



# 2026 Soil and Water Resource Management Joint Grant Application Instructions

Land and Water Resources Bureau

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION

## 2026 APPLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Bond Grants – NOW KNOWN AS STRUCTURAL GRANTS

- Bond and General Purpose Revenue funds (GPR) will be referred to as Structural grant funds rather than bond funds.
- With prior DATCP approval, you may use up to 50% of a county's SEG allocation for bond projects completed in support of a nutrient management plan (i.e. grassed waterways).

### SEG Grants

- **Focus on nutrient management:** A tally of activities that demonstrate a county's focus on nutrient management planning and implementation will be used in scoring the SEG cost-share allocation (refer to page 6 for more details), along with Farmland Preservation participation, impaired waters in the county, and previous performance.
- Counties can use their SEG allocation for cropping practices in support of nutrient management plan implementation without the need for preapproval from DATCP. Practices include cover crops, residue management, and strip cropping. Nutrient management checklists are required for reimbursement.

### ATCP 50 Updates

- New practices were added to ATCP 50 as of June 2024. The [SWRM Cost-Share Funding Source Table](#) contains thorough details for new practices.

### SEG Innovation Grants (if funds are available)

- For the 2026 allocation process, the department will prioritize projects that bring innovation to nutrient management planning and implementation. The Innovation Grant Application for 2026 is tab three of the application available on the SWRM webpage.

---

[Link to SWRM and SWRM Innovation Applications](#)

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>2026 Application Highlights</b> .....	2
Submission of Completed Grant Applications .....	4
DATCP Grant Application Review Policies.....	5
Staffing Grants .....	5
STRUCTURAL Cost-Share Grants (FORMERLY BOND).....	5
SEG Cost-Share Grants .....	6
SEG Innovation Grants .....	6
New Practices Allowed with SWRM Cost-Share .....	7
Maximum Rate Updates.....	7
DATCP Grant Application Instructions .....	8
Prerequisites for Eligibility .....	8
SIGNING the application.....	8
Section I: Completing the Staffing / Planning Grants portion.....	8
Section II: Cost-Share Grant application.....	12
Section III: Financial Report of County LCD Expenditures For 2024.....	14
Additional Grant Funding:.....	15
SEG Innovation Grants (Optional, Third Tab of SWRM Application) .....	15
Grants for Nutrient Management Statewide Implementation Support .....	16
Grants for Other Project Cooperators Supporting Statewide Conservation Needs .....	16
Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Grants.....	17
Funding for DNR Notice of discharge and DATCP Engineering Reserve.....	17
Notice Of Discharge (NOD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) Projects .....	17
Conservation Engineering Reserve .....	17
DNR TRM and UNPS construction Grants 2026.....	18
Funding Sources and Disclaimer .....	18
Attachment A: SWRM Application Dictionary.....	20

## SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATIONS

### **DATCP**

Email SWRM grant applications to DATCP by April 15, 2025:

1. Electronically sign Excel spreadsheet.

(Note: A scanned PDF of the signed application is not required.)

2. Email completed application to:

[datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov)

For questions about the DATCP application, contact:

Kim Carlson at (608) 224-4610,

[Kim.Carlson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kim.Carlson@wisconsin.gov)

Hailey Roessler at (608) 224-6339

[Hailey.Roessler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Hailey.Roessler@wisconsin.gov)

Susan Mockert at (608) 224-4648,

[Susan.Mockert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Susan.Mockert@wisconsin.gov)

### **DNR**

Submit DNR TRM and UNPS construction grant applications electronically by April 15, 2025, using the following address:

[DNRCFANONPOINTGRANTS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRCFANONPOINTGRANTS@wisconsin.gov)

OR

<https://wibox.wi.gov/messageportal#/dropoff>

From: Your email address

To: [DNRCFANONPOINTGRANTS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRCFANONPOINTGRANTS@wisconsin.gov)

Subject: Application Type\_Project

Name\_Applicant Name:

For questions about DNR grant, contact Joanna Griffin at (608) 400-9519

[Joanna.Griffin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joanna.Griffin@wisconsin.gov)

