



LWRM Planning: for LWCB Members and Advisors

Jenn Chakravorty

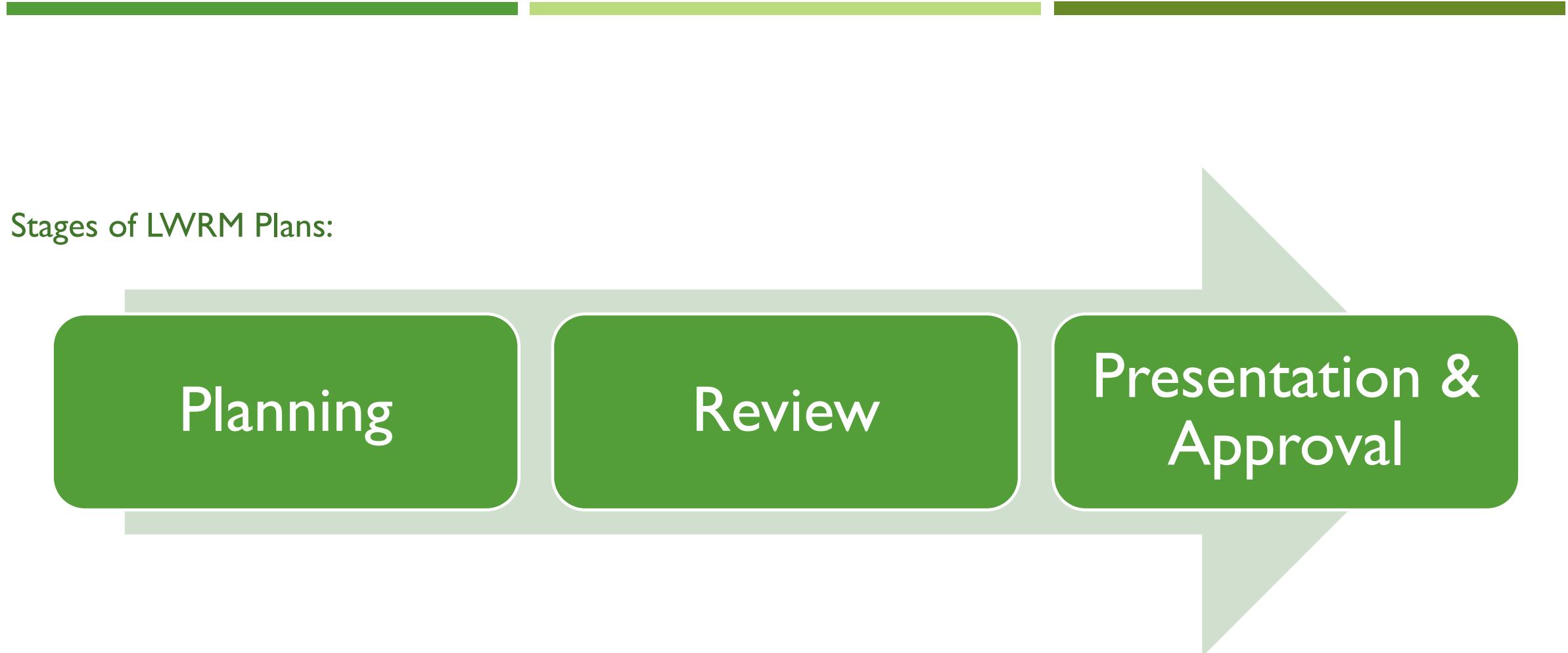
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

