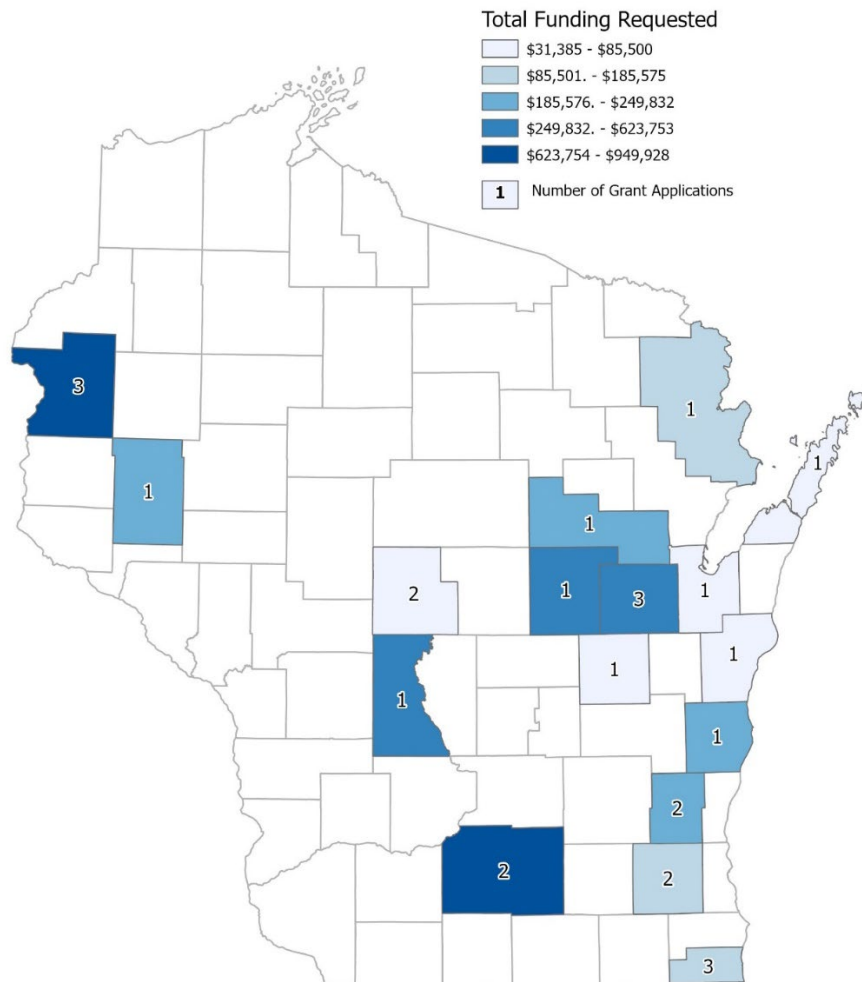
[2022/2023 Runoff Management Grant Annual Report \[PDF\]](#)

Applications 2026 Targeted Runoff Management Grants and Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Planning grants were due on April 15.

Summary Of 2026 Submitted Grant Applications

Grant Type	Requested State Share	Number of Grant Applications Submitted
Large-Scale TRM	\$2,897,956	6
Small-Scale AG TRM	\$1,371,196	8
Small-Scale Urban TRM	\$426,370	2
UNPS Planning	\$640,056	11
Total	\$5,335,578	27

UNPS-Planning & TRM Grant Applications – 2026 Cycle



Summary of 2025 Notice of Discharge Grant Applications and Funding Decisions

Grant Type	State Share Amount of Funded Applications	Applications Reviewed & Funded	Applications Awaiting Review & Funding Decision
Notice of Discharge	\$1,853,800	4	1