## DATCP GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW POLICIES

### STAFFING GRANTS

- Counties will receive a minimum grant award of \$75,000 under Tier 1 and may qualify for additional funding under Tier 2 for eligible positions.
- Through Tier 2, DATCP will attempt to provide counties with funding at the rate of 100%, 70% and 50% to pay for three staff positions based on actual costs for those positions, subject to the eligibility requirements for funding a county's first position (refer to page 9 for requirements). Based on recent allocations, and unless additional funds are appropriated, DATCP anticipates that it will fund fewer than three positions and will need to prorate awards.
- Counties may seek reimbursement for (i) county staff and LTEs who perform soil and water conservation work at the rates provided in s. 92.14, Stats. and (ii) 100% of eligible training and support costs up to 10% of a county's annual grant allocation.
- In addition to the support costs identified in s. ATCP 50.32(4), DATCP identifies the following as support costs for which all counties may seek reimbursement:
  - If a county requires a cost-share practice for a landowner who may qualify for economic hardship treatment under s. ATCP 50.42(4), a county may seek reimbursement for the costs related to an eligibility determination, including the costs of a certified public accountant or accredited financial institution preparing a financial statement.
  - If an archaeological or cultural resource assessment or endangered species assessment is required at a cost-share project site, then a county may seek reimbursement of the full cost under the category of a support cost. (As an alternative, counties may recover these costs as part of cost-share reimbursement at the 70 or 90 percent rate).
  - Conservation-related mapping or data collection (e.g. Lidar) or site investigations.

### STRUCTURAL COST-SHARE GRANTS (FORMERLY BOND)

DATCP will use approximately 20 percent of available funds to award \$10,000 base grants to each applying county. DATCP will use data in its possession to award the remaining 80% of available funds to counties based on the following criteria (the anticipated percent of total funding available in each category is shown in parenthesis but DATCP may vary these percentages when making awards):

- Three-year cumulative under-spending (not including extended unspent) percentage (20%).
- County land in farms by acres based on most recent Ag Census data (20%).
- A three-year cumulative total dollar amount spent on cost-shared practices (40%).

## SEG COST-SHARE GRANTS

Applications will be ranked using a 100-point scale based on the following four criteria (maximum point totals are listed for each category):

1. Up to 20 points for having one or more Farmland Preservation zoning and AEA areas within the county, fulfilling the priority required by Wis. Stats. s. 92.14(6)(c).
2. Up to 20 points based on the extent of impaired waters located in each county, fulfilling the priority required by Wis. Stats. s. 92.14(6)(c).
3. Up to 30 points based on a county's demonstrated commitment to nutrient management planning through the following: staff agronomist, staff NM specialist, including NM planning strategy in LW Resource Management Plan, and other related measures.
4. Up to 30 points based on a county's three-year total positive spending on NM cost-sharing in the prior years (2022, 2023, 2024). Positive spending includes funds spent cost-sharing practices in the grant year and does not include funds that a county extends into the next year or transfers to another county.

## SEG INNOVATION GRANTS

The SEG Innovation Grants are a competitive grant process, if funding is available. A committee will review and score each application based on the criteria outlined below. The SEG Innovation application is the third tab in the Application spreadsheet.

For the 2026 grant cycle, priority will be given to projects with a focus on nutrient management planning and implementation.

### Scoring Criteria

- Application completeness. Incomplete applications will not be eligible for funding.
- The connection of the project to the DATCP-identified priorities.
- The clear project work plan and scope and defined outcomes and deliverables.
- The extent to which the proposed project will reduce erosion and/or reduce sources of nitrogen to phosphorus.
- The management and technical qualifications, including past performance, of the grant applicant.

## NEW PRACTICES ALLOWED WITH SWRM COST-SHARE

The following practices are new ATCP 50 practices:

50.668 Conservation Crop Rotation – growing a planned sequence of various crops on the same piece of land for a variety of conservation purposes (SEG)

50.663 Conservation cover – establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover in an agricultural setting to reduce erosion and sedimentation (SEG)

50.733 Habitat diversification – the establishment and maintenance of native vegetation cover in an agricultural setting to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinator species. (SEG)

50.738 Harvestable buffers – establishment of grass strips that can be harvested for livestock forage and is intended to reduce agriculture runoff from entering an adjacent waterbody. (SEG)

50.74 Hydrologic restoration – applying combinations of practices designed to return wetland, stream, and floodplain hydrology to a natural and self-regulating condition (Structural)

50.785 Nutrient treatment systems – system installed to intercept subsurface flow, groundwater, or surface water runoff to reduce the concentration of P and N (Structural)

50.882 Stream restoration – applying combinations of practices designed to restore and repair healthy channel conditions, connection, and fluctuations adjacent to or upstream from erosion-prone ag lands. (Structural)

50.925 - DATCP 01 Verification of Depth to Bedrock (SEG)

## MAXIMUM RATE UPDATES

50.67 Contour farming (\$9/acre/year)

50.68(1) Single species cover crops with termination (\$60/acre/year)

50.68(2) Single species cover crops, no termination (\$35/acre/year)

50.68(3) Multi species cover crops (\$75/acre/year)

50.668 Conservation crop rotation (\$10/acre/year)

50.82 Residue management, no-till or strip till (\$18.50/acre/year)

50.89 Stripcropping (\$13.50/acre/year)

50.738 Harvestable buffers (annual per-acre amount shall not exceed county average soil rental rates set by the USDA)

## DATCP GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

*All DATCP grant application materials are available on the web:*  
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx)

### PREREQUISITES FOR ELIGIBILITY

#### ***2025 Work Plan***

All counties applying for DATCP funds must submit an annual work plan by April 15, 2025 that accurately describes their planned activities for 2025. Counties must use the most current template for their work plans.