February 2026 LWCB Meeting

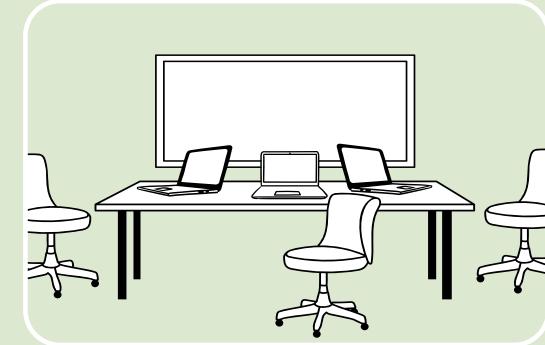
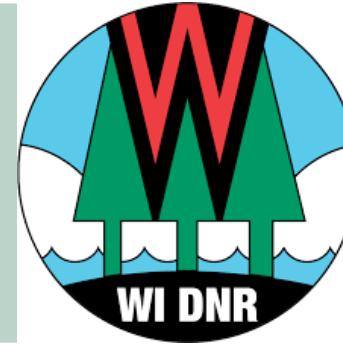
GOALS

- Review the stages of LWRM planning and the board's involvement
- Explore effective ways to engage with county LWRM presentations





Who is involved in an LWRM Plan?



LCC

Includes:

- LWCD
- Local advisory committee
- Public hearing

Plan preparation

DATCP

Assist with LWRM plan preparation (work with LWRM Planner)

Review and approve plan

DNR

Assist with LWRM plan preparation

Provide available water quality data, training and support for water resource assessments, and related information

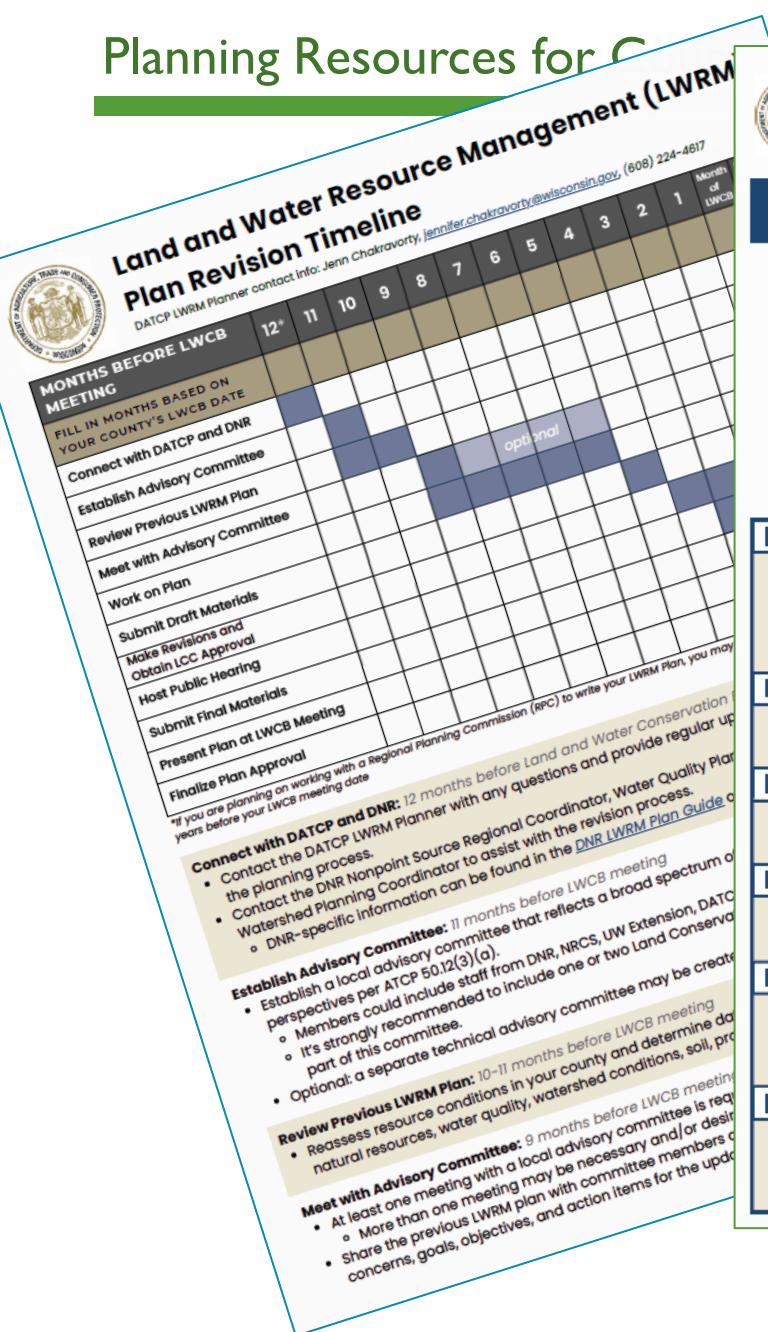
LWCB

Land and Water Conservation Board reviews LWRM plan & recommends approval by DATCP

