



Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Agricultural Resource Management Division
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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 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 type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

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.

- iii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years. ☐ ☐ _____

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 ☐ ☐ _____
- b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available ☐ ☐ _____

Other comments: _____

IV. DNR CONSULTATION

Yes No Page

1. Did the county consult with DNR⁴ 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 ☐ ☐ _____

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 ☐ ☐ _____
- b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan ☐ ☐ _____
- c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations ☐ ☐ _____
- d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems ☐ ☐ _____
- e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program ☐ ☐ _____

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 ☐ ☐ _____
- b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan. ☐ ☐ _____

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.

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; as of 2024, ATCP 50.12(2)(f) also calls for identification of priority areas of resource concern for the county ☐ ☐ _____

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 ☐ ☐ _____
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies? ☐ ☐ _____

Other comments: _____

VII. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING

Yes

No

Page

1. Does the county's most recent annual work plan⁵ do both of the following:
- a. Provide measurable performance benchmarks ☐ ☐ NA
- b. Identify priorities ☐ ☐ 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 ☐ ☐ _____

Other comments: _____

VIII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS

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: _____

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 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.

Legal References for LWRM Plan Checklist

Section I. Advisory Committee

Question 1.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(a\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- (a) Appoint and consult with a local advisory committee of interested persons that reflects a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives. The committee could include affected farmers, landowners and businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and federal, state, local and tribal officials, or other county departments.

Section II. Public Participation and County Board Approval

Question 1.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(a\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- (a) Appoint and consult with a local advisory committee of interested persons that reflects a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives. The committee could include affected farmers, landowners and businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and federal, state, local and tribal officials, or other county departments.

Question 2.

[92.10\(6\)\(b\)](#) **Notification.** A land conservation committee shall notify landowners and land users of the results of any determinations concerning soil erosion rates and nonpoint source water pollution, and provide an opportunity for landowners and land users to present information relating to the accuracy of the determinations during preparation of the land and water resource management plan.

[92.10\(6\)\(c\)](#) **Hearings.** A land conservation committee shall hold one or more public hearings on the land and water resource management plan.

[ATCP 50.12\(4\)](#) **Public notice and hearing.** Before a county land conservation committee submits a land and water resource management plan for department approval, the committee shall do all of the following:

- (a) Hold at least one public hearing on the plan.
- (b) Make a reasonable effort to notify landowners affected by committee findings under sub. [\(2\)](#), [\(d\)](#) and [\(e\)](#), and give them an opportunity to present information related to the accuracy of the committee's findings.

Question 3.

[ATCP 50.12\(5\)](#) **Plan Approval . . .** The department's (DATCP's) approval does not take effect if the county board does not approve the county plan.

Section III. Resource Assessment and Water Quality Objectives

Question 1.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)\(1\)](#) **Implementation; committee duties**

- (a) Plan preparation. A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:
 - 1. Includes an assessment of water quality and soil erosion conditions throughout the county, including any assessment available from the department of natural resources.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- (a) Water quality and soil erosion conditions throughout the county, including identification of the causes of water quality impairment and pollutant sources. The plan shall include water quality assessments for each watershed in the county if available from DNR.
- ...
- (d) Key water quality and soil erosion problem areas consistent with conditions identified in par. [\(a\)](#).

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(d\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (d) Assess resource conditions and identify problem areas.

Question 2.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)\(2\)](#) **Implementation; committee duties.**

- (a) Plan preparation. A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:
 - ...
 - 2. Specifies water quality objectives for each water basin, priority watershed, as defined in [s. 281.65 \(2\) \(c\)](#), and priority lake, as defined in [s. 281.65 \(2\) \(be\)](#).

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(c\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- ...
- (c) Water quality objectives for each watershed, including any available pollutant load reduction targets, consistent with conditions identified in par. [\(a\)](#) if available from DNR.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(e\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (e) Establish and document priorities and objectives

Section IV. DNR Consultation

Question 1.

[92.10\(8\)](#) **Duties of the department of natural resources.** The department of natural resources shall provide counties with assistance in land and water resource management planning, including providing available water quality data and information, providing training and support for water resource assessments and appraisals and providing related program information.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(c\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (c) Consult with DNR.

Note: The county land conservation committee should normally consult with the appropriate DNR staff to obtain needed planning information, effectively address resource management concerns, and ensure that its plan incorporates elements that satisfy planning requirements under section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Section V. Plan Implementation

Question 1.a.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(g\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

- (g) County strategies to encourage voluntary implementation of conservation practices under s. [ATCP 50.04](#). A county shall include information and education, cost-sharing and other financial assistance, and technical assistance needed to implement its plan.

Question 1.b.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(b\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

- (b) State and local regulations that the county will use to implement the county plan.

Question 1.c.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(h\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

- (h) Compliance procedures, including notice, hearing, enforcement and appeal procedures, that will apply if the county takes action against a landowner for failure to implement conservation practices required under this chapter, [Ch. NR 151](#) or related local regulations.