If you have questions regarding this process, you may contact [katy.smith@wisconsin.gov](mailto:katy.smith@wisconsin.gov).

#### ***2024 Annual Report***

To be eligible for 2026 funding, your county must electronically submit its 2024 Annual Report to DATCP. You will receive instructions that explain what you must submit. If you have questions regarding this process, you may contact Alex Elias, (608) 224-6338, [Alex.Elias@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alex.Elias@wisconsin.gov).

### SIGNING THE APPLICATION

After completing the application, you will have your LCC Chair or other Authorized County Representative approve the application by typing his or her name in the space provided (this constitutes an electronic signature), inserting that person's title, and including the date.

### SECTION I: COMPLETING THE STAFFING / PLANNING GRANTS PORTION

Go to Table 1 on the Application (2<sup>nd</sup> tab). Information entered into Table 1 will autofill into Section I of the SWRM Application.

Application Guidance: Completing Table 1 and Requesting Tier 2 funding

1. Identify all employees and contractors (including part-time staff) who performed soil and water resource management activities under the direction of the LCC in 2024.
2. Arrange the positions in descending order, starting with the first position for which you are requesting 100% funding and the second position for which 70% funding is requested.



## Staff and Support Grants

### First position eligibility requirements.

#### First position eligibility requirements.

To be claimed as a first position, a staff person must be a department head, technician, or engineer, and must spend 95% or more of his or her time on “qualifying conservation activities.” The following conservation activities are considered qualifying:

1. Providing technical assistance to farmers and landowners regarding soil and water management.
2. Designing and installing conservation practices.
3. Implementing NR 151 performance standards.
4. Monitoring and securing conservation compliance for the Farmland Preservation Program.
5. Administering livestock and manure management ordinances including permit approvals.
6. Implementing construction site and storm water management.
7. Carrying out soil and water management components (e.g. reclamation plans for non-metallic mines) in connection with other permitting.
8. Managing and monitoring CREP agreements and easements.
9. Conducting tree and seed sales only if it supports specific conservation purpose.
10. Preparing strategic and work plans related to soil and water resource management activities.

Managers who supervise staff performing the ten activities listed above may count this supervisory work as a qualifying activity. Managers may also count policy development, program management, or budget decisions as a qualifying activity as long as these management actions involve the ten activities. To be claimed as a first position, a technician or engineer must maintain the appropriate credentials including engineering practitioner certification to perform technical functions involving conservation.

The following are not “qualifying conservation activities” for the purposes of seeking 100 percent funding for the first position, even though they may be included by a county in its DATCP-approved LWRM plan:

1. Performing park maintenance and operational activities, including mowing or other grounds activities, and repair of park structures and buildings.
2. Performing zoning activities including those related to onsite property inspections, required lot line and other setbacks, septic system inspection, and parcel subdivision, and permitting unrelated soil and water management (e.g. non-metallic mining except for reclamation plans, conditional use permits for rural residences).
3. Processing wildlife damage claims.
4. Conducting outreach and education activities related to aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. (NOTE: DATCP will provide reimbursement for activities such as invasive species outreach and education as long as these are consistent with priorities in a county’s land and water resource management plan.)
5. Implementing or managing land records and information unrelated to conservation, recycling, Clean Sweep, or other county programs that receive, or are eligible for support from state and local sources other than the DATCP and DNR allocations for soil and water resource management.

Managers who supervise staff performing the five activities listed above are likewise ineligible to claim their supervisory work as a qualifying activity. Likewise, managers may not count policy development, program management, or budget decisions as qualifying work if these management actions fall within the areas.

3. Page 9 outlines requirements for the first position. If a county has one or more staff persons ineligible for funding as a first position, the county may claim the person as a second position funded by DATCP at a maximum of 70 percent. While the second position has no requirement related to full time conservation work, the county will need to reduce the eligible salary and fringe benefits for the position by the percentage of the time spent on non-conservation activities.
4. Insert the county name in Table 1, and then complete the following for each position (FTE, LTE or IC) hired by the county to perform soil and water conservation work in 2024.