Solicits comments from board advisors



Planning Resources for County LWRM Plan Revisions



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
Division of Agricultural Resources Management
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

Revision Guidance: Land and Water Resource Management

This guidance document covers requirements related to Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan revisions that occur every ten years.

Review and follow relevant statutes and administrative rules:

- Wisconsin Statutes § 92.10 – Land and water resource management planning program
- Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 50.12 – Land and water resource management plans
- Wis. Admin. Code § NR 151 – Subchapter II-Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions

What to submit and present for LWRM Plan revisions:

- Annual Work Plans
 - The county's **current** year work plan should be submitted using the DATCP template by April 15 of each year.
 - The county's **previous** year work plan should be updated to show accomplishments for planned activities.
- Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Questionnaire
 - Answer all questions on the LWCB Revision Questionnaire and obtain authorized representative's signature confirming LCC review and approval.
- LWRM Plan
 - The revised LWRM Plan should be reviewed by LCC members, the DNR, DATCP, and other interested parties and meet all statutory requirements.
- DATCP LWRM Plan Review Checklist
 - The LWRM Planner will send a signed copy of the LWRM Plan Review Checklist to the county. The LWRM Plan has been reviewed by DATCP and found to meet all requirements.
- LWCB Meeting Presentation
 - Prepare slides or handouts for an 8-10 minute presentation at the LWCB meeting.
 - Following the presentation, participate in a 30-35 minute discussion with the LWCB regarding the LWRM plan and implementation activities.
- County Board Approval
 - It is recommended that the LWRM Plan is approved by the County Board. The LWRM Planner will provide documentation to the LWRM Planner showing approval of the plan.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
Division of Agricultural Resources Management
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

Review Guidance: Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans

This guidance document covers requirements related to Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan reviews that occur at the halfway point (five years) of a LWRM Plan's term.

Review and follow relevant statutes and administrative rules:

- Wisconsin Statutes § 92.10 – Land and water resource management planning program
- Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 50.12 – Land and water resource management plans
- Wis. Admin. Code § NR 151 – Subchapter II-Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions

What to submit and present for LWRM Plan reviews:

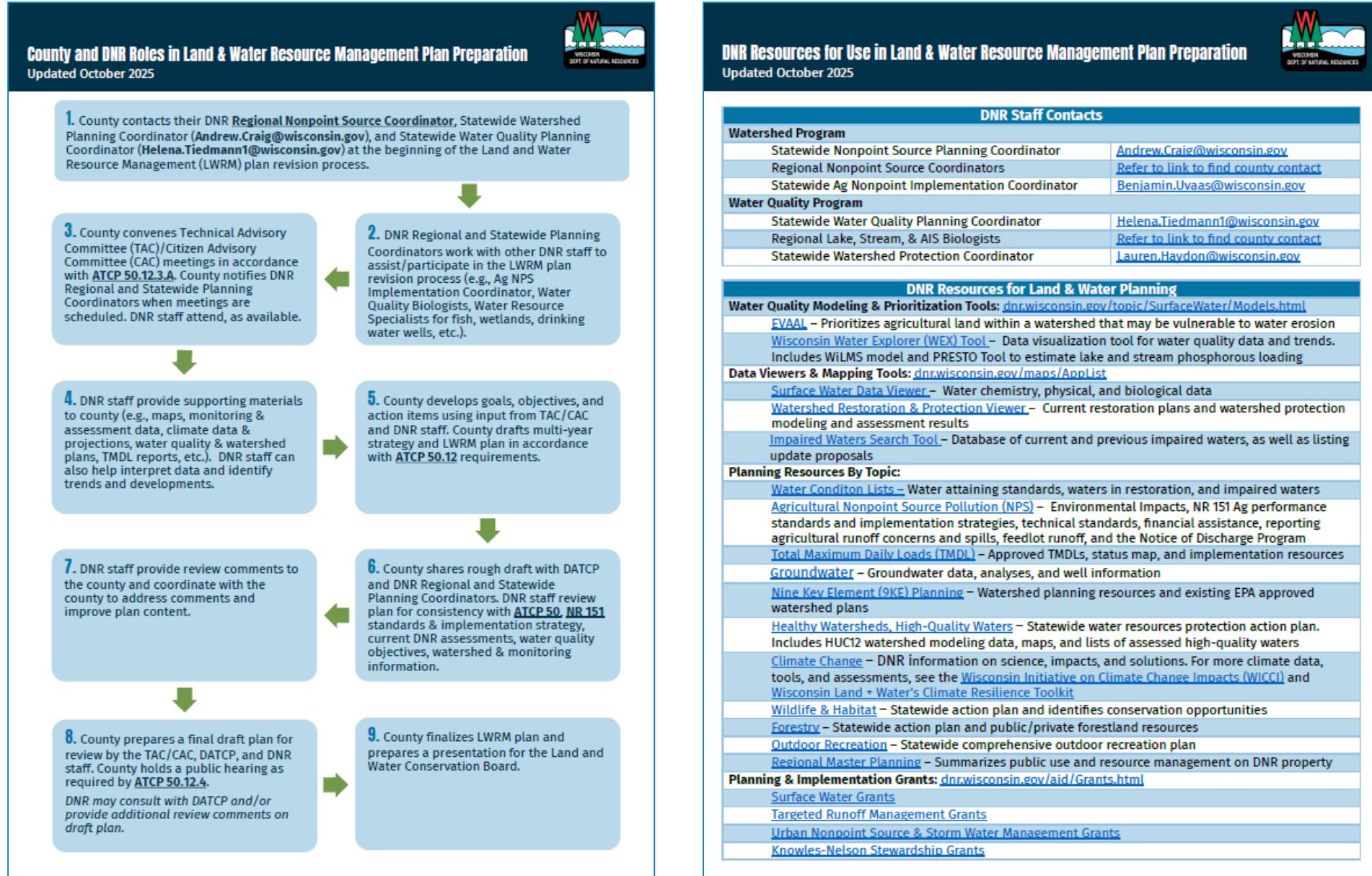
- Annual Work Plans
 - The county's **current** year work plan should be completed using the DATCP template by April 15 of each year.
 - The county's **previous** year work plan should be updated to show accomplishments for planned activities.
- Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Questionnaire
 - Answer all questions on the LWCB Revision Questionnaire and obtain authorized representative's signature confirming LCC review and approval.
- LWCB Meeting Presentation
 - Prepare a 5 minute presentation **without** slides for an LWCB meeting.
 - Following the presentation, participate in a 20-25 minute discussion with the LWCB regarding the LWRM plan and implementation activities.

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will:

- reassure counties that its goal in conducting a review is not to fail counties,
- recognize the dynamic nature of planning process and consider how counties tackle priorities over time and respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities,
- evaluate county planning and implementation based on how well counties balance and prioritize the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, Farmland Preservation Program checks), and local priorities,
- provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning.



DNR Revision Resources for Counties





Land and Water Resource Management

Wisconsin law requires each county to have a Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Counties that have adopted a Land and Water Resource Management Plan, counties are eligible to apply for SWRM.

The purpose of LWRM Plans are to conserve long-term soil productivity, protect water quality, and focus on severe soil erosion problems. The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are responsible for LWRM planning and review.

In developing their LWRM Plan, county land conservation committees must consider a variety of factors, reflecting a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives, assemble a team of experts (e.g., soil conservationists, hydrologists, etc.), hold one or more public hearings on the plan, and consult with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to ensure resource conditions, document priorities and objectives, identify roles and responsibilities, and establish a timeline for implementation.