Question 1.d.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)](#) **Implementation; committee duties.**

- (a) Plan preparation. A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

...

- 3. Identifies the best management practices to achieve the objectives under [subd. 2](#), and to achieve the tolerable erosion level under [s. 92.04 \(2\) \(i\)](#).
- 4. Identifies applicable performance standards and prohibitions related to the control of pollution from nonpoint sources, as defined in [s. 281.65 \(2\) \(b\)](#), and to soil erosion control, including those under this chapter and chs. [281](#) and [283](#) and ss. [59.692](#) and [59.693](#).

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(e\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

- (e) Conservation practices needed to address key water quality and soil erosion problems.

Question 1.e.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)6](#) **Plan preparation.** A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

...

6. Describes a system to monitor the progress of activities described in the plan.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(jm\)](#) Plan contents. A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

(jm) How a county will meet its responsibilities for monitoring conservation compliance of landowners claiming farmland preservation tax credits.

Question 2.

[92.10\(4\)\(d\)](#) **Plan review.** The department shall review and approve or disapprove land and water resource management plans submitted by the land conservation committees. The department may require land conservation committees to indicate specific projects to be funded under each plan and the related cost-sharing rates.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(i\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

(i) The county's multi-year workplan to achieve the objectives identified in par. [\(c\)](#) to implement the farm conservation practices under s. [ATCP 50.04](#), and achieve compliance with performance standards under ch. [NR 151](#). The plan shall identify priorities, benchmarks for performance, and expected costs.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(f\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

...

(f) Project available funding and resources.

Question 3.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(f\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

...

(f) A plan to identify priority farms **and** priority areas of resource concern in the county.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(e\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

...

(e) Establish and document priorities and objectives

Section VI. Outreach and Partnering

Question 1.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)7](#) **Plan preparation.** A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

...

7. Includes a strategy to provide information and education related to soil and water resource management.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(k\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- ...
- (k) How the county will provide information and education related to land and water conservation, including information related to farm conservation practices and cost-share funding.

Question 2.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)8](#) **Plan preparation.** A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

- ...
8. Describes methods for coordinating activities described in the plan with programs of other local, state and federal agencies.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(L\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- ...
- (L) How the county will coordinate its land and water conservation program with federal, state and local agencies.

Note: The department and DNR will work with counties to develop more detailed guidelines and suggestions for county land and water resource management plans, but individual counties have some flexibility and discretion to propose plans that are appropriate for their local conditions

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(h\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (h) Identify roles and responsibilities

Section VII. Work Planning and Progress Monitoring

Question 1.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)5](#) **Plan preparation.** A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

- ...
5. Includes a multiyear description of planned county activities, and priorities for those activities, related to land and water resources, including those designed to meet the objectives specified under [subd. 2.](#) and to ensure compliance with the standards and prohibitions identified under [subd. 4.](#)

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(i-j\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- ...
- (i) The county's multi-year workplan to achieve the objectives identified in par. [\(c\)](#) to implement the farm conservation practices under s. [ATCP 50.04](#), and achieve compliance with performance standards under ch. [NR 151](#). The plan shall identify priorities, benchmarks for performance, and expected costs.
- (j) The measurable annual and multi-year benchmarks the county will utilize to periodically monitor and measure its progress in meeting performance targets and achieving plan goals and objectives under the workplan in par. [\(i\)](#).

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (e) Establish and document priorities and objectives
- ...
- (g) Establish and document a plan of action.

Question 2.

[92.10\(6\)\(a\)6](#) **Plan preparation.** A land conservation committee shall prepare a land and water resource management plan that, at a minimum, does all of the following:

- ...
- 6. Describes a system to monitor the progress of activities described in the plan.

[ATCP 50.12\(2\)\(i-jm\)](#) **Plan contents.** A land and water resource management plan shall describe all of the following in reasonable detail:

- ...
- (i) The county's multi-year workplan to achieve the objectives identified in par. [\(c\)](#) to implement the farm conservation practices under s. [ATCP 50.04](#), and achieve compliance with performance standards under ch. [NR 151](#). The plan shall identify priorities, benchmarks for performance, and expected costs.
- (j) The measurable annual and multi-year benchmarks the county will utilize to periodically monitor and measure its progress in meeting performance targets and achieving plan goals and objectives under the work plan in [par. \(i\)](#).
- (jm) How a county will meet its responsibilities for monitoring conservation compliance of landowners claiming farmland preservation tax credits.

Section VIII. EPA Section 319 Considerations

Question 1.

[ATCP 50.12\(3\)\(c\)](#) **Plan development.** A county land conservation committee, when preparing a land and water resource management plan, shall do all of the following:

- ...
- (c) Consult with DNR.
Note: The county land conservation committee should normally consult with the appropriate DNR staff to obtain needed planning information, effectively address resource management concerns, and ensure that its plan incorporates elements that satisfy planning requirements under section 319 of the Clean Water Act.