**POSITION TITLE:** From the list of titles on the bottom of the page, please select the position description that best describes each position listed, inserting the corresponding letter A-E.

**STATUS:** Using the drop-down menu, identify the status of each position from the following selections: full time permanent employee-FTE, limited term employee-LTE, or independent contractor-IC. Include the actual fill date for a position hired in 2024 or the anticipated fill date for a position to be hired after 2024. Refer to box on page 11. County staff positions vacant for more than one year cannot be included.

**SALARY OR FEE:** Provide the salary or fee paid for each position listed based on actual costs incurred in 2024, unless the position is vacant or new. Refer to box on page 11.

**FRINGE:** Provide fringe benefits for each employee listed based on actual costs incurred in 2024, unless the position is vacant or new. Please Note: Enter only those fringe amounts that are paid with county funds and do not include employee contributions for health care, retirement, etc.

**% TIME SPENT:** Determine percent (round to the nearest whole number) of time that each position performs soil and water conservation work. As described in s. ATCP 50.32(3) (a), this work includes activities under this chapter, ch. 91, Stats., and s. 93.90, Stats., the CREP program, and projects funded by DNR under ss. 281.65 and 281.66, Stats., and activities related to DNR notices of discharge under ch. NR 243. Additional restrictions as described above apply to the first position. Not all activities listed in a county's approved Land and Water Resource Management Plans may qualify.

**ELIGIBLE STAFFING COSTS:** Locked Formula

**SUM OF FOURTH AND MORE POSITIONS:** Locked Formula

Check to verify if the total eligible costs are correctly tabulated by manually adding salary and fringe and multiplying the percent of time spent on conservation activities.

**Please leave column "G" blank.** The spreadsheet automatically calculates the sum of fourth and subsequent positions.

*Since the electronic version of Table 1 is directly linked with Section I, part 2.A. on the grant application form, your staffing grant request is automatically calculated. You may visually confirm that amounts in column F in Table 1 transferred to appropriate locations for the first, second, and third positions on the grant application.*

DATCP may request that counties make available additional documentation to substantiate a position's eligibility.

**Vacant Position**

You cannot list the salary and benefits of an employee if that person retired or left employment during 2024. If the employee's position was re-filled in 2024, or will be re-filled in 2025, you should select from either of the two options below.

**Positions not yet hired.**

If you are requesting funding to fill a first or second position that is vacant, you must include the expected fill date, list the expected salary and benefits in Columns C and D, and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation, which may include a commitment to hire the position in 2025 (e.g. county approval to hire) or proof that the position was in fact hired including the salary and fringe benefits provided. DATCP may disallow a funding request if the required information is not provided.

**Positions employed for part of the year.**

For a first or second position filled only part of a year, you may project the position's salary and benefits as if the person were employed for a full year, and list these values in Columns C and D. You also must provide an explanation of how you calculated the projected salaries and benefits in the yellow highlighted space provided on the bottom of Table 1.

**Verification and correction of staffing data in Table 1**

Counties should exercise great care in verifying the salary and fringe benefit information provided in Table 1. After the April 15, 2025 grant application deadline, a county can only make changes to Table 1 under the following conditions.

A one-week review will be afforded to counties to review and approve all data submitted prior to funds being allocated, to correct the staffing data they submitted with their grant application, and thereby revise their grant application. Within this period, DATCP will provide each county with a table listing the staffing data upon which the preliminary allocation will be based. If the county concludes that the data is correct, it does not need to take further action. However, if a county determines that the information sent by DATCP is not accurate, the county will need to do the following to correct its original submission:

- a) The county must provide adequate documentation verifying the salary and benefits for the first, second or third position. This documentation may include a payroll documentation breaking down staffing costs for that position on a weekly or monthly basis.
- b) The chief financial officer (CFO) is not required to sign the original application but must certify that the revised salary and benefits are accurate, and must explain the steps the county will institute to avoid providing DATCP inaccurate information on staff salary costs on future grant applications.

If a county does not follow these procedures, DATCP will not adjust the staffing data provided in the original grant application. Following the release of the preliminary allocation, DATCP will not accept requests to modify a county's staffing grant allocation unless the request will result in a reduced staffing grant allocation for the county.

## SECTION II: COST-SHARE GRANT APPLICATION

---

### DATCP STRUCTURAL COST-SHARE GRANTS

A county's request for DATCP cost-share grants should accurately reflect anticipated need. DATCP will review annual grant requests and transfers for consistency with a county's annual work plan.