Resources for Counties

LWRM Plan Review and Revision Schedules

Approved LWRM Plans by County

Legal References

- Wis. Stats. Ch. 92.10: LWRM Planning



LWRM Planning: County Resources

The table below includes links to guidance documents and submission materials based on whether counties are undergoing a 5-year review or 10-year revision of their LWRM Plan. Please reach out to the LWRM Planner, Jenn Chakravorty (jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov), with any questions or concerns.

LWRM Plan 5-Year Reviews	LWRM Plan 10-Year Revisions
READ FIRST - Review Overview Document (<i>updated 2025</i>)	READ FIRST - Revision Overview Document (<i>updated 2025</i>)
LWCB Review Questionnaire	Revision Timeline Overview Document (<i>updated 2025</i>) Horizontal Revision Timeline (<i>timeline only</i>)
LWCB Review Presentation Outline Example	DNR Roles in LWRM Planning (<i>updated 2025</i>) LWCB Revision Questionnaire
	DATCP LWRM Plan Review Checklist with Legal References (for DATCP use and County reference)
	Previous LWCB Revision Presentations
	Additional Planning Resources - <i>coming soon!</i>
	LWRM Planning Webinar (<i>updated 2018</i>)
	2025 Annual Workplan Template

https://datcp-auth-prod.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/LWRMCountyResources.aspx



REVIEWING AN LWRM PLAN:

- Take advantage of the Plan Review Checklist
- County context - what makes sense given the county's land use and demographics?
- What would you expect to be an issue? Is that issue covered in the plan?
- Compare work plan to 10-year plan; is what's happening on an annual basis in line with the 10-year goals?
- Questions looping back to 92.10(6), ATCP 50.12(3), and ATCP 50.30(3)

ARM-LWR-167 (August, 2017)		
 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: _____	Date Plan Submitted for Review: Click here to enter a date.	
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 type="checkbox"/> <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 _____		
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan ¹ _____		
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 _____		
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 type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ⁴ , including: i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		



Compilation of s. 92.10(6), ATCP 50.12(3), and ATCP 50.30(3)

Avoiding duplication of effort	Best management practices to achieve objectives	Capacity to implement and maintain	Compliance procedures (including FPP)	Coordination with local, state, and federal agencies
County staff and financial commitment	Key water quality and soil erosion problem areas	Meeting state program requirements	Methods for monitoring progress & adequacy of performance measure	Multi-year workplans and benchmarks to implement farm conservation practices & ch. NR 151 performance standards
Performance standards and prohibitions to control nonpoint pollution and soil erosion	Plans to identify priority farms and areas of concern	Severity of soil erosion and water quality problems addressed	State and local regulations	Strategies for information and education
Strategies to encourage voluntary implementation of conservation practices	Strength of documentation supporting plan	Systematic approach	Water quality and erosion conditions throughout the county	Water quality objectives for each watershed



ADVISER INPUT



Examples from today:

How did you decide what you wanted to ask?