To apply for funding, counties should enter the dollar amount of their structural request in Section II, line number 1, *SWRM Appl* tab.

---

### DATCP SEG COST-SHARE GRANTS

The priority use of SEG funds will be for nutrient management (NM) planning and cropping practices to support NM plan implementation and soil erosion control.

To apply for funding, counties should enter the dollar amount of their SEG request in Section II, line number 2. The application does not require you to include your calculations based on the number of acres cost-shared at a specific rate. Funds to implement nutrient management and other cropping practices to support NM, soil erosion control, and soil health should follow the requirements in ATCP 50 and cost-sharing policies. **(Other Allowable Uses of SEG Cost-Share Funds are listed below).**

Section II line 3 includes a list of activities which may demonstrate the county's commitment to NM planning and implementation. These activities include having a staff agronomist; having a staff NM specialist; including NM planning and implementation in the county's 2025 workplan; supporting NUE or MRTN projects; providing educational opportunities related to NM planning, soil testing, or plan renewal. There is also an opportunity to list other activities not already listed that demonstrate the county's commitment to NM planning and implementation. Please type 'yes' next to all options that are currently true of the county.

### Allowable Uses of SEG Cost-Share Funds

#### **Cropping practices to support nutrient management, soil erosion control, and soil health (all require a Nutrient Management checklist for reimbursement):**

- ✓ 50.663, Conservation cover
- ✓ 50.668, Conservation crop rotation
- ✓ 50.67, Contour farming
- ✓ 50.68, Cover crops (single, single/termination, multispecies)
- ✓ 50.733, Habitat diversification
- ✓ 50.738, Harvestable buffers
- ✓ 50.82, Residue management
- ✓ 50.89, Strip-cropping

#### **Using SEG Funds for Select Structural Projects**

With preapproval from DATCP, a county may use SEG funds to cost-share select practices including grassed waterways, manure storage, diversions, field windbreaks, filter strips, prescribed grazing, riparian buffers IF related to NM plan implementation. A limit of 50% of a county's 2026 allocated SEG dollars can be used for this purpose, unless an exception is approved by DATCP. To secure DATCP approval to use SEG for a structural practice, a county must submit the following before signing the cost-share contract with a landowner or operator:

- A draft SWRM contract identifying the practice(s) to be installed and the DATCP cost-share dollars needed to cost-share the practices;
- Documentation in the form of a completed NM plan checklist establishing that the cost-shared practices will be installed on a farm that has a NM plan; and
- An explanation of why SEG funding is needed to cost-share the identified practices. The county should explain why other funds (including DATCP structural funds) are not available and the resource concern or priority the practice is designed to address.
- Written DATCP approval must be submitted by the county to obtain reimbursement.

Questions regarding payment for NM support practices should be directed to Kim Carlson, [Kim.Carlson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kim.Carlson@wisconsin.gov), (608) 224-4610 or Hailey Roessler, [Hailey.Roessler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Hailey.Roessler@wisconsin.gov), (608) 224-6339.

## SECTION III: FINANCIAL REPORT OF COUNTY LCD EXPENDITURES FOR 2024

On the tab entitled *SWRM Appl*, Section III counties should complete the following steps:

- 1 A. Enter the total amount of all LCD expenditures in 2024. Enter all expenditures administered by the LCD, including staff salaries and fringe benefits, other LCC and LCD operating costs, cost-sharing expenditures (e.g., NPS watershed projects, county cost-share programs, etc.) and any other expenditures regardless of the source of funding.
  - 1 B. Enter the total expenditure from all non-county sources of revenue. Count revenues from DATCP, DNR TRM, DNR Wildlife Damage Control, USDA NRCS, foundations, EQIP, etc.
  - 1 C. This box is locked because it contains a formula. It subtracts Line 2 from Line 1 and the amount on this line should reflect funding from county sources, such as levies and fees.
  - 1 D. Enter the actual amount of salary and fringe benefits paid from budgeted county source funds. (Line 1.D. cannot exceed line 1.C.).
- 

### FUNDING FOR 2024 COUNTY STAFF (SECTION III, 2)

Counties should enter the number of 2024 FTE, LTE, IC staff funded by the following categories: County, DATCP SWRM Grant Program, and All Other. If a staff person worked less than 40 hours per week or worked in areas other than conservation (e.g. zoning), the staff person should be assigned a number of less than one, reflecting the reduced percentage of qualifying work. The total number of staff should be equal to or close to equal to the sum of FTEs, LTEs and ICs listed in Table 1. (The Total Box is locked because it contains a formula.)

---

## ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING:

Sec. ATCP 50.35, Wis. Admin. Code, establishes the procedures for the award and administration of grant funds to recipients whose activities and projects further Chapter 92 goals. Sec. ATCP 50.35(3) specifically allows for a one-year extension of funded projects to enable grant recipients to spend unused funds and complete work required by a project.

### SEG INNOVATION GRANTS (OPTIONAL, THIRD TAB OF SWRM APPLICATION)

Funds may be available to counties as part of this competitive grant using funds appropriated under s. 20.115 (7)(qf), Wis. Stats.

Successful projects combine outreach and practice implementation, educating and incentivizing with the hope of encouraging long-term adoption of conservation practices that will mitigate nutrient runoff into surface or groundwater. Examples of past successful projects include:

- Well-testing, educational outreach and conservation practice follow up, making for a complete, contained successful project
- Supporting the use of no-till equipment by providing stipends to landowners
- Programs which promote soil health and biodiversity
- Incorporating grazing management into crop production systems

#### Ineligible Projects and Expenses

- Innovation funds cannot support county conservation staff salaries or benefits (prohibited under s. 20.115 (7)(qf)).
- Innovation funds cannot provide additional Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant funds (prohibited under s. 20.115 (7)(qf))
- Real estate purchases
- Repayment of loans or mortgages
- Equipment purchases, construction, or capital expenses (structural projects)
- Lobbying, fundraising or other political activity

**To apply for SEG Innovation Funding**, complete the Innovation Grant Application (third tab) in the Joint Application spreadsheet. Attach additional information if needed or reach out to Susan Mockert to discuss your project idea prior to submittal.

## GRANTS FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

### **NEW: FORM DARM-LWRM-018 FOR OPC APPLICATIONS IS REQUIRED.**

DATCP will continue to make funding available for applicants who demonstrate a “statewide” capacity to accomplish one or both the following: (1) Maintain and improve the Soil Nutrient Application Program –Plus (SNAP-Plus); (2) Expand and support nutrient management planning through education, outreach, and project implementation.

Specific requirements and conditions for these grant awards are spelled out in separate application materials, which can be downloaded from this DATCP website at [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx).

Contact Mark Witecha, (608) 224-9028, [MarkJ.Witecha@wisconsin.gov](mailto:MarkJ.Witecha@wisconsin.gov) to discuss NM support needs and the funding process.

## GRANTS FOR OTHER PROJECT COOPERATORS SUPPORTING STATEWIDE CONSERVATION NEEDS

**NEW: FORM DARM-LWRM-018 FOR OPC APPLICATIONS IS REQUIRED.** DATCP makes annual awards to cooperators for projects that provide statewide support or other unique benefits that enhance our state conservation delivery system. Historically, DATCP has provided funding to cooperators for technical standards development and training. DATCP’s focus for 2026 is continued training support for conservation staff; backing of efforts to provide information and outreach; support for the work of the Standards Oversight Council; technical assistance; innovative ways to implement state conservation priorities.

Funding for cooperators is designed to achieve these goals:

- (a) provide a cost-effective approach to addressing and resolving high priority problems (i.e. nonpoint and groundwater pollution),
- (b) ensure a systematic and comprehensive approach to address soil erosion and water quality problems such as nonpoint runoff or groundwater concerns,
- (c) contribute to a coordinated soil and water resource management program and avoid duplication of effort, and
- (d) help meet county soil and water resource management needs and state program requirements.

Requests for funding must be submitted no later than April 15, 2025 and should include the following:

- A realistic request for funding consistent with prior awards provided by DATCP for similar projects in this funding category.



- A detailed description of the project that includes an appropriate work plan describing planned activities with anticipated outcomes that can be measured, a timeline for completion of the project components, and a budget describing the use of the funds requested as well as any outside funding leveraged (if applicable).
- A justification that explains how the proposed project will meet one or more of the funding goals listed above.
- For questions about funding opportunities, contact [DATCPSWRM@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPSWRM@wisconsin.gov). To submit an application, e-mail your proposal requesting funding and supporting documents to Kim Carlson, [Kim.Carlson@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kim.Carlson@Wisconsin.gov).

### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FARMER EDUCATION (NMFE) GRANTS

The NMFE Program will offer two funding tiers with a \$25,000 maximum award for Tier 1 and a \$3,000 maximum for Tier 2. Entities interested in this funding should review the instructions and application materials available separately from the NMFE program website, [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/NMFEGrants.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/NMFEGrants.aspx).

Contact Andrea Topper (608)-405-0235, [andrea.topper@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrea.topper@wisconsin.gov) with questions about NMFE program curriculum, program design, and to submit application materials.