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)	REPORTED PROGRESS
<p>• <i>Cropland</i></p>			
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Conduct 150 FPP Spot Checks ➢ 5000 To 8000 Acres Of NMP Plans Developed, Updated & Certified ➢ Focus On Achieving 70% NMP Coverage In Several TMDL Watersheds ➢ Use Existing GIS NMP Coverage Data To Target Landowners With NMP Plan ➢ Achieve 80-90% Compliance On Submission Of NMP Checklist Annually ➢ Review Status Of Schedule Of Compliance For FPP Performance Standard Issues ➢ Distribution Of And Receipt Of 100% Annual FPP Self-Certification Forms ➢ Conduct NMFE Training Class For New And Recertifying Landowners. Goal Of 25 Participants. ➢ Complete Detailed Assessment Of Active Gully Erosion As Part Of Fpp Spot Check Process ➢ Install Or Repair 3 Grassed Waterways ➢ Encourage 5 Landowners To Seek Out Eqip Funds To Assist With Bmp's ➢ Develop Realistic Approach To Determine An Acceptable Level Of Nmp 590 Plan Implementation Of Compliance On 25 Plans Annually ➢ Utilize Ongoing Phases Of Ascent Bmp Parcel Mapping Database To Help Track Compliance & Applicability All Bmp's ➢ Using New Database, Promote FPP Program To Eligible Landowners Not Currently Enrolled. ➢ Educate Landowners About Changes To 2015 Version Of NRCS 590 ➢ Use Planning Tools To Continue Nmp “Manure Management” Discussion During Growing Season & Frozen Ground Conditions. (Workshops/Newsletters) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target Of 150 FPP Spot Checks Completed 2. 5000 To 8000 Acres Of NMP 590 Completed 2024 3. NMFE Training Class Conducted With 25 Participants 4. Achieve Submission Rate Of 80% Of Annually Required NMP Checklists 5. 100% Receipt Of Annual Self Certification FPP Post Cards 6. <i>Install 3 Grassed Waterways</i> 7. Host 2 Workshops And Develop 3 Newsletter Articles That Focus To Educate Landowners About Cropland Conservation Issues, Nutrient Management And Soil Health 8. Full Utilization Of DATCP Sourced NMP SEG Cost Sharing & Bond Cost Sharing, utilize 50% of SEG for Cropping Practices. 9. 3 New CREP Contracts 10. <i>3 CREP Re-Enrollments</i> 11. Goal Of 500 Lb. Of P Reduction Modeled through Snap Plus For NMP Planning 12. Complete Annual Spot Check and Review Of Recently Installed 10 Upland Conservation Practices In Rock River TMDL As Part Of City Of Columbus Trading Agreement 13. Contract And Install 2000 Acres Cover Crops Acres As A Goal Through Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council 14. Utilize SEG Innovation Grant to complete 1-On-1 Review Of Snap Plus NMP Review & Install Conservation PI Reducing Practices, with 10 landowners. 15. Use tier 2 NMFE grant to get 10 new underserved plans completed via workshop and a goal of 25 attendees for the soil health and management field day. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 303 Spot Checks 2. 10,125 acres planned 3. 29 participants 4. 80% received 5. 85% Achieved 6. Installed 2 grassed waterways 7. 6 workshops; 52 newsletters 8. Yes >50% 9. 1 contract 10. 2 re-enrollments 11. 1,012 lbs of P 12. Yes completed 13. 1682 acres 14. Completed 15, 202 acres of cover crops 15. Grant received for 2025



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Big picture (why and what), details (how and who), risks and challenges (what if), focus on future and impact

- Engage with the county
 - What does the county need from the LWCB and advisors? How can we support each county's goals?
 - If a question on the questionnaire isn't answered in depth, ask for more info
 - County specific resource concerns that are identified or known
 - Pull from your areas of expertise, specific interests, and what you've heard from other counties



REVIEWS

- Focus on anomalies in work plan accomplishments and plans going forward along with topics brought up in the questionnaire
- Are they on track to meet 10-year goals?
- What has changed - look to the questionnaire
- This is a check in opportunity to change directions if necessary



REVISIONS

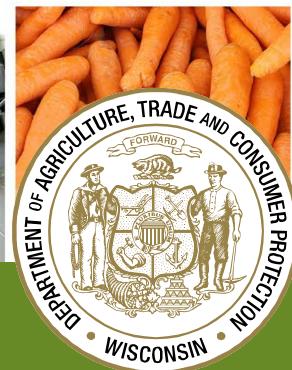
- Does the plan leave room for flexibility over the 10-year time period while also providing enough detail to set annual targets?
- County works with DNR to ensure data is up to date - does the county identify areas where they want more data? Is the plan realistic?
- Does the plan reflect current and expected staffing levels?



SUMMARY

- The board is charged with making recommendations to the department on approval or disapproval of LWRM plans.
 - LWCB presentations are an opportunity not just for counties, but also board members and advisors





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