### FUNDING FOR DNR NOTICE OF DISCHARGE AND DATCP ENGINEERING RESERVE

DATCP and DNR have set aside funds in separate reserves for cost-sharing projects intended to resolve discharges on farms.

### NOTICE OF DISCHARGE (NOD) AND NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) PROJECTS

To apply for NOD or NOI funds, counties must use an application process separate from this application. Go to the DNR website for additional information, <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/NOD.html%20> (copy and paste address into your browser).

The first round of applications is due April 15, 2025. Up to three additional grant rounds may be available. Refer to the DNR website for the annual schedule.

DATCP will participate in the evaluation of the first round of grant applications and then will make separate funding decisions regarding any remaining amounts in its engineering reserve.

Contact Ben Uvaas at DNR, (920) 273-5543, [Benjamin.Uvaas@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Uvaas@wisconsin.gov) or Matt Woodrow at DATCP, (920) 427-8508, [Matthew.Woodrow@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Matthew.Woodrow@wisconsin.gov).

### CONSERVATION ENGINEERING RESERVE

DATCP has set aside funds in an engineering reserve. The priority for the reserve funds is cost-sharing projects that help resolve discharges on farms. If funds remain available in the reserve after priority

farm projects have been addressed, funds from the reserve may be used to provide assistance to other priority conservation projects.

Engineering reserve funds will be available throughout the year until used up, but DATCP recommends applying for the engineering reserve funds by the first application deadline of Friday March 28, 2025 for the best chance to receive funding. To apply for these funds, contact DATCP engineering staff for a project evaluation. With the engineer, complete [Form ARM-LWR-385](#) for engineering approval of the project. Submit this form, signed by the DATCP engineer, and a copy of the draft cost-share contract, to SWRM program staff. Approved projects will be sent a transfer approval form which must be signed by the county Land Conservation Committee before being returned to DATCP for final approval. Awarded funds will be added to your bond/structural allocation and may be extended for one year.

## DNR TRM AND UNPS CONSTRUCTION GRANTS 2026

- To apply for **Targeted Runoff Management Grants**, use the grant application forms and instructions available at this website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/TargetedRunoff.html>.
- To apply for **Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Construction Grants** use the grant application form and instructions available at this website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/UrbanNonpoint.html>.

The applications are due on April 15, 2025 for projects beginning in 2026.

For questions about DNR grants, contact **Joanna Griffin, (608) 400-9519, [joanna.griffin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joanna.griffin@wisconsin.gov)**.

## FUNDING SOURCES AND DISCLAIMER

Grants from DATCP (Authorized by s. 92.14, Stats, with funding source listed after each grant)

**County Annual Staff and Support Grants** (SEG from s. 20.115(7) (qe), Stats. and GPR from s. 20.115(7) (c), Stats.)

**County Landowner Cost-Share Grants for structural practices / LWRM Plan Implementation** (Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(we), Stats.) and GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c), Stats.)

**County Landowner Cost-Share Grants for Nutrient Management NM Planning and NM Plan Implementation** (SEG from s. 20.115(7) (qf), Stats.)

**County SEG Innovation Grants** (SEG from s. 20.115(7) (qf), Stats.)

**Statewide Cooperator and Other Project Grants** (SEG from s. 20.115(7) (qf), Stats.) including Nutrient Management Farmer Education

Grants from DNR

**Cost-Sharing for Targeted Runoff Management** (TRM) projects (s. 281.65, Stats.)

**Cost-Sharing for Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management** (UNPS & SW) projects (s. 281.66, Stats.)

NOTICE: This application is not a commitment by DATCP or DNR to provide specific funding in any grant category. The 2025-2027 biennial budget and any supplemental appropriations will determine the extent of funding available for the annual allocation and the manner in which grants may be awarded. Required lapses or reductions may lower available funding.

## ATTACHMENT A: SWRM APPLICATION DICTIONARY

Chapter 92: Statute of Wisconsin law establishing soil and water conservation and animal waste management.

ATCP 50: State administrative rule that provides the framework to cost-share conservation practices including nutrient management plans; describes the parameters for grants for conservation practices; identifies the costs to be included in cost-share grants to landowners; identifies conservation practice standards available for cost-sharing; defines the requirements for a land and water resource management plan; establishes the process and priorities for allocating grants to support county conservation efforts; describes conservation compliance requirements for the farmland preservation program; describes the process to certify conservation engineering practitioners; establishes qualifications for nutrient management planners; allows for certification of soil and manure testing laboratories; ensures access to education and training opportunities.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas: A locally identified area of contiguous agricultural lands that has received designation from the state (DATCP), at the joint request of landowners and local governments through a petition, to qualify it as important to preserve and invest in. As a part of the state's Farmland Preservation Program, AEAs strive to support local farmland protection goals and enable landowners to sign voluntary 15-year farmland preservation agreements.

Bond: Bond authority is appropriated to the department through the state's biennial budget process. Bonds can only be used to fund projects with a minimum of a 10-year life span.

County LCDs uses bonding for cost-sharing of hard practices. If bonds are not used, they stay with the department and the program and can be reallocated for use in future years. For FY 2023-2025 this funding line is not active for cost-share awards.

DATCP: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Administers many conservation programs that are implemented by counties including the soil and water resource management grant program, producer-led watershed program, farmland preservation program, agricultural enterprise areas, nutrient management farmer education program, conservation reserve enhancement program, land and water resource management planning program, livestock siting program, drainage program, and conservation engineering support.

DNR: Department of Natural Resources. Administers the TRM and UNPS grant programs. Responsible for agricultural and nonagricultural performance standards and manages the WPDES permit program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Program through which counties are encouraged to plan for agricultural and agricultural-related uses; local governments may adopt zoning ordinances that restrict lands to agricultural or agricultural-related uses; landowners and local governments may jointly petition for an agricultural enterprise area (AEA) to qualify local areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural and economic future; landowners may enter into a farmland preservation agreement with the state for farms within an AEA to commit to keeping all or a part of their farm in agricultural

use and to implement farm conservation practices for 15 years; participating landowners must implement applicable soil and water conservation standards (refer to ATCP 50.04)\* to qualify for an income tax credit. **\*Note:** *Landowners of farmland subject to a farmland preservation agreement must meet the soil and water conservation standards in place at the time the agreement was signed. Contact the department for assistance in determining which standards apply to a specific agreement.*

GPR: General Purpose Revenue. GPR is funding that comes from the state's income and sales tax revenues. These dollars are very flexible and can be used for most purposes. In relation to the joint allocation plan, DATCP has a small GPR appropriation that helps fund the staffing grants. Additionally, for FY 23-25, GPR funds will be used for structural cost-share practices (formerly Bond). When the Governor calls for budget cuts from agencies, GPR is usually the money that is targeted for reductions since it can legally be used for any purpose. GPR is allocated on an annual basis.

LCC: Land Conservation Committee. Committee of county-board elected officials that oversee the LCD departments.

LCD: Land Conservation Department. County government department that receives staffing and cost-share grants from DATCP and DNR to implement soil and water conservation programs at the local level. In some counties, the department may go by a slightly different name such as soil and water conservation department, planning and land conservation department, etc.

LWRM: Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Each county must have an approved LWRM plan in order to receive funding from

DATCP and DNR as part of the joint allocation plan. An approved LWRM plan ensures a county is eligible for staffing grants and a base amount of bond funding. DATCP coordinates the LWRM planning program. LWRM plans are approved by the LWCB for 10 years, with a progress check-in after five years.

NMFE: Nutrient Management Farmer Education. NMFE is a grant program funded through SWRM's SEG appropriation. The NMFE program provides grants to counties and technical colleges to deliver training for farmers to write their own NM plans. Funding from the NMFE program can go to farmer incentives, soil tests and training materials.

SEG: Segregated Funds. Segregated funds are collected from fees and held in designated funds for specific purposes under state law. In relation to the joint allocation plan, the Environmental Fund is the source of the segregated funds. The joint allocation plan has two uses for segregated funds. One appropriation designates some segregated funds to the staffing allocation. The second appropriation of segregated funds is for "aids" that explicitly excludes county conservation staffing and is used for nutrient management and other soft practice cost-sharing, training and other related purposes. \$1,000,000 is also directed to Producer-Led Watershed Grants. SEG funds are allocated on an annual basis and if not used they lapse back to the Environmental Fund and are not available to the program to use.

Structural Cost-Share: the cost-share grants for permanent built structures pertaining to erosion control and manure management.

SWRM: Soil and Water Resource Management Program. The SWRM program is DATCP's

signature grant program that provides staffing and cost-share grants to county LCDs. The SWRM funding is distributed through the annual joint allocation plan process.

TRM: Targeted Runoff Management. The TRM program is a DNR competitive grant program for targeted nonpoint source pollution projects. TRM grants use bond funds allocated through the joint allocation plan

UNPS & SW: Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management: The UNPS & SW program is a DNR competitive grant program for urban nonpoint source pollution projects. UNPS grants use bond funds allocated through the joint allocation plan.